

Those Who Serve

February 7

Opening Prayer Joe Holloway
Song Leader Joe Burnsed
Communion John Story
Assist Olan Bacon
Assist Joe Burnsed
Dismiss Services Kwesi Garvin



Gabrielle and Grandma She said blue for my necklace and I thanked God in my thoughts as I knew she would be ok. She had only said Ma before that at the hospital.



Rose Mary Gabrielle and Grandma the night she came home.



Lily Rose playing

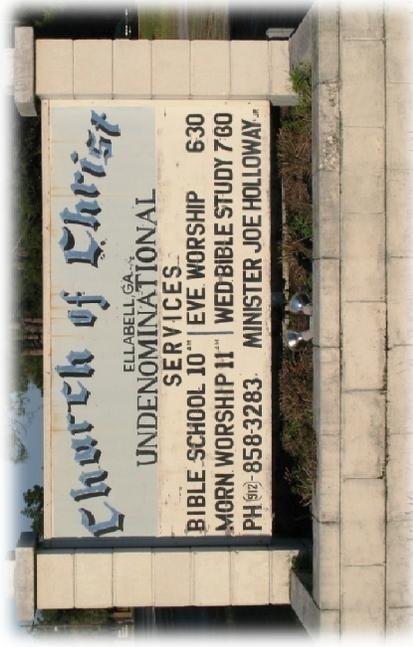


Paul, Madelyn, Liva, Edie, Franck and Rose at Madelyn's

February 14

John Story
 Kwesi Garvin
 Olan Bacon
 Joe Burnsed
 Kwesi Garvin
 Charles Hall

Ellabell Church of Christ



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent

February 7, 2010

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2010 (TOM EKPOT JR).

Greetings to you all my dear brethren. I pray the grace of God that brought salvation to us should continue to be available for every one of us as we run this race. Thank you all for taking time to pray for us all through the period of panic and confusion the Muslims the Plateau state threw us into. The month started very well with all the numerous good wishes for a good year, in fact I have my first convent on the first weekend of the month. I had mapped out my plans for the year. Brethren, we did not know that our faith was going to be tested this way despite all the good wishes from the congregations of brethren.

Since 2001, this the fifth time we have to run and abandon our homes for our dear lives because of Muslims' attack. It was on the 17th of January, immediately we finished our morning worship, some people started phoning that the Muslims are killing and burning Christian houses. Well, I thought it was going to be a mild thing since army and Police were on ground. Brethren, I did not know that the presence of the men in uniform did not mean anything to these people. They continued to advance toward our area. My wife and children ran to an area that was relatively calm. I had to stay with my students who could not move out. Unfortunately, one of my students was killed that same day. The trouble continued for four days. Well, as at last weekend, peace started returning as many people started returning gradually to their homes. Since then we have been living in fear and trembling especially in the night. This morning, the news spread that the people have mobilized enough militants to attack again. Brethren, it is difficult to settle well in an atmosphere wrapped with violence. We look up

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Ellabell Church of Christ

PO Box 72

Ellabell, GA 31308

to God for security and way forward. Right now most of our activities have readjusted because of the 12 hours of curfew placed on the city. We have to rush out and pursue few things in a restricted area and return home. Please, do keep praying for us. Pray also for a brother in Foron whose house was burnt down completely. Some of my prospects also lost their buildings.

Please, I need some used Bibles to give out to these people who need to read the Bible, but have none because their copies have been burnt. We appreciate any help in this regard. My postal address is The School of Bible Studies, Bauchi Ring Road, PMB 02704, Jos - Plateau State, Nigeria, West Africa. May God keep blessing you in your good work.

(There are no pictures this month-I am sure you can understand why Tom was not able to send any pictures. If you have any Bibles you wish to send, please consider doing so. The Post Office is still the easiest and cheapest way. Please, above all, pray for Tom's safety, his family's safety, and the safety of the teachers and students at the School of Biblical Studies - Joe)



Your Rose in Paris
4 rue Deodat de Severac
75017 Paris, France
Nov/Dec- 2009

(From the USA dial: 0-11-33-1-42-67-14-25)

E-Mail: rolandrose@wanadoo.fr
Rose: yourroseinparis2003@yahoo.com

Church website: www.egliseduchrist-deodat.com

Rose's Report

"I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

Dear Ladies,

Where do I start? I hope that I can keep all that I'd like to share straight. Our Gabrielle, (Rose Mary's and Manu's youngest daughter and our youngest Granddaughter) fell sick with the HINI or Swine flu!

That meant that I was staying every night at Rose Mary's the month of November except about four nights when I brought the children to stay at our apt. Gabrielle suffered from some complications with problems in the liver, lungs etc. Just last Friday Jan. 15, 2009 was she finally pronounced well enough after bronchitis to go to the nursery where her Mother works. I treasure the moments that I had with her and Lily Rose and Emmanuel. Then I only had Gabrielle and now I go just once in awhile as usual to babysit. Lily Rose did really well even when she stayed at our apt. and I was so glad.

Of course Grandma (me) caught bronchitis too and I've been sick on and off for two months. Now I'm better. Roland and I did go on the 21st of November to celebrate Thanksgiving with the Dedeyan family in their home with several others. It was very nice and several of us took a walk in the woods after a delicious lunch. Roland made pumpkin pies.

On the 27th of Nov. I came home and on the weekend of the 28th and 29th we had Loic and Michaella visit us from Lyon, France. I had just a few of my Bible/English classes in Nov. other than going to Wednesday night studies.

Now that it is December I have the English/Bible studies with Natalie and her Mom comes too on Saturday mornings at ten and with Betty and her sons in the

afternoon. Once a month is Ladies prayer meeting at 3:00 P.M. downstairs. On the 19th of Dec. Roland and I had a meal with our eldest member and her son. We also had a meal with Edie and Paul and we had several up on Sunday nights to eat with us.

We all rejoiced to see Rut-Scheilla put on Christ in baptism in Dec of 2009. I pray that the Lord will give us more willing souls to study and obey the Lord in 2010.

Since being home I have been able to get caught up some on some of the things that just didn't get done while I was away. I was really busy staying with the kids, coming home and washing and scrubbing floors, doing the washing, some cooking and then leaving around 8:00 A.M. to go to Rose Mary's.

In December we lost by death four beloved people who have touched our lives in many ways. Brother Samuel Timmerman long time missionary to France and Belgium died in Searcy, Arkansas. We have such wonderful memories of him and Maxine his wife when they visited us here.

We also got the news of Brother John Ratovohery who had a heart attack in Madagascar. John and Esther have the orphanage Betikara in that country and John used to serve as an elder here at Deodat where we work.

Then our son in law's sister Marie Clare died of pneumonia on the 28th of December. I kept the children on the 30th and 31st while Rose Mary and Manu went four hours away to the funeral. Manu's Dad isn't doing well and might have to be hospitalized after just getting out recently.

Then we got the news that a friend that we had studied with in Mauritius died of an aneurism and this saddened us as we hoped that Antoine would have obeyed the Gospel of Jesus.

On the 24th of Dec., I made a stuffed Kapon or Capon and gravy and we opened our gifts after our good supper at Rose Mary's with the grandchildren. How I felt blessed having our Gabrielle with us. We have much to be thankful for. On the 25th of Dec., I was really feeling over tired and not well then on the 29th I had a stomach flu for about 48 hours so I couldn't go downstairs with the 94 others so I wouldn't give them my flu. I kept the girls upstairs with me and Emmanuel got to go to the party on the 31st.

One of the girls that work with Rose Mary named Emily is to call me for Eng/Bible lessons soon. Pray that this will happen and be fruitful for the Lord. Now I still have my studies with Kadyja but Madelyn hasn't started back up neither the friend of Kadyja and this is usually on Tues. Weds. and Thursdays.

Love you all and thanks for your help and prayers.

Rose

(pictures on back page)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save –Labels, Food Pantry Items, Change Jar, Cans, Medicine Bottles

Food Pantry–Our food pantry has been depleted. Please consider canned goods for the pantry as you shop this week.

Social – This Wednesday evening after Bible Study

Meetings – tonight after services-postponed from last week