

**News from  
the ministry  
of  
Russell and  
Carla Frazier**



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## Africa Soil

We have arrived! We arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, December 29 at 11:30 p.m. Nairobi time.

It was a long journey. We left Nashville on Monday at 10:40 a.m. central time. We journeyed from Nashville to Newark, Newark to Brussels, and Brussels to Nairobi. It was 2 a.m. on Wednesday when we were able to get to bed. However, I was up at 6 a.m. next morning! (I won't testify for Carla either way!)

Carla and I began the next day getting things settled into the apartment. The apartment or flat



is located on the back edge of the ANU property. It is on the third floor and was used for Work and Witness teams, but since the University has not had many teams visiting recently, we were allowed to stay here. We are pleased.

The back veranda overlooks a river and gorge. The opposite side of the gorge unfolds into beautiful pastoral land which sheep, goats, and cattle use for grazing.

On our first morning here, I was rewarded with the sight of about thirty to forty baboons playing just over the fence from our backyard. Although, they fought/played fiercely and made quite a racket, Carla had little interest in them at 7 a.m. Let me quickly clarify that I did not try to arouse her interest at that hour! When I mentioned it to her later, she mumbled something about "jet lag."

In the days since, she and I have been working on the apartment to make it more livable. We have made some shopping trips to purchase some very needed items for the home. While it came equipped with some silverware, dishes, pots and pans, we had to buy several things like a clothes iron, mop, broom, buckets, etc. We also had to buy groceries.

Shopping is always an experience in a different country. Oftentimes, it is difficult to calculate the exchange rate. Missionaries know about "sticker shock" as they compare prices in the country of service with the country of origin. Converting from pounds to kilos

can be quite challenging. The type of food available is different.

Despite the many differences, we have found Nairobi to be much more advanced than Kigali was when we left there in 2005. We are grateful for all that God has allowed us to have. We are grateful to missionary friends who have shown us around in the past few days, helping us to get acclimated.

One of the reasons we have been working so frantically is because on Monday morning, Carla and I will report to duty. We have meetings to attend. We need to get oriented to campus life and our responsibilities. We have a lot to learn!

One missionary couple gave us a tour of the campus on Friday. We were grateful to see firsthand how the university has grown. God has been blessing. We are excited about the future that God has in store for us here! Thank you for your prayers for us!



**"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." - Philippians 1:3-5 NIV**



“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine” (Psalm 33:18-19).

## Sunrises, SONrises

Every morning since we have been here, I have arisen early to spend time in meditation, prayer and reading the Word. I listened to sounds of Africa, springing to life for yet another day. I felt the coolness of the early morning breezes and breathed a lung-full of fresh air. It has been invigorating!

What has been most fascinating is the sunrises! Here, near the equator, the sun rises at about the same time each day. I have awakened each day and watched as the sun rises over the hill behind our flat. I cannot describe adequately the splendor and beauty of the sunrise. I cannot capture it with a camera. I could not capture its

beauty on a canvas with a paintbrush.

Perhaps what has been more important is something else that occurs at that same hour. It is not a sunrise, but a SONrise. As I began reading yet another book of one of my favorite authors, E. Stanley Jones, I realized what draws me to his writings. It is Him! I do not mean Jones; I mean Christ. What draws me to his (Jones') writings is Christ. Jones is captivated by Jesus.

This reminded me of a preacher whose name I will not mention here. I enjoy hearing this man preach. Why? Because he lifts up

Jesus Christ. His preaching exalts Jesus.

As I began to meditate upon this unnamed preacher's and Jones' influence, it made realize more than ever before what I want to do is to lift up Jesus. In my life and my ministry, what I want to do with lips and life is to exalt Jesus. Would you pray that I will so exalt Jesus in the upcoming New Testament course that a young man will see Jesus glorified and will surrender his life to Jesus? Will you pray for a SONrise in me? I will pray for a SONrise in you. Jesus said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (Jo. 12:32, NKJV).

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for us as we assume our new responsibilities. Pray for Russ as he begins to prepare for teaching classes. Pray for Carla as she begins her role in the finance office.
- Pray for our children and family in the States.
- Pray for us as we make many new adjustments to living in Kenya and relating to our brothers and sisters in Christ (and beyond).
- Pray that God will continue to supply all of our needs for our ministry here.

## Two-way Street

In some of the churches that we visited, Carla and I made it known that we take seriously the idea of partnership. We have asked you to partner with us in ministry, but we are committed to partnering with you in prayer as well.

This is not just a one-way street. It is a two-way street. We will pray for you. I trust that you will pray for us as well.

Carla and I have a list of the names of all of the churches which we visited, along with the names of the pastors and pastors' wives listed. We will pray faithfully for them. We will remember you. We will not forget.

In light of this, if you have prayer concerns that you would like for us to lift up to the Lord in prayer, please feel free to contact us. As

the song writer put it:

“There is a scene where spirits blend,  
Where friend holds fellowship with friend;  
Though sundered far, by faith they meet  
Around one common mercy seat.”

So, please feel free to contact us at [jrussellfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:jrussellfrazier@gmail.com). May the grace, peace and love of Christ be with you!