

NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY

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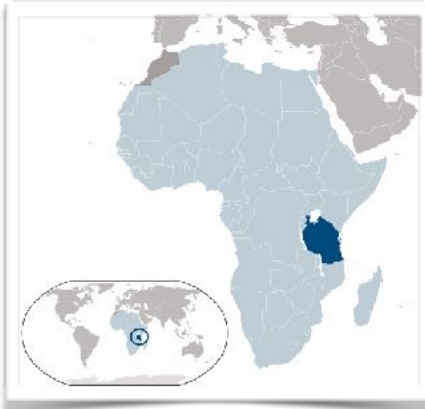
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Rev. Jacob Peter Agakhan, Pastor and Seminary Student

Focus on a Seminarian, part 3

In this third and final (for now) installment of my *Focus on a Seminarian* series of newsletters, I'd like to introduce Pastor Jacob Peter Agakhan, whose situation is a bit different from my other students because he is already ordained and married with three children. Because of these other responsibilities, he is not a full-time student, but because his parish at Uchira is close to the seminary, he frequently drops in for classes, setting a good example for all pastors by seeking continuing education.

Rev. Agakhan's father, who passed away in 2014, was a farmer of maize and rice in the village of Kahe, and Rev. Agakhan himself supplements his income both by constructing houses and by mixing music as a DJ for weddings and other local celebrations. Years ago he worked as a radio announcer, and anyone who meets him can immediately sense that Rev. Agakhan has natural gifts with words and with people, talents certainly useful a DJ, but



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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ones that he now uses especially for proclaiming the Gospel.

As a youth Jacob was a member of one of the many local sectarian groups, but he became disillusioned with their loose teaching and practice. He recalls that he was particularly disturbed that his former church used soda and cookies as substitute elements in the Lord's Supper. That didn't seem right to him, and one of the things that initially attracted him to the local Lutheran congregation was the contrasting liturgical reverence with which they received Jesus' true body and blood, not mere symbols, for the forgiveness of sins. Jacob joined the Lutheran church in 2008, studied at the seminary, and served as a deacon before his ordination in November 2017.

When you read this newsletter, please offer a prayer for Rev. Agakhan and his family. Although I've been planning to write about him since May, it turns out that just a few days ago his wife Victoria gave birth prematurely to their third daughter, Grace, and this afternoon I'll be joining the family at the hospital to witness her baptism. Thank God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus given through baptism, and pray that according to His will God would also preserve her earthly life and be merciful to the family.



For several weeks in July I took my annual leave to rest and spend time with the family. Here are five of the Clausing boys on a hike we took during that time in the Usambara Mountains, a few hours' drive from our home in Moshi.