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Frazier Ministry Newsletter

What a Journey!

by Russell Frazier

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Justin's Journey

On Saturday, April 12, I welcomed Justin into our home on the Africa Nazarene University campus; he had travelled from Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, to Nairobi, Kenya, a journey of 1394 kilometres (866 miles). I know Bukavu well. From 1999 to 2005, I often went to Bukavu to teach pastors. One of the pastors in my class was Jules, Justin's father.

Bukavu is a city located at the southern tip of Lake Kivu, which separates Rwanda and the Congo. It borders the country of Rwanda. About 50 kilometres (31 miles) to the southeast of Bukavu is the border between Congo and Burundi.

On Thursday, Justin left his home, walking at least 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) to the Congo/Rwanda border near Cyangugu in Rwanda. He then took a bus from there to Kigali, a six-hour drive. From Kigali, he took another bus to Kampala, and after an 11-hour wait, he took another bus to Nairobi, travelling through the night to arrive at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. His journey took over 48 hours.

A Journey Across Borders: From Blantyre to Nairobi

Benson Thewethe began his journey to ANU in Blantyre, Malawi, his hometown. He left Blantyre around 5:00 a.m. on Sunday and arrived in Lilongwe around 11:00 a.m. His two bags made the journey more tiring, but he was determined to keep going.

After arriving in Lilongwe, he purchased a bus ticket to the Songwe border, separating Malawi and Tanzania. He was forced to wait until 6 p.m. for the departure. The trip was quite long and challenging due to the poor road conditions. The bus made slow progress; although the journey was supposed to take about 12 hours, the bus arrived at the border after 2:00 p.m. the following day, nearly 21 hours later. Benson said, "I was extremely tired and worn out by that point."

At the border, he had to exchange money, pass through immigration on the Malawian side and walked about a kilometre to the Tanzanian immigration office to get a second stamp. Once inside Tanzania, he caught a bus from Kyela to Mbeya, about a six-hour journey. At Mbeya, he got off and took a smaller coaster bus to the main bus terminal. There, he purchased a ticket for an overnight bus from Mbeya to Arusha.

The bus was scheduled to leave at 10:00 p.m., but later, they announced it would not depart until 5:00 a.m. Benson recounts, "At 5:00 a.m., we finally left Mbeya and travelled towards Dodoma. Just before reaching Dodoma, we were involved in a minor accident. The driver accidentally hit some cows, and the owner of the cattle demanded compensation. This delayed us for about three hours as they settled the matter." Finally, the journey continued safely to Arusha, arriving the following day around 5:00 a.m. This leg of the journey alone had been nearly a 24-hour journey.

Once in Arusha, Benson took a motorbike to another bus stop, where he found a shuttle headed for Nairobi, Kenya. The shuttle first took him from Arusha to the Namanga border, a one-stop border between Tanzania and Kenya. After clearing immigration, Benson continued on to Nairobi. Upon arrival in Nairobi, he caught a bus to Rongai, where ANU is located. The journey was over 2,300 kilometres (1,429 miles) and took four days.

Conclusion

I may have bored you reading these stories about voyages in far-off places. Some of the names of these locations may mean nothing to you. However, there is an underlying story that I hope you didn't miss. It is a story of determination, hardship, and dedication. These students are determined – determined to make a difference – determined to change the outlook for their families, their communities, and their world. As we say at ANU, "What begins here transforms the world!"



Happy Easter!

We are thankful for all supports and prayers. May God continue blessing each one of you.

Praises and Prayer Requests

Praises

- We praise God for some wonderful chapel services this semester at ANU.
- We praise God for my brother-in-law coming through surgery well.
- We praise God for opening a door recently for FATEN (the French institution).

Prayer Request

- Pray for Russ and Dorcas as they prepare the French curriculum for presentation to the Commission for University Education (the regulating body in Kenya) for ANU/FATEN
- Pray for Russ and Carla as they prepare for home assignment
- Pray for safe travels as we start our home assignment in May

Here is the link if you wish to give toward our mission: https://give.nazarene.org/category/region/africa/frazier

Upcoming Home Assignments

Here is the schedule for our next home assignment, please feel free contact us at jrussellfrazier@gmail.com for any questions.

- **Louisiana District May 18 to 25**
- **Alabama North District June 8 to June 15**
- **Rocky Mountain District June 17 to June 18**
- **New Mexico NMI Convention June 23 to June 29**
- **Mid-Atlantic District Camp June 30 to July 14**
- **NMI East Tennessee Convention July 15 to July 19**
- **Southwest Indiana District NMI Convention July 20 to July 21**