

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

July 2022

Dear Friends,

We have spent more than half our lives living in Africa. So I thought I'd share a few reflections about living "cross culturally".

I had just finished a Master's of Divinity degree with a specialization in World Mission. While formal education is valuable, it has its limits. I landed in Africa with two pieces of advice from my missions professor: "Keep your opinions to yourself for four years, and just try to lessen the burden you are on everyone around you."

Stories of missionary Hudson Taylor growing a Chinese pigtail to culturally adapt, and being told you are a complete moron your first term, I wondered how to begin unravelling the mysteries of living cross-culturally.

Our first house was an unspeakable wreck. We had to figure out how to live in Africa and fast. These circumstances could break us. We had packed two cheap K-Mart rugs and wondered if we should use them. They were nicer than what the Africans had. We decided to ask an African pastor. The wisdom of the advice I received still amazes me and has been the key to living cross-culturally for me. He said, "Don't pretend to be poor. Africa has enough poor people. We are not stupid. Be who you are. Be the best Americans you can be. Use your rugs. Live among us. Love us. All we ask is that when we come to your door we are welcomed and when you serve us a drink, use the same glasses you use."

There are many surprises when working in another culture. Failures. Some still hurt. But there were plenty of successes, too. You learn you just need the approval of One. As the years roll by, a quiet satisfaction fills you.

The past two months, I spent much time on a mountain top called Heru Juu, building a new radio station. It was difficult for me. The bumpy five-hour road trip took its toll on my body. Sometimes I needed pain pills. My weaknesses were on full display. The rugged, rocky area made me trip and stumble. Many times I felt physically inadequate. But my radio knowledge was the key to getting this done. So I needed to be there.

Never before did I feel so loved by Africans. If I would get out of my chair, there was always someone right there to move it for me. They cleared all the rocks away so I wouldn't fall. They tended to my needs. They were kind and respectful. We were all serving the Lord working for the same goal. We had connected in mutual appreciation for each other. So here it is. Rugs don't matter. Love does.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia

It Happened On A Mountain Top



Joy in the Harvest®



Kasulu City and Far Beyond

Kasulu is On-The-Air!

“If you want to do big things, it's never easy.”

Gael Monfils

Highest Ranked French Tennis Player

Tanzania's thirteenth largest city, Kasulu, now has its first Christian radio station.

For years the government and people of the area have been asking us to provide our radio

signal to them. A huge mountain, Heru Juu, blocked our signal coming from Kigoma. Three years ago, we started a project to buy land on the mountain top, ran electricity to it, and build a radio station there to broadcast our *Radio JOY* signal to this new area. A microwave link from our main tower in Kigoma was needed. Unsure if it would work, and after special prayers to the Lord, we successfully made the link. It was an exciting moment.

A couple of weeks ago, the new station was switched on and Kasulu received *Radio JOY* with an extremely strong signal.

The mountain top location is unexpectedly sending our signal far and wide, to distant towns and villages. A very special thank you *Galcom* for gifting the needed equipment. And to all who gave. ✕

CHECKLIST

USA Office Address

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 496
Lansing, IL 60438

Phone: 708-925-6681

usaoffice@joyintheharvest.com

Lowell & Claudia Wertz

Joy in the Harvest
P.O. Box 1344
Kigoma, Tanzania

wertz@joyintheharvest.com

Website

www.joyintheharvest.com

Facebook

https://web.facebook.com/
JoyintheHarvestKigoma/



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

***Joy in the Harvest* has the best staff in the world! Our whole staff pulled together to get the the Kasulu repeater station built and on-the-air.**

We only succeeded because we had God's help. When the company we hired to erect the tower did not show up, we had to put the tower up ourselves. I am always amazed by our staff.



Meet the two bravest men I know. Pascal and John assembled our guyed tower going up 163 feet,

Pascal, our yard guy, and John, our truck driver, again became tower workers. Fearless, I really think they enjoyed the high altitude work!

Our whole staff gave their all. The five hour roundtrip by road was made so many times I lost count. Every one of our people worked so hard without complaint. Needless to say, I am proud of our staff. ✕



With all the focus on Radio...

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

A New Land Cruiser Has Been Ordered!

With two of our vehicles seriously broken down, and our 16 year old Land Cruiser having lived a very rough life, the transportation needs here are serious. A small group of supporters, knowing this, stepped in to meet the need. We discovered a Toyota Land Cruiser dealership that deals only with aid organizations, like the UN. We needed and got a special clearance from Toyota in Japan for them to sell to us. The cost is just a fraction of what we would have normally paid. This Land Cruiser is to be manufactured in September and delivered to Dar es Salaam in October. Rejoice that God has met this very big need!

Plot 299A Being Reconstructed

During the 24 year court case concerning this plot, a stop work order was in place and a great deal of the soil washed out into Lake Tanganyika.

A road building company is selling us excess soil at a very cheap price. Hundreds of truckloads have been dumped on the site and Don Reed has been using his tractor to level all that dirt.



Wertzes to Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

August 12, 1972. Just a couple of kids with an awesome God. 50 years later, a couple with kids & grandkids, and an awesome God.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How's the Switch Over to Email Going?

Q. How's the newsletter mailing list "switch over" to email going?
asked many times

A. Some of you may remember when we evacuated from Zaire, the floppy disk with our mailing list was our most important possession. Clothes, Bibles, and family photos were left behind,



As we enter into our computer the changes back from you on "pink slips", we are so thrilled to hear from you, grateful to you, and pray for you.

but our mailing list came with us. We treasure you! Moving our mailing list to email is a big deal for us. It will have many benefits. We will gladly do paper copies for those who would prefer them. Here's the results from our last mailing — 34% of individuals switched to email, 5% still want paper, and 61% haven't responded. **We need to hear from every person and church!** Please let us know your preference. It will really help us if you do! ☩

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