

NEWS FROM THE

CLAUSING FAMILY

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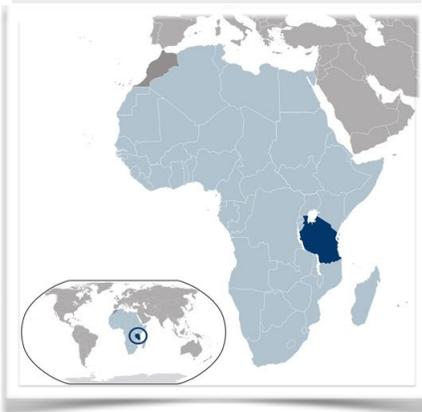


Shepherds greet their newborn King during the Clausing kids’ school Christmas program in Moshi.

God in Man Made Manifest

At Christmas Christians sang the beloved hymn asking *What Child Is This?* Now, during Epiphany, we receive an extended answer to that question: this is the Christ, the God-man, come to establish the reign of God over His fallen creation and reconcile all things to Himself. A blessed Epiphany to you from the Clausings as together we ponder these mysteries!

During the Christmas holiday our family was blessed with a wonderful visit from our firstborn son Emil, home from college, as well as my parents, Warren and Karen. This was my parents’ first visit to Tanzania, and we filled their days with many things Tanzanian (like visiting our church, the seminary, our kids’ school, and some local restaurants) as well as a few things distinctly American (like driving four hours to the nearest movie theater so we could watch the last episode of *Star Wars*!) We thank God for our time together.





Our Family

Anita and I were married on August 16, 1997 and have been blessed with nine children.

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Jonathan (8.20.75)
- Anita (12.9.74)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ethan (5.8.08)
- Eric (12.16.09)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)

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There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Ministry Update

As I've hinted in past newsletters, our local church body is in the midst of significant conflict. Although I'm not involved in the conflict and it is not doctrinal in nature, it has nevertheless disrupted both the seminar I'd planned for December as well as the half-semester I'd hoped to teach during January and February. Please continue to hold our Tanzanian church body in prayer, praying that there would be unity and forgiveness within the body of Christ - "that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs." (2 Cor 2:11)

As we await stability to return locally so that I can teach again, I'll be filling in elsewhere as needed, beginning with a seminar in Ethiopia just over a week from now. Your prayers for that upcoming trip are also greatly appreciated.

The prince of this world does not yield his territory easily, but our Champion is Jesus Christ, and He holds the field forever. We proceed in our callings not according to what our eyes can see, but according to what our Lord has promised.



(Left to right) Pastor Sebastian Sella, I, and seminary students Emmanuel Sem'ngindo and Jonathan Elitaja had lunch together in downtown Moshi after the students' return from Matongo seminary in Kenya. My former students told me, "Our first semester at Matongo was easier than we thought it would be because you had already taught us so many of the things we learned there." It warms every teacher's heart to hear that his former students felt prepared for the next stage in their journey!