

Lowell & Claudia Wertz
P.O. Box 496
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September 2022

Dear Friends,

Back to America for Claudia's knee surgery! We had made our plans from Africa to minimize our time in the USA and have everything go like clockwork. We got derailed when we both caught Covid on the trip. Fortunately, we were only sick for a few days. But Covid wiped out all our medical schedules. The doctors did not want to see us for a while and they are so booked up it was hard to get back on their schedules.

The same day we tested positive for Covid, a large tree branch fell across the hood of our truck. I thought the damage was just to sheet metal. We tried to go to the drive-thru at McDonalds as we hadn't gotten any food into the trailer yet. However, the engine was damaged. As we tried to turn around, I backed into a brick pillar holding a mailbox and knocked it over. Having Covid meant I couldn't see the owner, so I called the police. I had to let the owner know I was good for the damages. The truck had to be towed away for a week's worth of engine repairs. The hood still sports the dent.

We still had no food in the trailer, when Mindy showed up with a grocery order. Because of Covid, she left it on our picnic table. What a blessing!

I was asked to speak at the funeral service for a 28 year old relative who died a tragic death. The service was postponed until we recovered and were able to be there. It took place on our 50th wedding anniversary. Arriving in Oregon Illinois with the trailer, it clipped the edge of a maintenance barn at the state park -- catching the awning and ripping it off. Gouges from the awning bolts ripped along the side of the trailer. Those repairs will start in October.

Don't get me wrong, I love America -- disease, hunger, objects falling from the sky, tragedies and accidents notwithstanding. So as I write this I am trying to find something profound to say. Nope, can't seem to find too much that's profound. On second thought...

... it is good to be alive, the tree didn't hit me on the head, great food was delivered with love, the police were kind and the mailbox got fixed, it was a privilege to speak at the funeral, and my vehicle insurances are paid up. We feel like we have been through it, but we really haven't. God provided for us. Life is bumpy at times, but His care is the shock absorber. Claudia asked me, "Should we go back to Africa and try doing this trip over from the start?" I feel like the good Calvinist who said, after falling down the stairs, "Glad that is over." No, we go forward. The surgery is rescheduled for Oct. 10th. Everything is good because a good God is with us.

Love,

Lowell + Claudia



Joy in the Harvest®



Radio JOY is now their station, too!

Kasulu Celebrates!

“Faith makes all things possible ... love makes all things easy.”

D.L. Moody
1837-1899
Founder *Moody Bible Institute*

A parade with motorcycles, passengers cars, drummers, and groups walking with large signs started the festivities.

After a long wait for the Regional Commissioner, who was dealing

with a crisis in Kigoma, the Kasulu District Commissioner was appointed to give his speech and represent him at the celebration.

A ribbon cutting at the new station was followed by an event at the local stadium with speeches and presentations.

A VIP luncheon was followed by a special soccer game. The stadium was packed for the event.

Radio is the number one medium in Tanzania. It far surpasses TV, newspapers, and magazines.

Kasulu welcomed *Radio JOY* in style! We welcome Kasulu, and its vast surrounding area, as the newest part of our audience. Great things are coming! ☩

CHECKLIST

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WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

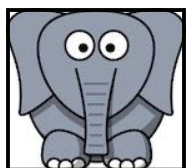
Our worker for the harvest is Hal and Sue'Hoegen's grandson Devin. We so appreciate all the work he is doing!

Devin is spending three months at *Joy in the Harvest*. Upon arrival, Devin dove right in. He helped fold and stuff the July newsletters. He painted the cement tables at the Feeding Center. He serves meals there three times a



Devin at work at the Feeding Center.

week. He loves interacting with the kids and his smile is loved by them. Devin helped with preparations for the new Prison Ministry. He met with pastors who visit local prisons and he helped create a 129-link paper chain with the names of prayer supporters from around the world. Widows' meetings, refugee camp visit, and the Kasulu radio celebration — Devin did it all. Thank you, Devin, for everything you are doing! ☩



On Both Sides of the Ocean

Happenings...

Newsletter Switch Over To Email — Here's The Latest

THANK YOU to all who have taken the time to let us know if you want future newsletters via email or paper editions. We greatly appreciate it.

How is it going? We have received a response as to email or paper from 46% of the individuals. **But only 19% of the churches on our mailing list have responded.** If you haven't yet, please let us know your decision as to whether to receive our newsletters via email or paper. We need to hear from everyone. Drop us an email: wertz@joyintheharvest.com or a note to *Joy in the Harvest*, P.O. Box 496, Lansing, IL 60438.

Safina II Under Construction



All our guests to Kigoma are familiar with our home-made boat called *Safina*. It has been the source of a lot of fun and ministry over 20 years. Upon returning to Kigoma last November, we found the *Safina* was just a pile of rotting boards.

The *Safina II* is under construction now and it will be better than ever! Come on out and enjoy a trip on *Safina II* on Lake Tanganyika.

Thank You For Anniversary Well Wishes!

We heard from so many of you with cards, emails, and phone calls, wishing us happiness on our 50th. One group of dear friends from Wheatland Salem UMC held a get-together for us and presented us with wonderful gifts. Thank you to everyone who made our 50th anniversary so special.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When is Claudia's Knee Replacement Surgery?

Q. When is Claudia's knee replacement scheduled?
asked many times

A. Claudia has been having knee pain for several years. She has had many Cortisone shots and two series of Hyaluronic shots. The doctors are telling us it is time to have both knees replaced — although they will only do



Claudia at Orthollinois for her initial meeting with the surgeon on August 29.

one at a time. Due to insurance considerations, we had to return to the USA for this first knee surgery. We had our schedule arranged from Africa but got Covid on the trip back to the USA. So the surgery has been rescheduled for **October 10th**. Then rehab will follow. We are having the surgery in Rockford, IL. It is the same place where Claudia had her shoulder replacement a few years ago. Prayers are appreciated! ☩

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