

NEWSLETTER
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GALCOM

INTERNATIONAL • CANADA

Make waves.

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IT'S OUR FIRST EVER

Dear Friend,

After 35 years of ministry, you might think we have done it all at Galcom; but last month, we held our first-ever, full-scale, multi-day Media Training seminar. Our partners at Joy in the Harvest in Kigoma, Tanzania graciously hosted our training team, plus 52 attendees from five countries, 16 different radio stations, and 40 pastors from about 30 different local churches.

After our Field Technician Francis Njoroge returned from a scouting trip last April in Tanzania, we knew we needed to do more to assist our partners than just repair the equipment on the stations we had built over the last 12 years. We needed to invest in the *people* doing the ministry. To pull this off, we received a lot of help from Dr. Chuck Pollack of Sharing International, a ministry that specializes in media training.

As we met with the different delegates, we were reminded of how important radio is in Africa. Less than 30% of people have internet access in East and Central Africa. Of that



North Macedonia, 2024

solar-powered radio, completely *free* to the user. You can't say that about your cell phone plan or your cable TV.

Radio overcomes geographical barriers. Only 19% of Tanzania's national roads are paved, and only 2% of its district roads are more than just packed-down dirt. Needless to say, it's hard to get around! Our partners in Kigoma are reaching towns 90 km away by radio. Then we helped them build a repeater station that reaches another 90 km. Because

WE KNEW WE NEEDED TO DO MORE TO ASSIST OUR PARTNERS.

percentage, a tiny number have it in their homes; and less than half of the population have electricity in their homes. That means no TV, no computers, not even a lightbulb. This brings us to why we at Galcom believe so strongly in radio.

Radio overcomes the infrastructure barrier that I just detailed. Radio is inexpensive to run, and with a Galcom

of radio, missionary Lowell Wertz and his team are talking daily to people that they would never be able to meet in person.

Finally, the literacy barrier. Only 30% of the world's population read. Either they can't, or they don't because they come from an oral culture. Radio is the answer to reach these people.

Thank you for making the training possible; but more importantly, thank you for allowing us to make connections with more ministries that will now reach more unreached people because of our partnership with them.

With you in Christ's service,

Tim Whitehead
Executive Director



A radio/TV report on the Media Training seminar

Please visit galcom.org for information on any upcoming events.

The Middle Man

The Media Training in Kigoma, Tanzania that Galcom helped organize was hosted by Lowell Wertz, who leads a ministry called Joy in the Harvest and broadcasts as Radio Joy in Kigoma, with another station in Heru Juu and a potential third in Kibondo.

A veteran missionary and long-time, self-taught radio expert, Lowell was especially helpful to the delegates as a teacher who had conducted previous training for fledgling radio stations. But even more than his technical expertise, Lowell's joyful attitude and amazing stories of all he has experienced are completely inspiring.

Lowell grew up in the United States in a Christian family, and he enjoyed early contact with missionaries as they visited his church and were hosted at his family's kitchen table. Their stories so intrigued him that he set up a ham radio set to be able to contact missionaries worldwide, like Elizabeth Elliot in Ecuador. He figured out a way to link missionaries from his ham radio to the telephone lines and became the "middle man", helping them connect with family. Radio was in his blood!

A short-term mission trip to Africa as a teen cemented Lowell's passion for missions, despite the lack of funds. Everything he worked on after that trip was in preparation for the mission field. He redirected his schooling into Christian education and arrived in Africa with his wife in 1980, where he discovered that all of his skills and hobbies gave him the technical skills he needed to fill many needs in the Congo and Tanzania.

Forty-four years later, Lowell and his wife Claudia are still serving and passing on their knowledge and experience to the African workers in Christian radio ministry. He is truly a middleman for God, connecting people to His love and redemption.



To hear Lowell Wertz' interview, scan the QR code for the Mission Compass podcast on YouTube.

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Sometimes He says, "Lowell, step back. I'm rolling up My holy sleeves and I'm going to bare My holy arms." And then I get to see the reality of a living God in my life.

If you are blessed enough to receive the call of God, you can march through Hell with flags waving.

This was the culmination of 10 years of commitment and preparation. I would always say, "Another great day on the mission field!" My wife began to roll her eyes when I said that.

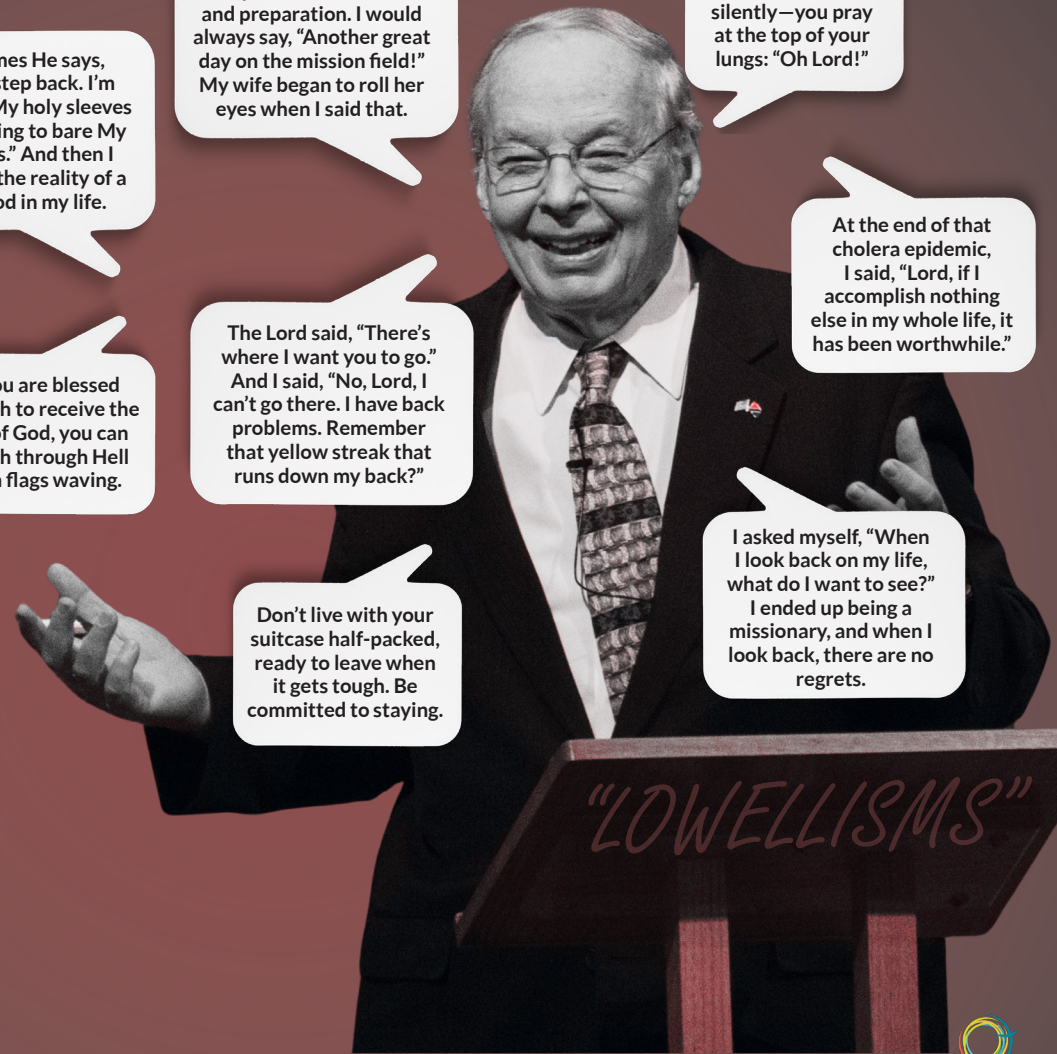
The Lord said, "There's where I want you to go." And I said, "No, Lord, I can't go there. I have back problems. Remember that yellow streak that runs down my back?"

Don't live with your suitcase half-packed, ready to leave when it gets tough. Be committed to staying.

When you're in a crisis, you don't pray silently—you pray at the top of your lungs: "Oh Lord!"

At the end of that cholera epidemic, I said, "Lord, if I accomplish nothing else in my whole life, it has been worthwhile."

I asked myself, "When I look back on my life, what do I want to see?" I ended up being a missionary, and when I look back, there are no regrets.



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Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by the organization. Each restricted contribution designated toward such an approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the organization, the remaining restricted contributions will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.


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