

# NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY, SERVING THE LORD IN KENYA.

JANUARY 2017

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Back row, left to right:

Ethan 5.8.08  
Ernie 7.16.04  
Eunice 6.1.06  
Eric 12.16.09

Front row, left to right: Rev. Jonathan Clausing 8.20.75

Eileen 8.21.11, Elijah 7.3.13, Emmanuel 3.6.15  
Emil 10.29.99, Ellie 1.10.02, Mrs. Anita Clausing 12.9.74



## ASSESSMENT OF THE YEAR BEHIND, CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This newsletter is the twelfth that I have sent from Africa, marking the end of my introductory year on the foreign mission field, and an anniversary like this is a good time to reflect on both the past and the future. A year ago I set four main goals for myself, and a quick review of these will provide a nice summary of the year. Thank you for supporting my family and me in this journey.

### THE YEAR BEHIND

*Goal #1: Learn Swahili.* This past year I've dedicated more time by far to learning Swahili than to anything else, and it has been time well-invested. In February I will be taking a 4-hour formal examination in listening,

speaking, reading, and writing in order to evaluate my proficiency according to an objective scale. Of course I will never be "done" learning Swahili, but my time of formal classroom study is nearing its end.

*Goal #2: Meet leaders.* Through a series of trips I've met with the presiding bishops of Lutheran church bodies in Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, and two dioceses and an independent Lutheran church in Tanzania.

*Goal #3: Read curriculum.* I've familiarized myself with all the existing MTC training materials and I know the history of the program.

*Goal #4: Observe training.* This past year I intended to observe at least four

different multi-day seminars at various mission training centers to see in person how the program actually operates. Unfortunately I did not accomplish this goal, and this leads us to look at the challenges for the year ahead...

### THE YEAR AHEAD

Moving forward, my biggest single challenge is that there are no mission training centers currently operating. Most ceased completely before I arrived in Africa, and one is on a many-months' hiatus as it awaits additional funding. As you can imagine, it is a bit discouraging to have the title *Mission Training Center Coordinator* when there are no mission training centers to coordinate. Nevertheless, it is plain that there is great need for theological

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education. It's just that the form of the program for providing this education may not be identical to what it was in the past. Moving forward, my task is to listen and learn from church leaders so that I can assist them according to their plans for educating their preachers, being careful not to impose my own agenda.

The work will likely take different directions in different countries. For example, this week I leave for Tanzania for two weeks of teaching at the seminary of the LCEA, a step toward ongoing support of their theological education. In Uganda, the LCU has expressed interest in restarting mission training centers, though their top priority right now is the new seminary that they established

last fall. From South Sudan, the bishop of the SSELCC met with me here in Nairobi last month. They, too, would like to begin a training program, but the unsafe political situation in the country currently presents an obstacle.

In summary, looking to the year ahead, St. Paul's words are fitting: "pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ." (Col 4:3) God knows His plans for His Church, and we pray that His will be done.

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev. & Mrs. Clausing*  
*Emil Ellie Ernie*  
*Eunice Ethan Eric*  
*Eileen Elijah Emmanuel*



## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Pray that God would open doors so that the possibilities for theological education in the year ahead might become realities.

Pray for safety as I travel in the coming weeks.

Pray for unity among Christians of our international partner churches and within the LCMS, that we "be united in the same mind and the same judgment." (1 Cor 1:10)

Pray that God would grant all the members and families of our mission team steadfastness of faith in the face of many changes and uncertainties.

Pray for a peaceful and safe political election in Kenya this year.



Five Clausing Kids in Their New Homeschool Classroom

*On the home front, just after Christmas our family had the opportunity to move to a new rental house that is both less expensive and much closer to the church office (which moved in September) than our old house. We are grateful!*

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Jonathan Clausing, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 P.O. Box 66861  
 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central  
 -OR- 40718 Highway E-16  
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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include "Clausing-Kenya" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/clausing](http://www.lcms.org/clausing).

