

Those Who Serve

April 19

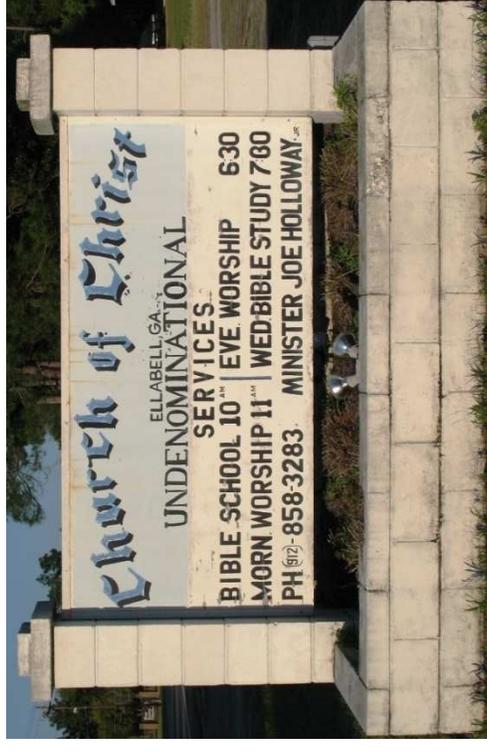
Opening Prayer Olan Bacon
Song Leader Joe Burnsed
Communion Joe Burnsed
Assist Joe Holloway
Assist Charles Hall
Dismiss Services Kwesi Garvin



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

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

April 19, 2009



Out of the Mouth of Babes

Joel Stephen Williams

A little girl asked her father: "Papa, do you love Jesus?" He responded: "How can I love someone I have never seen?" The girl thought for a moment or two, and then she asked: "Papa, how old was I when Mother died?" "Only six months," he replied. Then her words cut him deeply:

"Then I can't say that I ever saw her, and I don't remember her at all. But you have always tried to make me love her by telling me how good and kind she was. And I do love her." Soon tears were flowing down his face, and he knew that out of the mouth of babes wisdom had been spoken.

When Jesus appeared to some of the apostles after his resurrection, Thomas was not present. Thomas was reluctant to believe even after hearing the testimony of the other apostles. He demanded proof: "Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (Jn. 20:25). A week later Jesus appeared to the disciples again, and Thomas was present this time. Jesus offered the proof Thomas desired: "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.

Do not doubt but believe" (Jn. 20:27). The answer of Thomas showed faith: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn. 20:28). But it is the response of Jesus on which we want to focus at the moment. Jesus said to Thomas: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (Jn. 20:29).

We have not seen Jesus, yet we believe in him. We have not observed his mannerisms or looked on his face or heard his voice, but we love him. We can love him as much as a person we have known all of our life. Through the scriptures he can become as real to us as a mother or father, son or daughter, or brother or sister. We can come to know and admire his personality and the beauty of his character.

✉ mail from Cameroon (Rec'd 4/13/09)

Thank you sir. When I read that I will be famous, I laughed. Not that it was funny, but because I was humbled. And just as you said about your reputation here in Cameroon and Nigeria, I am afraid that the videos may say more than I wished or thought it would say. If only God is glorified in all that trails the videos, then I remain the happiest missionary in Limbe. My joy is to put a smile on people's faces. And my prayer is that the Savior continues to let me walk with Him and be close to Him. Serving God is my fundamental goal, and if happiness or fame come along with it, then they are simply by-products of my main desire, namely, to glorify God and also to justify the support I'm being given by putting more effort. Thanks for all you have used the videos to accomplish. Great job. I'm just happy.

(I had told Abasiama that people are already downloading his video disks. I also told him he would be famous in the USA as many would see them -Joe)

Announcements

Social – next week, the 26th

Meetings – next week after evening services

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

Bulletin Board-Make sure you read the bulletin board as there are many things of interest now. The bulletin is getting too long

✉ mail from Nigeria (Rec'd 4/12/09)

Hello brother Holloway,

Thanks for your prayers. We are doing fine. My house is coming up gradually. You know my father's health had cost me so much that I had to abandon work on it. Some part is up from the ground. I will surely send you a photograph of it. Last weekend I was at Foron. From Friday to Saturday. We had a good time there discussing Bible with people. Though none was baptized, at least the gospel was preached. All the neighboring congregations came around for the two day door knocking. I

was glad to see this cooperation for God's work among the people. I will send you pictures as well. I have not down loaded them yet to my computer. How is dad doing? My regards to him and mom, and the Church. Have a great day.

Grace and Peace,

Tom



Colin's contact information is on the bulletin board and the back pew.

Also, Colin has a website set up for his trip. It is on his contact sheet. I am sure many of us will want to follow it.