

# FRAZIER MINISTRY

## NEWSLETTER

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### The Libation of the Incarnation

By

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As I sit here in my office on December 1, I have a few moments for reflection. I say that I have a few moments because classes have officially ended, and exams have either started or will be starting soon for most students. This week has been revision week; students are revising for exams. Thus, all is quiet or at least quieter than usual.

It doesn't seem like Christmas to some of us displaced Americans. The sun is shining bright. The temperature is warm. The winds are balmy. Perfect weather! Carla and I are accustomed to the lack of cold weather and Christmases without the cold and snow. We love it, as a matter of fact.

It has been a busy semester! I have finished teaching (but not yet grading...ugh!) 5 classes. I just finished reading the third of three theses late last night for a postgraduate defence that will take place tomorrow. I will serve as an examiner for three of these three theses. In addition, two of my supervisees/students will present their work in the defence panel tomorrow. If all of these students succeed, we should have a good number for the graduating class in July 2023. Two presenters are PhD candidates, and four are Master of Arts in Religion candidates. One of the benefits is that Africa will have some well-qualified Christian leaders to serve the church in Africa. We still believe that the teach-and-re-teach method is very effective. These potential graduands will be raised to a higher level to teach others.

I have been very busy with the French institution, FATEN (Faculté de théologie de l'Église du Nazaréen). The committee has had some very productive conversations and profitable engagements over the last few months. We are making significant progress; we are learning to work together better. We are now meeting monthly, with many conversations going on between the meetings. We are grateful for the progress and anticipate a launch of the courses next year. We hope to see you as FATEN next year at the General Assembly. As we say in French, "Le besoin parle français" or "The need speaks French." Please pray for us as we prepare to make some major decisions in the next few weeks and months.

Leading up to this Advent Season, I have had little time to reflect.... that is just being honest... there have been too many late nights and early mornings to have much time to reflect. However, as I now reflect upon Christ's coming, I think of Paul's words in Philippians 2. In the beautiful Kenosis hymn, Paul discusses the self-emptying of the Son of God who veiled himself in human flesh: "he humbled himself and became obedient unto death – even death on a cross!" (Phil. 2:8, NIV). As I continue reading, I read Paul's own testimony in which he refers to the drink offerings of the Old Testament. The drink offering was always made in connection with the burnt offering. Before offering a burnt sacrifice, the worshipper offered a drink offering. The drink offering was completely expended. Nothing was held back for the priest; the entire libation was poured out before the altar. In that vein of thought, Paul writes these words: "...even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you" (Phil. 2:17, NIV).

Paul understood Christmas. Paul understood that the Christian life's goal is libation: the pouring out of our lives in service to others. May God give you grace... May God give me the grace to pour out my life in service to others. Christmas is not about giving gifts... it is about sharing our lives in service to others.

Thank God for giving us Jesus, who poured out his life as a libation for others! Thank God for the libation of the Incarnation!

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!



### Upcoming Home Assignments

May 14 to 20: Open

May 21 to 26: East Tennessee District

May 27 to June 3: Open

June 4 a.m.: Ossian, IN

June 5 to 7: Missionary Retreat

June 9 to 16: Open

June 17 to June 30: Open

If you would like to have us for a service, please let me know at [jrussellfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:jrussellfrazier@gmail.com). We would love to come and visit your district for services.





# OUR THANKSGIVING

On Saturday, November 26th, 42 people gathered at our house to celebrate Thanksgiving. We had lots of food, fun, and fellowship. Americans, Ethiopians, one Mexican, Kenyans, and some Congolese joined us. We sang a few songs with a devotional and thanked God for His blessings!



## Prayer request

- Pray for the ANU students as they are taking Exams and the lecturers for all of the grading of papers and exams to do.
- Pray for the ongoing plans for the French University (FATEN).
- Pray for two of our family members with physical needs.

