

# NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY

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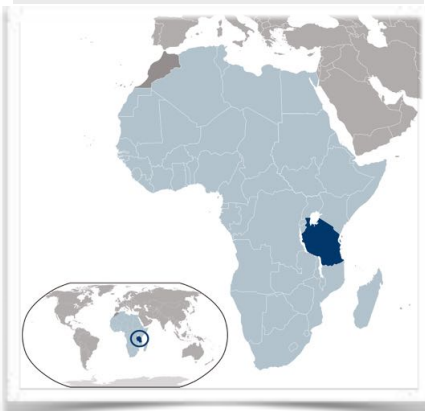
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My Brothers in Christ at Matongo After My Appendectomy

## The Advent of Our King

Herod was confused, but essentially correct. He was confused in that he mistook Jesus' universal, eternal reign for a merely local, temporal ambition to displace him as the first-century king of Judea. He was essentially correct, however, in that Jesus *did* come to take the kingship of Israel - as well as the kingship of all nations. In confirmation of his worst suspicion, Herod *will* one day bow the knee and give an account to the King born so long ago in Bethlehem.

I've noticed that there has been a bit of discussion of missions in the American news media in the past month, and the charge has sometimes been leveled that all Christian mission work is essentially a form of colonialism. It's striking to me that this is the same sort of mistake Herod made. On the one hand, to call mission work colonialism is to confuse the eternal reign of God with the political and economic ambitions of 19th-century Europeans. On the other hand, the accusation is essentially correct. Mission work is colonialism. It is Jesus' assertion of His authority over those who did not formerly belong



## Our Family

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

### Back Row, Left to Right:

- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Jonathan (8.20.75)
- Anita (12.9.74)
- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ethan (5.8.08)

### Front Row, Left to Right

- Eric (12.16.09)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)

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to Him. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...." The Church is God's colony on earth, His kingdom of grace. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." This Advent we who are under Jesus' authority rejoice that we have a King from another country, and we pray, "Thy kingdom come." Come, Lord Jesus!

I'll keep our personal news brief this month. Suffice it to say that at the end of an extremely trying year, God has delivered us to a new home in Tanzania, Emil is home with us from college, and we now have a period of rest before the new year begins. Ironically, as my semester at Matongo began with a delay due to Anita's unexpected surgery, it ended with me getting an emergency appendectomy! Fortunately, I was able to be transported to quality medical care in time, my students flooded me with encouraging texts and notes during my hospitalization, and my fellow faculty members helped proctor my exams so that all the courses could be completed. God's power was made perfect in my weakness.

Please pray for the Lutheran Church in East Africa and my service at Himo in the new year. A blessed Advent and merry Christmas to you!



Our New House in Moshi with Kilimanjaro in the Background