

NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY

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The St. Peter Seminary choir sings during the divine service at the Uchira parish.

Ghost-Place or Garden?

What a difference understanding a single word can make! In class last week one of my students asked, “What is *peponi*? It doesn’t sound like such a nice place.” He was reading from his Swahili bible, where Jesus says to the criminal on the cross, “Today you will be with me in *peponi*.” In Swahili, if you break down the word *peponi*, you get *pepo*, which means “ghost” or “demon,” plus the suffix *-ni*, which indicates location. Thus, to someone unfamiliar with the word, *peponi* suggests the idea of a “ghost-place” or even “demon-place.” You can understand my student’s concern! His next question, however, was exactly the right one: “What does the original Greek word for *peponi* mean?” From there we started a long discussion of the Greek *paradeisos* (from which we get our English “paradise”). *Paradeisos* means “garden,” and it is used many times in the Greek translation of Genesis to refer to the garden of Eden, a place of water rather than aridity, life rather



Our Family

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

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Anita (12.9.74)
- Ethan (5.8.08)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Eric (12.16.09)
- Jonathan (8.20.75)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Ernest (7.16.04) studies at Concordia University, Nebraska
- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Emil (10.29.99) lives and works in Chicago
- Eleanor (1.10.02) studies at Concordia University, Nebraska

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<https://missioncentral.us/clausing/>

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than death, order rather than chaos, and, above all, a place where God dwells with people. Jesus was indicating to that criminal (and to us) that death is no longer something to fear. At the time of death believers are gathered together with Jesus in a garden-like place of order and life, awaiting the glorious day of the resurrection of the body. Jesus joined us in death, and we will join Him in resurrection. As a result of our discussion of that single word *peponi* last week, I think that our seminary students are just a little bit better equipped to share our glorious hope in Christ with the people of Tanzania. Thanks for supporting their spiritual formation.

Prayer Request

Please pray for my dad, Warren Clausing, who has been diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma and has undergone two rounds of chemotherapy since my last newsletter. We are grateful that to this point the side effects of his treatment have been mild and that he has been able mostly to maintain his regular activities. Please pray for healing according to God's will, as well as spiritual strength for him and my family in the U.S. who are supporting him with the logistical side of his treatment.



Pastor Machenje and Pastor Urio after a Sunday service at the Osehu parish, high on the slopes of Kilimanjaro