

# Those Who Serve

## January 24

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

## January 31

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

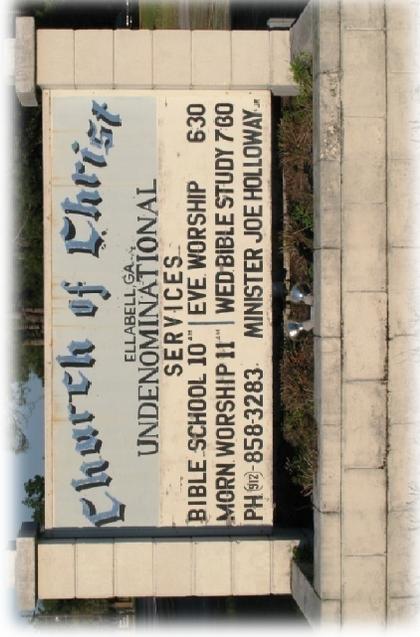


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Ellabell Church of Christ  
 PO Box 72  
 Ellabell, GA 31308

# Ellabell Church of Christ



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

January 24, 2009

## Obeying The Gospel

By Ron Boatwright

The word "**gospel**" literally means good news or good tidings. What does the Bible say that the gospel is? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 says, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel....by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was **buried**, and that He **rose** again the third day according to the scriptures." Here we see the good news of the gospel is that Christ **died**, and was **buried**, and was **raised** again on the third day. Also notice, they were saved by the gospel.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 we read that, "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on **those who do not obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" Here we see that vengeance will be taken on those who obey not the gospel of Christ.

How do we obey the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord so that vengeance will not be taken on us? Romans 6:3-5 says, "Or do you not know, that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His **death**? Therefore we were **buried** with Him

through baptism into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His **resurrection**." So we see in obeying the gospel we are baptized into His death, we are buried with Him through baptism, and then just as Christ was raised up from the dead, we also are raised **to walk in newness of life** after baptism. Only after baptism are we born again and our new life in Christ begins. Only in baptism does our old sinful person die and our new person rises free from sin.

✉mail from Nigeria (rec'd January 18, 2010)

My dear brothers,

Greetings to you and the entire brotherhood.. On Sunday, during morning worship, the city of Jos was thrown into confusion as some Muslim youths armed themselves and started attacking Christian in churches. They started burning houses and churches, and killing people. On that Sunday, they killed one of foreign students from Cameroon, and burnt his corp. Till now, we are on the run for our dear lives. My family is away from me near the state government house. I am left alone to stay with my students, who have nowhere to go. The devastating issues now are no more food for people. For 3 days day, we are forced to keep awake in the night, and stay outside watching. Night and morning have become excessively chill. But our trust is in our Lord. Please, do keep us in prayers.

-Tom

✉mail from Cameroon (rec'd January 19, 2010)

Dear sir,

It is once more a very sad situation to hear of the evil that the children of God have to endure in the wicked city called Jos. I was there for four painful years to study in preparation for this work. I almost joined the dead in September 2001 when a similar conflict erupted 4 days prior to the tragic 9/11 in America. We were still on the run in Jos when we heard that the U.S was also under the fire of faceless terrorists. It was as if the world was grinding to a halt. Of all the challenges I faced in my Bible college days, the conflict between Muslims and "Christians" ( I prefer to say Muslims vs. Non-muslims) ranked as number one of all the things that threatened my successful completion of the studies that took me to hitherto peaceful city of Jos. The unfortunate unrest that now

characterize the rocky town of Jos is ironical because prior to September 7 when the city initiated itself into this satanic terror, Jos was the only town in Nigeria that was enjoying the official title of "City of Peace." Now Jos is a "city of pieces". It is a dreadful turn of events. As disciples of Christ we know that in this world we have trouble but in Christ we have peace. Jesus Himself has told us that this world is not our eternal home. So as we long for the true city of peace where unrest will never come to mar our eternal rest, we weep with bro. Tom and the entire staff of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos. In our mourning we pray that God will grant all of us who knew bro. Ebula the grace to manage the mental horrors of his death. His is the death of a martyr at the hands of those who deny that Jesus is the Son of God. As I prayerfully weep, I remember that it was by the grace of God that I survived the mayhem in my own time in the school. I too almost got killed in a similar Jos killing exercise. But God said No. The entire brotherhood in Cameroon have been thrown into sadness by this tragic event of Ebula's murder. I am tortured psychologically be I was one of those who motivated him , at least by inspiration, to embark on the studies to become a preacher. We have been praying hard for the biological family to bear the loss. The church of Christ here is not new to the false accusation of being an occult religious group. Even a natural death of a member would be explained by unbelieving family members as a ritual murder supposedly perpetrated by the church. In Ebula's case we pray that the family will understand that the Church is not the murderer. If they understand otherwise, the church can handle by God's grace but the rumors will further scare people away from considering membership with us. When the Devil does something, he has a multiplier effect against the kingdom of God. Notwithstanding all this, we are not afraid because the Lord will always vindicate and defend His immutable word. My condolences to everyone who is personally affected by this tragedy.

-Abasiama John Archibong

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**Social** – Today after morning services

**Meetings**-next week, the 31st, after evening services

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

**Bulletin Board** – card received from Candice and Allie...with a picture!