

עמנואל !

Emmanuel!

Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son, and they
shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which
being interpreted is, **God with us**.

Matthew 1:23

-Eric, Helen,
Benjamin, Lily, and Faith
Rasmusen



Good Things of 2022 (<https://bit.ly/3uGQre2>)

1. **Chemistry in 100 Numbers** by Joel Levy (2015). Not just Avogadro's number. A good way to learn some chemistry.
2. **Korean dramas *Anna* and *Stranger***. Modern dramas, not historical, but still good. *Anna* (2022) is about a girl who pretends to be a rich girl she meets; *Stranger* about prosecutors fighting corruption. Both are gripping.
3. **Weird Al Yankovic videos**. The four best are: "Amish Paradise"(1996), "First World Problems"(2014), "White and Nerdy"(2006), and "Just Like a Surgeon"(1985).
4. **Charles Portis books**, even beyond *True Grit* (1968), the best; then the ranking is: *Gringos*(1991), *Lords of Atlantis*(1985), *Norwood*(1966), and *The Dog of the South*(1979).
5. **The MIT Free Speech Alliance (MFSA)**. I helped found this alumni organization in October 2021 and by now we've gotten a half-million dollar grant, 900 members, Peter Bonilla as executive director, and perceptible influence on MIT. See mitfreespeech.org.
6. **A Book of French Quotations** by Norbert Guterman (1963). French on one side, English on the other. Well chosen, translated, and indexed. Chronologically ordered like Bartlett's, for fun browsing.
7. **The old quarters of Rome and Naples**. Comfortable dilapidation, narrow streets, and layers of history. So much older than Paris and London! Nice people, good food, and we didn't get robbed.
8. **The Museum of the Rockies** in Bozeman, Montana, where Amelia and Jadon are living, has the largest tyrannosaurus and triceratops collections in the world. Six T-Rex skulls are on display, including the largest ever found.
9. **Cardgames.io/chess**, solitaire chess. I win 60% at mid-level. The computer is bad at end games, but can you get that far?
10. **The Great Gatsby** movie with Robert Redford and Mia Farrow (1974). Faithful to the book.
11. **Hum Do Hamare Do (Two of Us, Two of Ours)** (2021). A sentimental, Hindi comedy with a predictable ending. An orphan software guy needs to come up with temporary parents when he wants to marry a doctor's daughter.
12. **The November 2022 Stanford Academic Freedom conference**. Amazingly good. Douglas Murray; John Cochrane, Tyler Cowen (economics); John Ioannadis, Bjorn Lomborg, Jay Bhattacharya, Dorian Abbot (science); Joshua Katz, Niall Ferguson; Amy Wax, Nadine Strossen, Eugene Volokh, Michael McConnell (law); Peter Thiel; Lee Jussim, Steven Pinker, Jonathan Haidt, Jordan Peterson (Psychology). Lots of socializing, like a medium-sized academic conference. Video online.



Back: Jadon and Amelia Benjamin

Front: Cousin Madison, Lily, Eric, Helen, and Faith at Hohwald Cascade, Alsace

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