



# Jensen Missions

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## Fried Slug, Anyone?

From time to time we like to share with you, our faithful supporters, linguistic depictions of some unique elements we experience in daily life. Life in a third world environment is obviously different from what you are accustomed to, but many inquire to know some particulars. Many of you remember prior reports describing the extreme drought conditions which made the layer of dirt covering everything unimaginable. For the past few months we have been blessed with rain almost daily. It is so wonderful to see everything so green and lush. In such moist conditions it seems that the slugs are growing faster than the corn.

Surrounding our little rental property is a concrete wall topped by ten strands of electrified wires. This security system is energized with high voltage much like would be used by cattlemen, but unlike trying to keep cows in, we are wanting to keep thieves out! Petty theft is a problem and even near the ACSOP in Kisongo there have been some armed gangs. Are you ahead of me already? Yes, back to the slugs.

During wet weather these slimy slugs make their way up the walls. Their lethargic ascent seems to allow them to reach the very top wire sometime in the middle of the night. Often we are awakened by the loud zapping sound as one of these critters is being fried by repeated electrical stimulus. It would be convenient if they would meet their roasting demise on the lowest of the numerous strands, but no, they manage to evade all but the highest. This strand being out of our reach requires the aid of a ladder in order for Jacob or I to flick the gooey remains off the wire using a special insulated brush device (toilet brush).

*George Jensen 2010*



## What Do You Miss?

Occasionally our family is asked what we miss the most from the states. People might assume that we really miss a favorite food, certain entertainment, etc. Our family is in agreement that none of us really has a longing for such things, as if we are really missing out by not having them. However, one of the things that we truly do miss is being able to worship in our native language, without having to concentrate so hard in another language as we worship.

For short-term visitors, experiencing worship in a foreign country is often new and exciting, and truly, it is very moving to hear people worship in another language. But it is also important to set aside time when we can worship God more naturally, unrestrained by difficulties of understanding a foreign language. The missionaries usually meet in our home on Sunday evenings to do just that - have a time of singing, praying, and a brief lesson, to help rejuvenate us for another week.

For those of us who are resident missionaries, it is a special treat for us to have visiting campaigners join us for our Sunday evening devotional time. Having more voices to join us in singing praises to God in our native tongue, sharing in a study of God's Word, and praying together is a real treat for missionaries, and we are thankful for these special times.



## *Are Your Hands Working Willingly? by Joy Jensen*

Have you ever thought about the long process that is required in order to make your clothes? For those of us who like to sew, we might be tempted to think how impressive we are just because we've gone to the fabric store, chosen some material and a pattern, cut out pattern pieces, and then sewed a garment together. Not so for the woman in Proverbs 31.

***Proverbs 31:13  
She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.***

Wool and flax were "the" materials from which all clothes were made in the Middle East and Egypt, up until the time of the Exile. Therefore, during the time period in which this woman would have lived, having these items at her disposal was necessary in order to provide clothing and other essential items for her family.

What if you had to raise your own sheep, shear them, wash the wool, dye it, spin and weave it, and finally you'd have it ready to cut out pieces for your garment, to sew together? And flax - think about this process: after the plants have reached maturity, they are pulled up by the roots and then dried. The stems are soaked in water for several weeks so that the outer bark decays, and then the inner fibers are combed, spun into thread, and then woven. Now the actual piecing together of a garment can be accomplished.

Even though the Proverbs 31 had maidens to help with household tasks (vs. 15), her hands knew what it means to work. If her family was to be properly clothed, she must plan ahead and work diligently so that in the months to come, she would have the necessary cloth from which to sew their clothing.

Not only did she know how to work, her work was done *willingly*. Like all of us, surely there were some tasks that she enjoyed more than others, but still, her work was done not out of compulsion or with complaint, but she willingly did her work because she *loved* her family.

In spite of all the conveniences we have today, how many of us sometimes display a less than cheerful disposition when the time comes to do those jobs we find dull or distasteful? Sure, we might love to get in the kitchen and make a delicious meal, but when it comes to other menial tasks, such as mopping the floor, folding and ironing clothes, or scrubbing the toilet, Ms. Grumpy has arrived. We let it be known, in no uncertain terms, that we hate this or that part of homemaking. "I hate doing \_\_\_\_\_, but I hope you know I'm doing this for you because I love you." Sound familiar? Is that kind of attitude *really* saying "I'm doing this because I love you?"

Remember the old saying (I don't really like this saying) - "if Mamma's not happy..." - you know the rest. Well, the opposite can be true as well. When Mom is cheerful, it certainly can be contagious for the rest of the family. Remember the Seven Dwarfs who whistled while they worked?

***A healthy dose of cheerfulness can go a long way in setting a positive atmosphere in your household.***

We have the opportunity to teach our children, by our example, that work is not a miserable requirement that must be taken care of before we can have any fun, but rather, it can be very rewarding to set our hands to the task at hand, regardless of what it is, and feel a sense of accomplishment when we are through.

***"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..."  
Ecclesiastes 9:10***