

# Those Who Serve

**August 17**  
**Opening Prayer** Colin Morrison  
**Communion Assist** Kwesi Garvin  
 Charles Hall  
 Joe Holloway

**Dismiss Services** Charles Hall



**August 24**  
**Olan Bacon**  
 Charles Hall  
 Evan Hall  
 Colin Morrison  
 Evan Hall

# Ellabell Church of Christ



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

August 17, 2008

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2008 - TOM EKPO

Dear brethren,



Greetings to you all. I believe and continue to pray that our Good Lord keeps us fit for His use all the time. Thanks you all for your unfading loving and sacrifices you have demonstrated for cause of Christ. Your love has continued to be a motivating

factor to us and many others.

We are having rainy season in Nigeria. In Jos, it rains every day. It makes thing slow, but we appreciate God so much because this one of the most beautiful weathers we have in Nigeria. It is not hot, and it is not freezing. I traveled to my state to see my parents, especially my father since after he came back from surgery. I am glad because he has recovered faster than I thought. But the measles that attacked him two months before the surgery is still on, though it has diminished according to him. He asked me to express his appreciation to you all for your prayers. I was opportune to meet some of my relations I have not seen for years. They all came to see me hearing that I had come to the Village. It was almost like home coming.

The work in Jos is on progress. As I mentioned to you in my last report, one brother from Toro congregation is coming to the Bible school

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

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in Jos for a two year Bible program. I believe after his training, we will have someone who will help the work at Toro. I will have more time for other places. I am glad to mention to you as well that the young congregation we started at Foron Mission about a year ago is growing rapidly. We are planning to move from present worshipping place which is a brother's house to bigger place that will accommodate at least twenty people. Please, keep us in prayers. In our last Church meeting there, we agreed to start looking for a small peace of land. I don't know how much that will cost yet, but I believe it won't be too much a price. When we get a structure, it will help the Church to plan for having children classes. Right now it is not possible as the place is not big enough. At Mazah, we are trying to roof the building we raised the wall for two years. We are now soliciting for assistance to be able to do that. It won't have been possible for me to do any of these if not that grace of God that made you demonstrate such great love. May God continue to bless you. My wife and children send their greetings to you all.

At School of Biblical Studies, we are resuming for the first semester of 2008/09 on the 11 of August. That is a day after I return from Lagos. We are prepared for this semester. But we know without the grace of God, we won't accomplish anything. Please, keep all the staff and students in prayers. Some of have made tremendous sacrifices to leave their families and businesses to come for Bible training to preach. Once again, I am grateful to you all.

## **Announcements**

**Labels-Remember the labels we are saving**  
**Food Pantry-Remember the Pantry as you shop**  
**Change Jar-proceeds go to the Thanksgiving Appeal**  
for Georgia AGAPE  
**Cans-save cans – we are trying to buy bicycles for the**  
missionaries in India  
**Medicine Bottles-Remember to save prescription**  
bottles for African  
Christian Hospitals.  
**Social- next Sunday after worship**

**E**mail from Nigeria (rec'd Aug 13, 2008)

Hello brother Holloway,

I am sorry that I could not respond to other emails yesterday. Immediately I send the mail on Lawrence, the power company

switched their power. The death of a beloved brother like that touches me deeply. Even though he was advance in age, yet we would have loved him to keep on. We I read the writing of Don (Kerns of the Booker Church of Christ), I felt the more for him. But we thank God because he was a living gospel to everyone who met him.

I am equally for not giving you the detail of things as they happened back home and at Lagos. Starting with my trip back home, I met with my dad and mom, and many of my relations, both distant and close relations. I was glad to worship with the congregation in my village. It was such an exciting moment. However, all my joy was short lifted by the sad news about the congregation we established some 20 years ago on the campus of University of Uyo. If you will recall, I sent a picture of that congregation last year to you. We were 5 in number when we started, but as at last year when I visited, the Church had grew to over 200 in number. It was spread its wings and tentacles in touching the lives of many young people in the University. But what happened? The University authority has issued a notice that the Church cannot continue on the premises of the University. The Church therefore stands the risk of scattering. But my fear is not whether the members scatter because I know in scattering, they could carry along the gospel. But many of these people were not strong enough. Most of them were converted will on campus there. A year ago, the Church had the foresight of buying a parcel of land, where they started building a worshipping place. They have raised the structure roofing level. As it is common with students, they don't have any money of their own, except those who may be working. They need help at this time to roof the building and move in even without doors and windows, just to worship. If anyone would help in any way, I will be glad.

At Lagos, it was a wonderful experience as many people came from different countries in African continent. We shared our experiences, joy and sadness as evangelists together. We were motivated to put in more effort in spreading the gospel. It was stressful, but I think it worth it. I count myself blessed to have been in that conference. Please, express my love to the Church. Grace and Peace,

Tom

(The picture Tom mentions, I would include here but the complete picture has not come through after many attempts. Sorry –JH)