

NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY

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My students and I on the last day of final exams, just before they traveled home for Christmas

Hope

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. -Gal. 4:4-5

At Christmas, God became part of our family so that we would become part of His family. The Son of God became a Son of Man, so that we sons of men would become sons of God. God shared in everything that is ours so that we would share in everything that is His. He shared in our humility so that we would share in His glory. He shared in our suffering so that we would share in His comfort. He was credited with our sin so that we would be credited with His righteousness. He died our death so that we would live in His resurrection. As we marvel at this Christmas mystery, we are filled with hope. In Jesus' birth we get a glimpse of the staggering depth of God's commitment to us.



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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There is no length to which He does not go to save His people.

Despite the many cultural differences between Americans and Tanzanians, deep down we are fundamentally the same. We all worry about the future; we are hurt by those we love; we are ashamed for not being on the inside what we pretend to be on the outside; and as we read the news and face the pervasive corruption in our world, we wonder if there is any hope.

Jesus' birth assures us that there is hope. God has not given up on the human race. God keeps His promises. God has now become man, and that means that what lies ahead of us is better than what lies behind us. In that hope we begin the new year. A Savior has been born to us - to Tanzanians and Americans, Jews and gentiles. Jesus was born under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons. Merry Christmas!



Emil, Ellie, and Ernie got together for Christmas in Chicago this year, but they did not visit us in Africa. Instead, during a Zoom meeting our whole family opened the presents we had sent to one other. Our unconventional Christmas get-together was 10:00pm on Christmas eve in the states while simultaneously being 7:00am on Christmas morning in Tanzania.