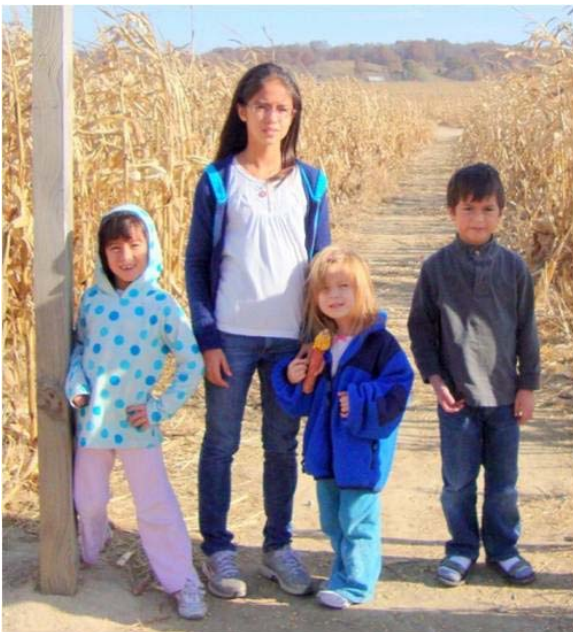




Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

--- Matthew 1:23



*Merry
Christmas!*

And a Happy New Year!

---Eric, Helen, Amelia, Benjamin,
Lillian, and Faith Rasmusen

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Good Things of 2010 (<http://rasmusen.org/special/amazon/xmas2010.htm>)

- 1. The Rage against God: How Atheism Led Me to Faith** by Peter Hitchens (2010, 224pp). Hitchens Minor (in age only) is a great writer and illustrates from the archetypal anecdote, the secret to his writing's power.
- 2. Knots.** Bowline, sheet bend, double slip, stopper. tautline hitch. The Ashley Book of Knots (1944, 620pp) too. A good pocket game for myself and kids. See <http://www.rasmusen.org/special/knots-rasmusen.htm>.
- 3. Smartphones,** and the Iphone in particular, with its apps (GPS, stargazing, Netflix, Facebook, flashlight, Yelp, Doodlejump, Blowfish) and camera. The phone is optional.
- 4. Le Grand Chef** (S. Korea, 2007, 113min) A movie about history, tradition, a cooking contest, good ramen, and doing things right.
- 5. On Food and Cooking: An Encyclopedia of Kitchen Science, History, and Culture** by Harold McGee (2004, 896pp). Just what it says.
- 6. True Grit,** (1968) by Charles Portis, recommended by Arden. Amelia liked it too.
- 7. Noodler's Ink** ink (e.g. ultraviolet, Polar Blue, Brown, Eternal Hunter's Green) and the ebonite eyedropper pen. Fun to read about, too, at <http://www.noodlersink.com/>.
- 8. Cedar Plank Salmon** A truly distinctive flavor.
- 9. The Search Committee** (Marc Angel, 155pp, 2008). About a yeshiva choosing a new head--- pure tradition, or tradition plus engagement?
- 10. Children's chopsticks, connected.** Try them for your two-year-old. See, for example, <http://cn1.kaboodle.com/hi/img/2/0/0/a6/0/AAAAAqA58yoAAAAAKYD9g.jpg?v=1196740914000>.
- 11. Lizzie Day.** On the 20th of each month we eat a food she liked, play a game Or look at photos to remember her and Grandma and Grandpa. A happy time. See <http://rasmusen.org/special/memorial/mem.htm> for a new poem.
- 12. The Segway and its Chicago tours.** Enormous fun on a moving two-wheeled balance beam by the Lake. Wish I had a flat enough commute to justify the \$6,000. See <http://Mysegwayexperience.com> and <http://Stevessegwaytours.com> and the picture at <http://www.mysegwayexperience.com/images/np.png>.

Other good things: Science World, Vancouver. Harry Campbell's *Whatever Happened to Tanganyika?* Janice Van Cleave's *Constellations for Every Kid: Easy Activities that Make Learning Science Fun*, 1997. 256pp. John Mortimer, *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders*. The movie *Up*. Last year we didn't send out a list. But see Rasmusen.org/amazon/special/xmas2009.htm.