

Those Who Serve

December 28

Opening Prayer

Joe Holloway

Communion

Kwesi Garvin

Assist

Charles Hall

Assist

Olan Bacon

Dismiss Services

Evan Hall

January 4

Colin Morrison

Charles Hall

Evan Hall

Joe Burnsed

Joe Holloway

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



The pictures this week are from last year's New Year's Eve Get-together

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

December 28, 2008



Dear family in Christ,

It is our prayer that you had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving Day. October was another busy month with contacts and with visitors from Europe and the U.S.A. One of the elders, the preacher and one of the members of the church in Champion, Texas near Houston, came and stopped in Paris for a 3 day visit, since they are going to be the overseeing congregation for the Freed family that is planning on coming to work with us. They stayed with Edie and Paul Tews. Lord willing in January 2009 if not February, the Freed family will be here. They wanted me to arrange to visit 3 of 4 apartments so they have an idea of the monthly rent and expenses that goes with it.

Since I had only a short warning, I really had to go fast to find out places to visit, and well I managed to set up 4 appointments, but at the end we only visited 2 out of 4 originally planned. We first visited a 105 square metre 3 bedrooms apartment in the immediate suburb of Paris and, the rent alone was 1950 Euros (\$2,315.00) per month, without the charges, and to the rent you have to add water electricity, Renter Taxes, insurance, natural gas. The other one we visited, was near us but was much smaller, only 67 meters and only two bedroom, was 1650 Euros (\$2,128.00) per month, so after we visited those two they didn't want to visit the other ones.

I had organized a meeting with the men of the congregation so they can see how we felt about the Freed's coming to work with us, and the meeting went well and everyone was happy that they will be soon coming.

The third Wednesday of October, just before the Bible class began, a Portuguese lady that used to work one street over from us, came in and wanted to know if she could participate to our Bible study? After the Bible class she stayed around for little

while and wanted to talk to us, and she shared with us that she had went back to her country with her husband , but both of them were not really happy about their move back because everything had changed so much and also the fact that all her children and grandchildren were here in France! She and her husband has health problems too so we prayed for her and her husband. The next day around 1 o'clock someone ring the bell of our door, and it was the same lady so we invited her upstairs Rose and I visited with her and, we invited her to come to worship but she could not come because she was staying with her daughter in the suburb of Paris.

She told us that she will visit the church next time she comes from Portugal, so I gave her several brochures about the Lord's Church and also the address of the church there in Portugal.

We also had the visit from a brother, and a lawyer from Ukraine, who was in Paris for his work. After the Wednesday Bible study we invited him to come up upstairs and visit with us. I took advantage that since he had his laptop computer with him to load him up with many Bible studies and presentations. Recently one of the cable TV companies opened a store in our neighbourhood so I walked in it, and one of the young sales men approached me, to try to get me to sign up for Cable TV, but I told him that I was not interested, but he went ahead and made his sale's speech. Just before I left the store, he asked "If I was not working in the religious world?" So I explained to him who I was, and what was the Church of Christ, and he replied that he was raised a Catholic but did not practice, but since his wife gave birth to a little girl, his wife wanted to have the baby sprinkled by the priest, but he was against it. I explained to him why infants should not be baptized and I told him that I would bring him information on the subject, so couple days later I gave him several tracts and even a Bible. He was so surprised but also pleased to receive a free Bible, so I told him to contact me if he had any questions. That reminded me of what Peter says to be ready to give an answer. 1Peter 3:15 "always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

I am continuing my weekly studies with Franck and Liva and also with Denise Durizot. On November 11th, 45 members from the congregation drove up to Lille for the annual retreat, and this year we were in charge of the program, and took with Rose and I, Denise, and Enyo . The day went well and the messages were good and altogether we were 95 present. It is always good to see brothers and sisters that we have not seen for a year.

November is also when we have the preacher's retreat and I had planned to go but couple days before I got sick with flu (gastro) so therefore I cancelled my trip and stayed home , but the few brethren that went told me that it went well.

Since the hurricanes hit the Island of Haiti and left many Christians homeless and without food, the church members decided to send money to help relieve the brethren there, so we collected altogether \$1,650.00 that we send to help them. In regards to the Bible Bowl that we were planning to have in India in 2009, because of all the events that is going on in India the Bible bowl is put off to 2010 or later on, and this trip will depend on the situation there. Many people have been killed, especially tourists.

With the world economic situation, everything is going up even the \$ against the Euro, but the best news is the fact that gasoline prices has been really going down by 40 cents a litre.

On the 23rd of November, Rose and I and several families from here were invited to go to Stephan and Jodi Dedeayan's home for an early Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone brought something, so Rose prepared Jell-O with fruit and nuts, and I made several pumpkin pies, and our day went well, and it was the first time for

Franck and Liva to celebrate Thanksgiving and they really appreciated being together.

Well my dear friends and family in Christ Jesus, no words can express our gratitude to you all that allows us to continue to serve Him in his Kingdom in France and the French world.

God bless,
Roland.

Rose's report with pictures of much of the above is on the Nursery glass

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Announcements

No Social-in December

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

New Year's Eve-Remember to come to the New Year's Eve get-together at the building

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



E-mail from

Cameroon

(Rec'd

December 23,

2008)

Mama Elizabeth

went shopping

today for the kids.

She received the

money last week.

She is more than

just being grateful.

Their pictures will

be sent in a few

days. Thanks.

Abasiama

E-mail from Nigeria (Rec'd December 24, 2008)

Tomorrow is Christmas day, I wish you and the Church a happy Christmas day.

May God continue to bless you all as you have helped us so much. Your prayers make me feel at home even in the midst of fear. Grace and Peace, Tom