

# Those Who Serve

## January 4

**Opening Prayer** Colin Morrison  
**Communion** Charles Hall  
**Assist** Evan Hall  
**Assist** Joe Burnsed  
**Dismiss Services** Joe Holloway

## January 11

Olan Bacon  
Joe Holloway  
Colin Morrison  
Kwesi Garvin  
Charles Hall

<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

January 4, 2009

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2008 (TOM  
EKPOT JR).

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Savior Jesus Christ. My family and I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. The year 2008 was surely a blessed one to us in Jos. It was a year that God prospered us in every good way. Our congregations grew stronger and more determined to do what is right, we had more converts this year than last year in some of our local congregation like Foron Mission. I taught over 76 Bible classes in four different congregations. Brethren, it was a year I was strengthened than ever. The recent event in Jos, where many people were killed, many people lost their homes, and our lives were seriously threatened made many people to pray for us. I have received strength from God than ever. I have made some decisions which I feel I should have made them long ago. Some of our prospects who had refused to become Christians gave their lives to God. I don't know how others will evaluate the year, but I think it was a good one. I am not unaware of the economic hardships, but such things reminded us that this world is not permanent. Therefore, we should think of a home over there.

December started at the eve of Jos Crises. The crises had really paralyzed many things. It had caused us to lose contact with some of our prospects. It made Muslim evangelism more difficult because, with every thing still fresh, it difficult to enter into the midst of the Muslims and conduct a study. Such contact can even cause more problems. At the mean time, we are praying to God to heal all the wounds, and help everyone to put what happened behind. For sure life was picking up gradually in Jos town after the crises, but with the ongoing bombarding of Hamas, Muslims in the Northern Nigeria take offense with the Christians as if the Christians sent Israel to kill the Palestinians. Well, we know God has a purpose for everything. We pray He should allow us realize the purpose for all of these. Our proposed Open Air Preaching at Foron did not take place again because of the problem in Jos. Even though it did not affect that area, yet it was necessary to be cautious as the government put a law against any unauthorized gathering. We are hoping we will be able to do that this January. Keep us in prayers. The Bible School in Jos closed for the first semester before time, because of the religious crises. We are re-opening on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Students are resuming to complete their exam which they were about to start before the crises. But I am seriously afraid if many of the students will return. They left in fear, and to return will be difficult. Please, help us pray so that God will encourage these students to return to School. Some of them had packed all their possessions while leaving. It is difficult for us to convince their parents and congregation to let them return, because the story of what happened spread so wide. No will parent will wants to let his child go to danger zone. Our hope and assurance is Christ, who has promised that He will never leave us alone. Let me use this time to appreciate all of you who have sacrificially prayed for us and our ministry. Please, don't relent, keep praying for us. May God usher us into the new year peacefully, and continue to help us determine to leave for Him. Have a super New Year.

Grace and Peace,

**Tom**

Suggested New Year's Resolutions For 2009

By Mike Riley

The following are some suggested biblical New Year's resolutions that we as Christians might consider in 2006:

1) Sincerely and humbly praise the Lord (Psalm 42:5; Psalm 43:5; Psalm 71:14; Psalm 89:1).

- 2) Look forward to attending every worship service (Psalm 26:8; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 10:25).
  - 3) Love our brothers and sisters in Christ with an un-feigned love (Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22).
  - 4) Be more diligent in Bible study and be ready to give an answer to every man that asks for the reason of the hope within us (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15).
  - 5) Gladly bring our offerings to the Lord without grudging or stinginess (Deuteronomy 15:7-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7).
  - 6) Use kind words when dealing with our fellow man (Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 31:26; cf. Genesis 50:14-21; 2 Chronicles 10:6-7).
  - 7) Pray more often (Mark 14:38; Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
  - 8) Send some cards or perhaps prepare a dish to carry to the sick and lonely (Matthew 25:35-36).
  - 9) Buffet (discipline - ESV) our bodies (1 Corinthians 9:27).
  - 10) Bring captive **every thought** to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
  - 11) Confess our faults one to another and help one another conquer them through Christ (James 5:16; Gal. 6:1-2; Philippians 4:13).
  - 12) Develop whatever talents God has given us for His glory (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Corinthians 10:31).
  - 13) Ask the elders for a job and do it to the best of our ability, becoming a laborer together with them and God (Matthew 20:1-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
- If we as Christians will put these suggested (and challenging) resolutions into practice in 2006, not only will we as members become more useful in the Lord's church but we will experience spiritual growth as well (2 Timothy 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
- (The original title for this article was the same except for 2006. What was good for 2006 is still good for 2009 or 2010 or 2011. As with all New Year's resolutions, we will be greater for having made them and tried to stay with them than if we never tried. Make them and remake them if you falter. -Joe)

## Announcements

**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  
**Social**-Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>-The first of the year

**Welcome to the first Sunday of 2009.**  
**You started the year off right, Now do it**  
**51 more times!**