

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

March 2015

Dear Friends,

3 AM. On my flight back from Johannesburg, I cleared my mind of thoughts and emotions to listen if God had anything for me. A blank mind is not easy for me.

My first thought went to my grief, having lost my mother in October. I wonder, do you ever really get over losing your parents? So many of you sent kind expressions of sympathy. I can't express my appreciation adequately.

The plane hit turbulence and started shaking and moaning. My mind filled with years of "interesting" experiences I have had on commercial airplanes.

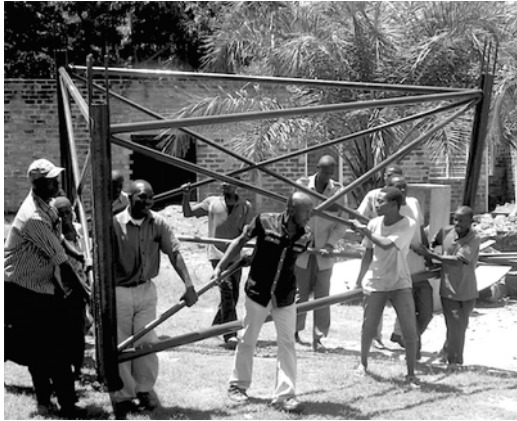
- The Air Malawi plane where the flooring was giving way and buckling as I tried to walk around the really bad spots. I didn't know they could fly planes like that.
- The Air Tanzania flight when one of the two engines quit and they had to land on a rather short dirt runway without reverse thrust. Used every inch but got stopped.
- The trans-Atlantic flight where the pilot decided we were running out of fuel and had to make an "unscheduled" stop in Newfoundland. Engines off and parked, we were ordered to stay buckled into our seats. Then they opened the doors and left them open for 45 minutes. It must have been double-digits below zero. Bare sleeved -- we were essentially sitting outside. It was probably the closest I ever came to dying in an airplane!
- The Air Tanzania flight that was infested with cockroaches. They came crawling out from behind the plastic panels just as the plane lifted off. Then one plastic panel fell off the wall onto a passenger.
- The severely overbooked Air Zaire flight that solved the problem by opening the gate and letting a mob run into the plane and fill the empty seats. Soldiers followed with rifles pushing the excess people out the front door and off the plane. Boarding passes anyone?

Although commercial airlines are the safest form of transportation, sometimes it doesn't feel like it. Humans are the only creatures who must deal with the knowledge everyday that one day we will die. And only we humans have God's promise that our lives are eternal when we have faith in Christ Jesus.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

How We Built a Tower Foundation



Step 1. Build a metal tower base.



Step 2. Drill four 6 inch holes down 50 feet, fill them with rebar and concrete, dig a large 7 foot deep hole, line the bottom with rebar and pour a two foot thick layer of concrete in the bottom.



Step 3. Weld the metal base to the 50 foot deep rebar and bottom rebar grid, and encase the metal base in a 5 foot layer of cemented rocks.



Step 4. Make another grid of rebar at the surface, make forms so the concrete is extra thick in the immediate area of the metal base.



Step 5. Pour a thick layer of concrete in the surrounding area and an extra thick layer around the metal base.



Step 6. Cover it all with sand and keep it wet for 3 weeks. White pipes go down below concrete levels so salt water can be added later to increase ground conductivity.



Joy in the Harvest®



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE...

Radio JOY Under Construction!

I need u Lord.

Prayer request sent on Feb. 20, 2015
to KSBJ FM radio in Houston Texas

The construction of Radio JOY is underway.

With trepidation we opened the construction permit. We had been granted the frequency **90.5** on the FM dial. The bad news was that another FM repeater was operating with 1,000 watts on 90.0 — very close to our frequency. And their tower is located only 50 yards from our site.

The potential for “signal mixing” interference was great and it started a month-long scramble for a technical solution. A specialized filter was manufactured in Maine and air-freighted to Dar es Salaam. Now it is full speed ahead!

Our mountain transmitting site is a construction scene with rocks, sand, and gravel everywhere.

The huge tower foundation hole was dug down seven feet. Layers of thick reinforced concrete, tons of rock, and then more concrete make this the strongest foundation I have ever built. The foundation is finished and next we will try to erect the tower we made. Pray for safety as our team works 120 feet in the air. ☩



CHECKLIST

☺ USA Office and Wertz Contact Info.

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USA Office: 1-219-365-7908

Email addresses:
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wertz@joyintheharvest.com

☺ Our Website
www.joyintheharvest.com

☺ Music CD Donations Still Being Accepted

Want to help Radio JOY?
Send any kind of music CD donations (sorry no LPs) to:
Mrs. Kara Wertz
8345 Curzon Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45216



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

Our two year missionaries, Hal and Sue Hoege, just finished their first year here. This report, is in their words...

We took a leap of faith a year ago — what a joyous faith journey! We saw a mother's jubilation when her baby regained sight following surgery we helped arrange. We give vitamins and food to the poor at the feeding



Hall and Sue Hoege
from Kingwood, Texas

center and share the Good News with local congregations. We deal with requests for assistance for food, rent, and medical needs at Friday People. We "rip" CDs for Radio JOY, and converted the old financial system to a new one. We prepare Power Point presentations and participate in and lead missionary bible studies. We are blessed as we try to serve God through Joy's ministries in whatever ways we can. ☩



AFRICA CALLING...

Hello from Africa!

JOY's Land Rover Gets Refurbished

After 12 years of faithful service, our Land Rover seemed to be on its last legs. The engine was a money pit and the whole vehicle was in bad shape. When an engine from a wrecked Land Rover became available, we were able to buy it, install it, and do body and interior work. It is now ready for more years of work.



Stretching mission dollars, the old Land Rover is ready for more work.

The LP Records Arrive in Kigoma



Africans love all kinds of music. It is a huge part of their culture.

Over one ton of donated LP records, sent by ocean freight from Illinois, have arrived safely in Kigoma. THANK YOU to all who donated music on LPs and CDs! We so appreciate these donations! Your music will be heard on the airwaves soon!

Christmas Together with the Harrisons!



Four Generations

Look who came two days before Christmas. What a special treat!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How is Grandma Wiesner Doing?

Q. How is Grandma doing? And what is she up to?

A. Claudia's Mom— Grandma Wiesner — is on her 18th trip to stay with us in Africa. This year is her longest trip. She is staying 7 months and is planning on returning to the USA in May.

Mom is now 87 years old, and uses a walker, but loves being here and helps out in every way she can.



Grandma Wiesner holding one day old Michael Johnson.

When a young missionary couple were about to have their fourth child, Claudia and Grandma were asked to take care of their other three children for a couple of days. They brought the one day old child by for Grandma to hold. When it is "newsletter time", Grandma puts the labels, return addresses, and stamps on the envelopes. We love having Mom with us and count everyday as a special blessing for us. ☩

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest." Isaiah 9:2,3