Newsletter

March 2026

Frazier Ministry

God with Us

by Russell Frazier

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It had been twenty-one years since my last visit to Bujumbura in 2005. At the time, we were living in Rwanda and drove to Burundi, down the mountains from the border, where the city of Bujumbura wraps around the beautiful Lake Tanganyika. Our purpose was both simple and significant, to start the paperwork necessary to officially register the Church of the Nazarene in Burundi.

At that time, there were no Nazarene churches in Burundi; only two young men who had returned from the refugee camp in Malawi had graduated from our Bible college there. They returned to Burundi with a vision to begin the Church of the Nazarene in their homeland.

In those days, Burundi was experiencing political and military tension. Along the road, we saw rebel soldiers teenaged boys carrying AK-47s. Our children, Rachelle and Seth fourteen and nine years old were with us at the time. On Sunday morning, we attended a local church service, but we had to return to Kigali our children needed to be back at school on Monday.

Our departure brought challenges. The drive from Kigali to Bujumbura had consumed about three-quarters of a tank of fuel but there was no petrol available anywhere in the city. We drove from station to station. Some had long lines of cars waiting, hoping fuel might arrive. Burundi is a landlocked country, and fuel shortages were common because deliveries were difficult.

With no other choice, we prayed and started back toward Rwanda with only a quarter tank of fuel left. The steep climb out of Bujumbura requires more fuel than the descent. Again, we passed some of the rebel soldiers seen earlier. All the way up, we prayed and asked God for help.

God answered that prayer! Although the drive from Kigali had consumed three-quarters of a tank, the remaining quarter tank carried us back up the mountain to the Burundian-Rwandan border. Once we crossed into Rwanda, we were able to find petrol and safely continue home. God was with us!

In February 2026, I returned to Bujumbura and rejoiced to see the work of God over the twenty-one years. Once, there were no churches; now, there are more than forty. There is even a district center in Bujumbura, and the work of God is thriving.

During my visit, I trained pastors. I taught them how to interpret the Bible, beginning at a level that would be accessible and practical for their ministry, recognizing patterns such as recurrence, comparison, and contrast. We explored simple but powerful tools for studying Scripture. Many grasped these concepts and began applying them to biblical passages and to their sermon preparation. It was encouraging to see their excitement as they discovered new insights into God's Word they will tell.



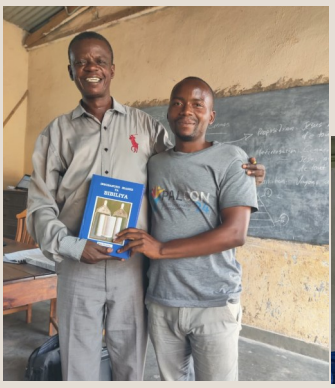
However, the greatest blessing for me was seeing how God had continued His work during the twenty-one years. God was present in my absence!

It reminds me of something I taught my students – inclusio: an element that appears at the beginning and the end of a unit of Scripture. In Matthew 1:23, Jesus is identified as Immanuel "God with us." In Matthew 28:20, Jesus assures us: **"I am with you always,** to the very end of the age." This assurance forms an inclusio in the Gospel of Matthew.

What a powerful reminder! God is with us. When we engage in mission, God is with us! Even when we are absent, God is never absent from His people!

God is advancing His mission in Burundi. Thank you for your faithful support of the divine mission. Your prayers and generosity make this work possible.

Please continue to pray for us. As we join hands together with God in His mission, we trust that He will continue to guide and bless the work ahead. After all, **He is with us!**









A Message from students to Carla

Dear Madam Carla,



On behalf of the ASOSI community and the wider student body of Africa Nazarene University, we take this special moment at the ASOSI Dinner to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you.

This letter comes as a surprise, but it carries the voices of many students. Through a recent student survey and shared testimonies, your name stood out repeatedly , not just as a staff member in the Finance Office, but as a source of hope, comfort, and genuine care.

We want to thank you for your generosity, kindness, and approachability. You have consistently created a safe space for students facing financial difficulties, always welcoming them with warmth, patience, and understanding. To many, you have been more than an administrator, you have been a mother figure, a listener, a counselor, and a steady shoulder during moments of uncertainty.

Many students may never fully express it, but your support has truly changed lives. Your efforts in helping students secure and access scholarships, guiding them through financial processes, and ensuring timely disbursement have enabled countless students to continue with their studies when hope seemed lost. You may not always see the impact immediately, but your actions have saved dreams and kept many academic journeys alive.

On a personal note, I would also like to sincerely thank you for your unwavering support of me in my role as Treasurer. Whenever challenges arise, you are always willing to listen, advise, and help find practical solutions. Your guidance has not only made my work easier but has also strengthened my confidence and leadership.



Madam Carla, your compassion goes beyond duty. Your consistency, empathy, and dedication remind us that true service is rooted in love and humanity. Please know that your work does not go unnoticed; it is deeply valued and appreciated by the entire ASOSI family and the student community at large.

May you continue to be encouraged, strengthened, and inspired, knowing that you are making a lasting difference every single day.
With deepest appreciation and gratitude,

Ruth Kitila
Treasurer, ASOSI
On behalf of the ASOSI Student Community

Praises and Prayer Requests

Praises:

- We are grateful for God's traveling mercies on Russ and Dorcas. They traveled and worked in Nigeria at West Africa Theological Seminiary. Russ taught pastors while Dorcas did marketing for ANU.
- We are thankful for answered prayer for providing some ANU Financial needs. God is Good!

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for ANU to increase enrollment in May and September. We need to replace the graduating class.
- Pray that the fruits of Dorcas' labor in marketing will result in a good numbers of students for ANU. (She has marketed ANU in Kinshasa, Congo; Lagos, Nigeria; and Bujumbura, Burundi.
- Pray for Russ as he travels to teach pastors in Kisangani, DRCongo in April.
- Pray for Carla's mother. She is scheduled for several medical appointments and procedures in the near future.

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

Upcoming Home Assignments

Our next deputation schedule has open dates from May 15 to June 30, 2026. If you would like to have us for a service, please contact us at jrussellfrazier@gmail.com.

- 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