

# Those Who Serve

## February 28

- Opening Prayer** Joe Burnsed
- Song Leader** Kwesi Garvin
- Communion** Kwesi Garvin
- Assist** Charles Hall
- Assist** Joe Holloway
- Dismiss Services** John Story



## March 7

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

# Ellabell Church of Christ



<http://ellabellcofhome.webs.com/>

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Ellabell Church of Christ

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Ellabell, GA 31308

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

February 28, 2010

### Nigerian minister Okon Mkpog released

ERIK TRYGGESTAD | The Christian Chronicle

Okon Mkpog, a longtime church leader in Nigeria, was released unharmed by his kidnapers Feb. 23 after nearly 12 days in captivity.

"We know that this is another testimony to the awesome power of God," said the minister's daughter, Uduak Afangideh, who teaches biology at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. Another daughter, Idongesit Mkpog-Ruffin, chairs Faulkner's computer science department.

"All members of the Mkpog family, both in the United States and Nigeria, would like to thank our Faulkner family for their prayers during the past week," Afangideh wrote in a message to Faulkner employees. "God answered those prayers in an amazing manner ..."

"We got to talk to him — amidst songs of praise by family members back home," Afangideh added.

Mkpog is an elder of a Church of Christ in Uyo, a city in southern Nigeria's Akwa Ibom state. He launched a Christian school, a ministry training school and a hospital in his home



country.

He was abducted from his home Feb. 11. The kidnappers demanded a ransom, and family members in Nigeria negotiated for his release.

While her father was held captive, Afangideh wrote a message to supporters.

"My family is resolute in the fact that God is fully in control, that the Bible is full of promises to rescue those who trust in him, secure in the fact that my father has served him all his life," she wrote. "We stand on the faith of our fathers and refuse to give in to fear."

Last August Dr. Robert Whittaker, a British-born physician and church member, was abducted from his home near Aba, Nigeria, about 50 miles west of Uyo. After 48 hours, church members negotiated for his release.

Whittaker continues to recover from a gunshot wound he suffered during the kidnapping. The physician recently returned from a medical mission trip to Haiti.

#### **The club 99**

Once upon a time, there lived a King who, despite his luxurious lifestyle, was neither happy nor content.

One day, the King came upon a servant who was singing happily while he worked. This fascinated the King; why was he, the Supreme Ruler of the Land, unhappy and gloomy, while a lowly servant had so much joy. The King asked the servant, "Why are you so happy?" The man replied, "Your Majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but my family and I don't need too much - just a roof over our heads and warm food to fill our tummies."

The king was not satisfied with that reply. Later in the day, he sought the advice of his most trusted advisor. After hearing the King's woes and the servant's story, the advisor said, "Your Majesty, I believe that the servant has not been made part of The 99 Club."

"The 99 Club? And what exactly is that?" the King inquired.

The advisor replied, "Your Majesty, to truly know what The 99 Club is, place 99 Gold coins in a bag and leave it at this servant's doorstep."

When the servant saw the bag, he took it into his house.

When he opened the bag, he let out a great shout of joy... So many gold coins! He began to count them. After several counts, he was at last convinced that there were 99 coins. He wondered, "What could've happened to that last gold coin? Surely, no one would leave 99 coins!"

He looked everywhere he could, but that final coin was elusive. Finally, exhausted, he decided that he was going to have to work harder than ever to earn that gold coin and complete his collection.

From that day, the servant's life was changed. He was overworked, horribly grumpy, and castigated his family for not helping him make that 100th gold coin. He stopped singing while he worked.

Witnessing this drastic transformation, the King was puzzled. When he sought his advisor's help, the advisor said, "Your Majesty, the servant has now officially joined The 99 Club."

He continued, "The 99 Club is a name given to those people who have enough to be happy but are never contented, because they're always yearning and striving for that extra 1 telling to themselves: "Let me get that one final thing and then I will be happy for life."

We can be happy, even with very little in our lives, but the minute we're given something bigger and better, we want even more! We lose our sleep, our happiness, we hurt the people around us; all these as a price for our growing needs and desires. That's what joining The 99 Club is all about."

-submitted by Paul Kuntz

### ***Small from Nigeria (Rec'd Feb 20, 2010)***

Hello Dear brother Holloway,

Greetings to you and to the saints over there. It is beginning to be very hot over here. God is wonderful. Some weeks back, we were looking for sun to warm ourselves, but now, people are already complaining of heat. Sometimes I wonder if God were to be man, He will vex one day over all of these complaints. But His graciousness is not comparable. We will ever live to appreciate Him for His kindness. How about mom and dad? My regards to them. Things are slowing taking shape, though rumor is on the increase. Last week Thursday, the fragile peace would have been erupted as some "Christians" wanted to react to the killing of some "christians" last Tuesday. It is sometime scary because one has to define where he goes and when he steps out. We are still having only 12 hours to be out of our homes, as curfew starts from 6am-6pm every day. God is merciful to us. Thanks so much for your prayers. Last Wednesday, a sister at Mazah who was pregnant of twins put to bed. One came out normal and the other came out with the legs. But they are all doing fine. A week before then, the sister was told that she may be operated upon. But the prayers of the saint changed the situation as the parents nor the congregation have no such money to afford CS. Join us in thanking God for His kindness. I wish you have a great weekend. Grace and Peace,

Tom

### **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** – Today after morning services. Make plans to stay

**Meetings** – tonight after evening services