

# Those Who Serve

**November 23**  
Opening Prayer Olan Bacon  
Communion Kwesi Garvin  
Assist Charles Hall  
Assist Evan Hall  
Dismiss Services Joe Holloway

**November 30**  
Joe Burned  
Charles Hall  
Evan Hall  
Joe Holloway  
Colin Morrison

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



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**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**  
**November 23, 2008**

## **You Pays Your Money: A Thanksgiving Meditation**

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"Let's go over the list once more," I mutter to myself at the check-out stand. "Oatmeal, frying chickens, and a half gallon of rocky road. Yuban® coffee and a couple loaves of Roman Meal® bread. A gallon of milk about rounds it out." The register whirrs. I plunk down my money.

"Thanks," I say to the checker.

"Don't thank me," the grocery checker chuckles. "You pays your money, you takes your choice."

No thanks needed? Your forefathers' hands caressed hard seed grains as they sowed freshly-turned furrows. They knew whom to thank.

"A man scatters seed on the ground," Jesus observed. "Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel



in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29)

No wonder Pilgrims gave thanks.

But the average person lives too far from the soil to awe at amber waves of grain. I had glanced at my watch and tapped

my foot while the checker worked slowly through the loaded grocery cart ahead of me. So what's to be thankful for? Shorter lines?

Yes, for starters. Women stand in lines for hours in Moscow to buy fresh fruit. The selection on our supermarket shelves would boggle the mind of a Mexican villager.

We thank God for a job to pay for our food--thousands are out of work. We thank God for a warm home and a table to eat at--the homeless live out of their cars at the park.

"But I work hard for what I have," you object. Yes, so does the Chinese peasant bending over in a cold rice paddy.

You pays your money, but you can't buy health. You pays your money, but you can't buy a son or a daughter. You pays your money, but you can't buy rain to water crops in Peoria and Des Moines.

Thank you God, for the gifts you've given which I have no inherent right to. Make me genuinely grateful. Amen.

Email from Cameroon (rec'd November 19, 2008)

Dear Brethren,

I write to give thanks in response to the "Happy Birthday" greeting card you sent for me. I thank you all for the lovely thoughts conveyed in the card. I received it yesterday, November 18, 2008. Thanks for your prayers. Your tender thoughts will forever be treasured in my heart. God bless all, dear Ellabell church family.  
Lami and Abasiana John

Email from Nigeria (Tom's father, Tom Sr - Rec'd November 20, 2008)

Dear Sister Wilma,

Peace and Gods grace to you.

May He continue to bless all of you in Christ Jesus.

I am sorry I had not been able to write to you for some time now due to my wife's health. Bassey is sick, for more than a month now she has not been of much help to me as before since she is not well. I feel sad and bad about her being sick. She cannot walk because she has severe pains inside her knees, and the both knees are swollen. Her left eye is also bad, she can only see well with her right eye.

Doctor told us that she will need operating her left

Eye. Concerning her knees we are visiting the hospital once weekly. Some drugs are being giving to her for both knees and eyes. Since there is not much money with me, I can't do anything more than that yet.

I want to thank you for those dressings you sent tome, those pants are all about my size. I like them very well. Thank you. I am also thankful to the sister who with her husband sent that \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) to me. The money has been very helpful to me in paying for Bassey treatment. May God bless all of you.

Pray for Bassey's health pray for the Lord's work in Nigeria . Thank you,

Yours in His service

Tom Ekpot Snr.

(The Windsong Church of Christ in Little Rock, AR supports Brother Tom Sr.

This email was forwarded to us as a courtesy by their fine church secretary,

Sister Wilma Stevens. Please remember Sister Bassey in your prayers. She is

Tom Jr.'s Mom)

## Announcements

**No Social**-today - Ignore that entry in the calendar. If you brought food anyway, let Joe know. He will take care of it for you

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

**AGAPE** - Today is the Thanksgiving Appeal for Georgia AGAPE. Today we join with churches all over Georgia to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children. Taking care of needy and "homeless" children is a great calling of the Church.

Today we make another statement about the tremendous compassion and generosity of Christians. If you are not prepared to participate today, we hope you will still participate by sending your contribution directly to AGAPE or you can give it to Joe or Olan. Let's all do what we can to help this important ministry!

**Thank You**- from Rose and Roland for the box of Ellabell food that you just can't get in a backwater place like Paris on the bulletin board.

