September 2025

Frazier Ministry Newsletter

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Stateside Address
5005 Danby Drive
Nashville, TN 37211

Field Address
P.O. Box 53067-00200
City Square Branch
Nairobi, Kenya

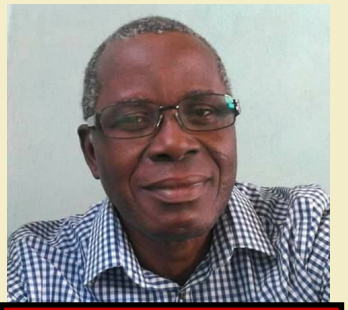
Phone
+254 705098594

VOIP Phone
615-435-9574
(rings in Africa)

Website
www.frazierministry.com

Facebook
Fraziers2Africa

Email
Jrussellfrazier@gmail.com
carlyfraz@gmail.com



Rev. Clement Yao Djedje

The Power of "WE"

By J. Russell Frazier

Has a pronoun ever blessed you? Sometime ago, I was reading and studying Acts 16:6-10 and found a shift in pronouns that warmed my heart.

"And **they** went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when **they** had come up to Mysia, **they** attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow **them**. So, passing by Mysia, **they** went down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia, and help us.' And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called **us** to preach the Gospel to them" (Acts 16:6-10, ESV).

Did you notice the shift in pronouns? In verses 6-9, Luke uses the third-person pronouns "they" and "them." However, he shifts to the first-person pronoun "we" in verse 10. Biblical scholars hold that from verse 10, Luke joined the team!

Luke was not a preacher, nor an apostle, nor a disciple – but he joined the team. He was a physician. We don't know why he joined the team at this juncture. The narrative does not really say, but he joined the team! Perhaps he saw the need. It was as if he heard the man from Macedonia saying, "Come over and help us!"

I have seen it in my own ministry. When I was pastoring, people would talk about me or the church in the third person: "The worship services are too long. You need to cut them shorter." "You need to start a youth ministry for our teens!" We have many of these "they" people. They don't see themselves as a part of the problem, and they certainly don't see themselves as a part of the solution either!

I like the kind of people who use the "we" language. I like a person who says, "Pastor, I have noticed that we are having such-and-such a problem in the local church. I know that you see it. I want you to know that I am with you. We will work together for a solution to the problem!"

After we arrived in Abidjan in 1999, the missionary team planned a meal at Doug and Pam Runyan's house to welcome us to Abidjan. A group of 24 people was gathered there for the evening. At one point in the evening, after introductions, our language teacher and Ivoirian pastor, Rev. Clement Yao Djedje, began to speak. As he did, he stood beside me and slipped his hand in mine. At this point, Carla and I hadn't been through cultural orientation. I didn't know that it was common for men to hold hands in certain parts of Africa – not for romantic reasons, but just as a sign of friendship. Rev. Djedje was holding my hand because he, as my teacher, was anticipating a close relationship with me. I stood there and held hands with him – I didn't draw my hand away -even though it felt very uncomfortable to hold hands in front of over 20 people! It was a symbol – a symbol of things to come. Now, for over 26 years, I have been holding the hands of French speakers in Africa. This – this is the power of 'we'!

I want to challenge you. What kind of language do you use in your local church? When you talk about missionaries, do you speak about them in the third person? The mission of the Church – indeed the mission of God – is all about partnering. It is about working together – indeed God calls us to partner with him in redeeming the word! Will you take my hand?

A GLIMPS AT ANU'S GRADUATION



Praises and Prayer Requests

Praises

- We thank God for His protection as we travelled many miles during our Home Assignment!
- We thank God for a beautiful graduation ceremony for 717 students!
- We thank God for the partially paved road to church now. It only took us about 15 minutes, which is half the normal time.

Prayer Request

- Pray for ANU as we start registration this week for the new semester.
- Pray for the Leadership of the University as we have some key transitions taking place.

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 our home assignment schedule for May 15 to June 30, 2026.

- **Canada Pacific District May 17 to 26**
- **South Carolina District May 31 to June 7**
- **Joplin District June 9 to June 17**
- **WAPAC June 21 to June 30**

We also have open dates for May 15 to June 30, 2027. If you would like to have us for a service, please contact us at jrussellfrazier@gmail.com.