

# Those Who Serve:

February 3      February 10  
Charles Hall      Evan Hall

Opening Prayer

Communion      Joe Burnsed      Charles Hall  
Assist      Olan Bacon      Kwesi Garvin  
Assist      Evan Hall      Joe Burnsed

Dismiss Services      Olan Bacon      Joe Burnsed



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

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# Ellabell Church of Christ



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

February 3, 2008

### REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2008

January has come and gone, but the grace of God remains with us. Greetings to you all in Jesus name. I am confident that our good Lord is guiding and protecting you daily as He continues to pour His love into our hearts. We thank God so much for the wonderful atmosphere He provides for us in Nigeria to continue doing what He allows us to do. Even though things have been rough in the past one year, everybody is bearing it with patience. Some countries in Africa are facing trouble time because of lack of patience. We keep praying for them. For the past one month in Jos, there have not been water supply as workers went on strike for better pay. People are leapt to scramble for water as wells have dried up. There have not been enough supply of gas in the country, and power supply is poor. Yet, we all come under it with patience. We thank God that there have not been riot nor unrest which could have caused more threat and worsen the already bad situation we are having. We believe when we get to Heaven, things will be better and best. We do not expect anything better thing than this from our human government. The weather in Jos has been so cool for the past two weeks. We are grateful to God that the weather is improving today.

At the School, I am teaching three courses this semester (Greek Exegesis, Old Testament Wisdom Literatures, and Critical Introduction to the New Testament). They are all interesting courses.

We ask for you prayers for our students. Some of them have to sponsor themselves to be in the school. That means much dependence on us the instructors. But we thank God for He gives us ability to do what He permits.

My classes with some young congregations within and outside Jos continue. I am still teaching at Mazah, hoping to complete the book of James in the next few weeks. I will be preaching this coming Sunday be grace of God. The young congregation at Foron Mission is increasing in number and growing gradually. Last week, about 19 people were in worship. Two of the members have moved to another State because of their jobs. Come 13<sup>th</sup>-16 of March, we are having daily door knocking at Bokkos. Please, keep us in prayer that this may be successful. We had this same exercise last year, but there was no baptism. However, I know that the gospel message was preached. The seed was sown, in due time God will bring the growth. The Church at Bokkos is made up of four members. One of them is a policeman, another is civil servant. Only one of them is an indigene of the place. We want to extend the Gospel message to more of the indigene of the place so that when the workers move, the Church will continue. We know the Lord will see us through as you keep praying for us. Let me mention here that without God using you to help us, we may not have much of what we are doing now. May He continue to bless you all in every good work.

Grace and Peace

Tom Ekpot (Jr)

### **Cancelling Church Services**

by Steve Higgimbotham

Dan Williams tells the story of two preachers who were visiting over a cup of coffee. The first preacher said to the second, "I cancelled our Sunday night services about five months ago." "You did?" the second preacher replied, "What do your church members think?" The first preacher said, "I suspect they'll be pretty upset if they ever find out about it."

The meeting times for worship, study, and edification are not meant to be arbitrary requirements that test the spiritual discipline and commitment level of Christians. Rather, these opportunities are intended to be functional; to encourage, inform, and strengthen those who are trying to walk worthily in an ungodly world. Why is it that some people will say with exasperation, "Oh no, we have church services tonight, and I've had such a bad week," instead

of saying, Thank goodness, we have church services tonight because I've had a bad week?"

The difference in the two is the difference between "form" and "function." If one views church services simply as a "form" that must be checked off our "to-do list," he will see that assembly differently than the one who acknowledges the "function" and purpose of the assembly.

Maybe church members need to re-evaluate the way they view these assemblies; and see them not as an arbitrary requirement, but as an opportunity. And maybe church leaders need to re-evaluate function of these assemblies to insure that the assemblies fulfill their intended purpose.

From the Bulletin of

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Booker, Texas**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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** – Not this Wednesday evening but next Wednesday evening, the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Labels**-Remember the labels we are saving

**Food Pantry**-Remember the Pantry as you shop

**Change Jar**-proceeds go to the Mothers' Day Appeal for Raintree Village

E-mail From Nigeria

Thanks so much my brother. I appreciate your update on my account. May God bless you and the Church for helping us so much. The sacrifices you are making are amazing. This would not have been except that God is using you and the Church to bless us in such a great way. Thanks so much and have a great weekend.

Grace and Peace,

Tom

