

Those Who Serve

May 10

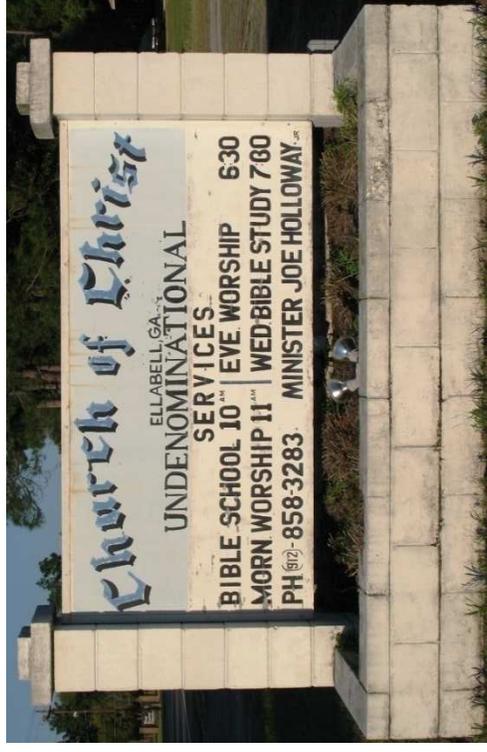
- Opening Prayer** Charles Hall
- Song Leader** Joe Burnsed
- Communion** Joe Holloway
- Assist** John Story
- Assist** Joe Burnsed
- Dismiss Services** John Story



May 17

- Joe Holloway
- Kwesi Garvin
- John Story
- Olan Bacon
- Charles Hall
- Olan Bacon

Ellabell Church of Christ



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where

The Bible Is Silent

May 10, 2009

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

Ellabell Church of Christ
 PO Box 72
 Ellabell, GA 31308

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL (Tom Ekpot Jr.)

Dear brethren in Christ, greetings to you all from Nigeria. I trust in the power of God save and His grace as we deal with daily struggles of life, some which are common to human existence, and others on account of Christ kingdom. God has never abandoned us, nor will He forsake us even a minute. Thank you all for your prayers.

The Month of April was a good month with us here, because of several blessings of God. We started having rain during this month. The heat that was so burning subsided, and illness associated with the weather also calmed down. I had several opportunities to preach the gospel of Christ to many people. One of the greatest moments was during the evangelism



program that more than ten congregations came together to join hand with us to evangelize Old Foron. Brethren I was so glad for many reasons. Most importantly, the unity that is existing among the brethren, and the vision they all had to join hand with us at Foron to preach the gospel for three days. Many people were reached with the gospel of Christ. We believe in a short time, we will reap result. Churches in this region are gaining spiritual strength daily. Another opportunity that gladdened my heart was the immersion of a young Muslim boy, who was wondering in search of the

truth. Someone found him and brought him to me to study the Bible with him. At the end, he surrendered for Jesus. I know it will take him some time to grow in faith. During the month of April, I taught three Bible classes a week in two different congregations. One interesting thing about a Bible teacher is the opportunity he has to search himself daily as he speaks to people about God. I am so glad for this opportunity.

I am glad to mention to you all that the new congregation we establish some few years ago at Foron Mission is about to have their first preacher this May. If we can recall, I mentioned to you my plans to get people from the area where we have small congregations to come to the Bible School in Jos and study, in order that they may return home after two years to preach. We are about to graduate one man who accepted this invitation. Goddy Sadoh will be graduating on May 23rd to return to Foron and help the Church there. Please, join me in thanking God for seeing this man through the two years of his study. He will be a great boost for the Church there.

Come May 9, I will be leaving to a city called Makurdi in the middle part of Nigeria for a 9 day evangelism campaign for Christ. I am going with another staff of the School of Biblical Studies and 7 students in addition. Please, pray with us that we have listening ears among the people we will speak to for 9 days. May God keep blessing you all in your good work.

He Could See Me Play

This teenager lived alone with his father, and the two of them had a very special relationship. At football matches even though the son was always on the bench, and his father never missed a game, he was always in the stands cheering. This young man was still the smallest of the class when he entered high school. His father continued to encourage him but also made it very clear that he did not have to play football if he didn't want to. But the young man loved football and decided to hang in there. He was determined to try his best at every practice, and perhaps he'd get to play when he became a senior. All through high school he never missed a practice nor a game, but remained a bench warmer all four years. His faithful father was always in the stands, always with words of encouragement for him.

When the young man went to college, he decided to try out for the football team as a "walk-on." Everyone was sure he could never make the cut, but he did. The coach admitted that he kept him on the roster because he always puts his heart and soul into every practice, and at the same time, provided the other members with the spirit and hustle they badly needed.

The news that he had survived the cut thrilled him so much that he rushed to the nearest phone and called his father. His father shared his excitement and was sent season tickets for all the college games. This persistent young athlete never missed practice during his four years at college, but he never got to play in the game. It was the end of his senior football season, and as he trotted onto the practice field shortly before the big play off game, the coach met him with a telegram. The young man read the telegram and he became deathly silent.

Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Is it all right if I miss practice today?" The coach put his arm gently around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son. And don't even plan to come back to the game on Saturday."

Saturday arrived, and the game was not going well. In the third quarter, when the team was ten points behind, a silent young man quietly slipped into the empty locker room and put on his football gear. As he ran onto the sidelines, the coach and his players were astounded to see their faithful teammate back so soon. "Coach, please let me play. I've just got to play today," said the young man. The coach pretended not to hear him. There was no way he wanted his worst player in this close playoff game. But the young man persisted, and finally feeling sorry for the kid the coach gave in. "All right," he said. "You can go in."

Before long, the coach, the players and everyone in the stands could not believe their eyes. This little unknown, who had never played before was doing everything right. The opposing team could not stop him.

He ran, he passed, blocked and tackled like a star. His team began to triumph. The score was soon tied. In the closing seconds of the game, this kid intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. The fans broke loose. His teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders. Such cheering you've never heard!

Finally, after the stands had emptied and the team had showered and left the locker room, the coach noticed that the young man was sitting quietly in the corner all alone. The coach came to him and said, "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?"

He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you know my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?" The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!"

Author unknown

Announcements

Social -this Wednesday, the 13th right after Bible Study

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

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

Church Directory-The church directory is now online. You can access it from our website. See Joe for the password.

Raintree Village-The truck from Raintree will be here June 1 or 2.

The list of needs is on the back pew. Get a copy.

Mothers' Day Collection for Raintree Village-is today

Email from Nigeria (rec'd May 8, 2009)

Hello brother Holloway,

Hope you are doing fine. I am set for my journey to Benue State tomorrow God's willing. I will be away for 9 days knocking doors along with my students. Please, do keep us and our families we are leaving behind in prayers. Have a great day.

Grace and Peace,

Tom