

Those Who Serve

December 7
Opening Prayer Kwesi Garvin
Communion Colin Morrison
Assist Olan Bacon
Assist Charles Hall
Dismiss Services Olan Bacon

December 14
 Charles Hall
 Olan Bacon
 Joe Burnsed
 Evan Hall
 Kwesi Garvin

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



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Ellabell Church of Christ



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent December 7, 2008

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2008 – TOM EKPO (JR)

I salute you all in the precious name of our Lord. The love God of upon our lives in this month can not be measured with anything. Even at a time hope seems difficult, He continues to give us assurance. We are greatly indebted to God, and nothing we can do in return than to surrender our lives to Him. Let me on behalf of my family, express our profound gratitude to you all who have sacrificially loved us, and are committed to the work of spreading the word of God in Africa. We say thank you.

The month of November, being of one of the “ember month” was quite a busy one, especially as the year is wrapping up. Thank you for your prayers that continue to see us through our predicaments. The poor state of world economy has impacted some people in Africa differently. Some have been drawn to God knowing that there is nothing in the world to trust in. We had more audience with people as we shared the Gospel with them than before. This reminds me of God’s assurance in Romans 8:28 that all things work well for those who love Him. By His grace two people were added to His body at Foron Mission this month. We are intending to stage an open air preaching this December by the grace of God. I am trying to procure public address system which we will use. Keep praying for us. The Church at Toro is still struggling. But we are glad because people are stronger spiritually now. They have identified areas in their lives that need attention. And God had been so helpful correcting these wrong life styles.

Brethren, we will continue to thank God for every situation we find ourselves. Some 7 years ago, while US suffered had their 9/11, we were experiencing 7/11. During that time our lives were threatened in a way we could not explained. Several people were killed as Muslims marched into street, from house identifying Christians and killing them, then burning their houses. Well, we thought it will not happen again, we were mistaken. On Thursday 27th November this year, the Government of Plateau State organized their county election, what we call Local Government election. Movement beyond a mile was restricted, except to the polling unit. The whole exercise went on peacefully. On Friday, we were ready to resume our work, only to wake up to the news that the town was in chaos. It did not take up to an hour when the problem spilled over to our area. Initially, we thought it was political party problem, but it soon was turned to religious problem. The Muslims started killing people and burning their houses and their properties. Brethren, the whole atmosphere of Jos was tinted black, and violence covered every where. We ran away from our home, and took refuge in my office. But when it was doubtful as to what will happened in the night as the Muslim boys were still trying to invade the area, Sandra went away with the Children to Air force barrack, about 3 miles from where we stay. I could follow them because they won't allow men in, except women and Children. I don't know when we will come back together. The following day which was Saturday, we woke up normal in the refugee camp, but by 6am, we started hearing sound of gun fire and observed smoke close by of fresh burning of houses. Brethren, as I am writing now, we have become refugees in a place we call our country. My family left without anything to the barrack. The question one may ask is, "What is the Government doing?" Well, last night, the Governor promised to deal with anyone who continues to destroy peace. But you know what? They are only concern with the big men of the town. We can't trust in human security except that of Our Creator. The police and the army that are moving around are polarized, to the extent that they aid their interest groups to fulfill their evil will. We can't even see food to buy even if we have money because shops are shut. But God has promised that He will not forsake us. We cannot say with any certainty what the situation is at the moment, because the denominational Christians have vowed to react to this killing. We know there will always be a counter reaction. We can't say as to when the situation will be brought under proper control. Please, keep praying for us.

We are not unaware that life on earth is full of trouble. Jesus said, each day has its own trouble which is enough for the day. The more things like this happen, the more it is impressed in our heart that this world is not our own, we are just passing through. Let me appeal once more for you prayers so that we won't do what is wrong in a time like

this. We want to stand up for Jesus, and remaining standing until He is declared victorious in our lives. Once again, permit me to thank you all for your concern and love for us in Africa. May God keep blessing you all.

✉mail from Nigeria (Rec'd December 1, 2008)

Hello brother Holloway,

Thanks for your mail. I could not get access into the net until today, that people have started moving around. I appreciate your prayers so much. I am under tension even as I write this mail. My heart is heavy but there is nothing I can do. We are facing untold hardship because there is no food. The little food that is available is beyond our reach. We are in the hands of God anywhere. Keep praying for us please. May God bless you all.

Grace and Peace,

Tom

(Rec'd December 2, 2008)

Hi brother Holloway,

Thanks a million for all your comforting words. I came to the net with tears all over my eyes and a very heavy heart. But reading through your mail, it was as if light was shown through my heart that brought hope. My faith is really strengthened to know that brethren are praying for us. The greatest you have done and can continue to for us is to pray for us. Brethren across the country have called us to let us know that we are in their prayers. I am so consoled. Presently, it is difficult to know what to do. Sandra wants us to relocate to a different section of Jos town that is less volatile when there is problem. But that involves money. Where we leave now is just so close to the Muslims. So whenever they come up with their trouble, we are at risk. We know God has promised us that He won't leave us alone, and with your prayers, we will continue to rely on His ever unchanging hands. It became difficult to even make calls because there is no where to recharge our account to call. I don't know when again I will have access to the net. But anytime I have, I will continue to give you situation report. Tell the brethren that we are so grateful for all that they have done for us. God will keep blessing you all. I sent my report, I don't know whether you got it. Have a great day. -Tom

Announcements

No Social-in December

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

AGAPE - If you still have an envelope for the Thanksgiving Appeal for GA AGAPE, please give yours to Joe or Olan.

Social-this Wednesday evening after Bible Study. This will be the last social of the year.

Truck From Raintree Village-arriving tomorrow