

Those Who Serve

Opening Prayer **October 12** **October 19**
Olan Bacon Olan Bacon Joe Burnsed

Communion Assist Joe Burnsed Kwesi Garvin
Kwesi Garvin Charles Hall
Evan Hall Colin Morrison

Dismiss Services Joe Holloway Olan Bacon



Ellabell Church of Christ



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent October 12, 2008

SEPTEMBER(2008) REPORT FROM CAMEROON INTRODUCTION

"To God be the glory; Great things He has done", the beautiful words of Fanny Crosby is apt for the opening remarks of my September account of our mission work in the partly Central and partly West African country of Cameroon. The exceptional harvest recorded through our work of the Lord in Limbe has brought rejoicing to our hearts. Although the month began with a terrible disaster in the life of one of our new

ultimately the Lord has events of September to the church as a whole. relation to my preaching the month under living. I hope you enjoy reading this report as I now tell the story of the evangelistically glorious month of September.

EVANGELISM

With our unchanging goal of leading the lost to Christ and keeping the saved steadily growing in the faith, our preaching of the Word last month continued to enjoy top priority. Without the wonderful cooperation of the soul-winning brethren of Mile One, we perhaps could not have



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succeeded in leading anybody to Christ. Thankfully, the good report is that the program manager of the EDEN RADIO FM station where we proclaim the gospel on air is now a member of the Church of Christ.

Brother Rene Narcisse, a bilingual radio broadcaster, had been listening to our preaching of the gospel in the studio where he works as a journalist. Little did we know that he was keenly scrutinizing all the editions of our presentations. Since he lives within the premises of the radio station, he called us one day and indicated that he wanted to study personally with us. With eagerness, I entered his living room and further explained God's redemption scheme to the gospel-thirsty francophone Cameroonian. Immediately, the learned sports journalist humbled himself as he decided to have his sins blotted out by Jesus' blood through baptism. He attended the Midweek Bible study two days ago. You can see what God is doing through our mass media proclamation of the gospel. So far we have had two souls: Joseph Bate and Rene Narcisse, called out of the world into Christ through radio broadcast of the truth. Rene's conversion is one of the major good news of our September labors in Limbe.

Through him we hope to approach other people at the station and beyond.

Still on evangelism, 2 people were added to the kingdom last week in Buea where attended the Fako/Littoral monthly gospel meeting. Four members of the mile One church (myself

inclusive) participated in the lectureship which featured outdoor evangelism. Back in Limbe, our normal house-to-house spreading of the message is given much emphasis as more and more people need to be saved.

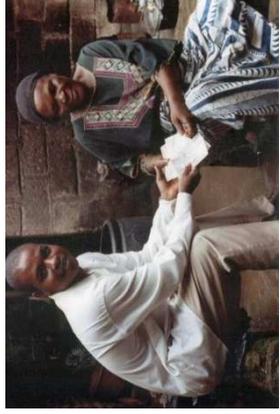
WOMEN'S LECTURESHP AT MILE 1

Last month the sisters of Mile 1 church hosted their counterparts from across the south western region of the country. The program brought many sisters from various congregations to Mile One where they had a series of reviving biblical



lectures on subjects peculiar to women of faith. It was a great program dedicated to prayer and feeding on God's word. Our sisters' spiritual zeal for the Lord has been rekindled through the women lectureship organized by the church. That is another good news.

THE WIDOW AND ORPHANS



Sister Elizabeth is doing well with the orphans. As you can see her in the picture cuddling two of the children, she is ever thankful to all the brethren whose love gifts have been her support all along. With pains in her legs due to age, she struggles day and night to take care of the eight orphaned but promising children whom the Lord has entrusted to her stewardship. She wishes to tell you how grateful she is for your kind support which has really ameliorated her plight as she shoulders the arduous responsibility of being a father and mother to all of the eight kids. Without your financial support, she believes, her job would have been most difficult. You can see her receiving the money from my hand in the picture. Some of the orphans have performed excellently well in their schools, and that too I believe, is good news.

MY FAMILY AND MY HEALTH

In the month under assessment, my family was hit by a number of maladies. Our little Nsikanima attacked by cough and cold which lasted more than two weeks. The almost 5 months old baby struggled to cough even when her ribs are not strong enough to withstand the pressure. Thank God the Pediatrician tried his best and now the gluttonous girl has



regained her strength and appetite as the cough is gone. I equally fell sick of a fungal infection and the dreaded typhoid fever which rendered me weak and pale. I was admitted in a clinic and the treatment was a big one. Three sachets of drips, seven shots of injections and about 40 tablets of different medicines were blessed by the Lord to

now make me healthy again. Only Lami has been steadily healthy. We all are now okay in health . It's another good news from us.



BESSEM'S ACCIDENT
Early in the month, one of our young converts, sister Bessem was involved in an automobile crash as she was returning from Douala to Limbe. The vehicle she boarded horribly ran into an oncoming truck and had a head-on collision. The man who sat just beside Bessem died on the spot and the driver died about a week later. Bessem and others sustained severe injuries. Our sister who is barely 5 months old in the faith, had major fractures in the arms and right leg. Her face was equally bruised very badly as shown in the picture while in hospital. She has been transferred from Limbe to Douala to engage the services of bones specialists who are not available in Limbe hospital. The news we are hearing from Douala is good and comforting as she is said to be recovering better and faster than previously thought by medical personnel. Your prayers have kept this great sister from the jaws of death. Please do continue to remember when you pray.

ROLAND'S VISIT, A BIG BLESSING



The timely visit of Brother Roland Mohsen from France is another thing to celebrate. I was very happy to meet him. Although it was not possible to gather the whole church to meet him, a few brethren from Limbe got in contact with him. He was able to chat with me and brother Peter of Mile One, and also he met brother Sakwe face to face. How I wish the numerous photos we took were available to be attached herewith. Hopefully brother Roland will send later when he has the chance. For now he is very itinerant in Cameroun. He spent a night in Limbe with his travel companions. It was pleasure to discuss with him the issues of the Limbe work. I took him to the house of the widow, sister Elizabeth who was visibly glad to welcome him to her house. The pictures of the encounter will really clarify the various phases of Roland's visit to Limbe. He himself will tell you more of what he saw and heard. As for me, it was as good as it was memorable to have him in my apartment and to share bottle of coca-cola with him. Wishing the French missionary a safe trip to France when he will be flown out of Cameroun.

THE CONGREGATION OF MILE ONE

The Mile One assembly is a growing company of believers. Internally we enjoy peace as a group. There appears to be no cause for alarm as we go about our normal duties as a church. However we are not complacent spiritually because evil forces and their machinations are always at work to overthrow us. There is nothing I can pinpoint and say 'this is the internal problem of the congregation' except a place of worship. Externally we exist in a criminally endangered society. About a week ago mercenary armed bandits broke through the porous Cameroonian borders and landed on the shores of Limbe where they descended on four banks carting away 200 million francs cfa. "Except the Lord watches a city..."

DEDICATION



With the deepest appreciation for your untiring efforts at the work in Cameroun, I warmly and heartily dedicate the progress made in September to you, brother Harry Olan Bacon. In sickness and in health, you have been faithful in helping us in many ways, especially in prompt transfer of the funds to us. We love and appreciate you, sir.

APPRECIATION TO OUR DONORS

To all our faithful friends, partners and donors, we say many thanks for your efforts even at this time when the U.S economy is experiencing a crisis. We know it is not also easy with you but the love of Christ constrains you to support us financially in this mission. Thank you so very much, and God bless your endeavors. In His precious name. Amen. Abasiama John Archibong

Announcements

Social-in two weeks, the 25th

Labels-Remember the labels we are saving

Food Pantry-Remember the Pantry as you shop

Change Jar-proceeds go to the Thanksgiving Appeal for Georgia AGAPE

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.

✉_mail from Nigeria (Rec'd October 9, 2008)

My dear brother Holloway
Thanks you so much. I am so appreciative of your kindness. I am thankful to the Church for her kindness. May God continue to bless you all. I thank God that the rattle snake did not hurt anyone. It is a dangerous snake. But you know what? some people in Jos eat it very well. They sometimes hunt for it. I thank God for them because they help in reducing their number.

Grace and Peace,

Tom

(Tom had some extra expenses last month due to illness. When I told him of our decision to send an extra \$200, I also told him of Olan and I and our unsuccessful hunt for a rattlesnake in my backyard –JH)

No Brother Left Behind

By J. Randal Matheny (October 6, 2008) by J. Randal Matheny, editor
"No child left behind" is a government program designed to improve the American educational system. It appears to be the old idea of throwing money at a problem. (Churches do the same thing in missions.) While the sentiment of not letting any child fall behind in school is laudable, the execution may well lack in its effectiveness.

Spiritually, no brother or sister should be left behind. No fellow saint should be forgotten or neglected.

This desire to keep up with all the disciples has made finding a meeting place for the church in São José dos Campos problematic. People are scattered across our chopped-up city, and some live in nearby towns. Many depend on buses, and finding a place near where the routes come together is difficult.
But it's worth the effort.

Jesus Cared for All

Jesus talked about caring for the little people, the least in the kingdom (Matthew 25:40, 45). He personally cared for those left behind: the children, women, sinners (put the word in quotation marks, since we all are), publicans, the sick and diseased, the demon possessed, the foreigners.

Jesus used a child as an object lesson. "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great" (Luke 9:48 ESV).

"Receiving" in this verse means welcoming, seeing to needs, accepting, caring for, valuing as worthy of service.

Giving a little one a cup of water for Jesus' sake brings great reward (Matthew 10:42). On the other hand, tripping up one of them brings the Lord's heavy condemnation upon one's head (Matthew 18:6). These seemingly unimportant guys have angels who "always see the face of [Jesus] Father who is in heaven" (v. 8). They are well connected. So you don't want to forget or harm one of his

little ones, because "it is not the will of [the] Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (v. 14).

Now these are just some of Jesus' teaching about "No Brother Left Behind."

Apostle Paul Embraced All

And we've not even gotten to the epistles yet. Space fails me to tell of Paul's concern for the weak in faith (Romans 14). This apostle goes to extreme lengths not to burden anyone (2 Corinthians 8:13; 11:9; 12:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8) and insists that others not be put upon (1 Timothy 5:6), but the follower of Jesus must be willing to bear another's burden, especially when dealing with another's transgression (Galatians 6.1-2). No brother left behind. No matter the little person's problem or station or progress or story. Don't leave any one behind.

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Hebrews, Jude, Revelation, Too!

The Hebrews writer quotes the Old Testament to note the change in spiritual regime. In the new covenant, the little folk matter. "And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest" (Hebrews 8:11). In the Kingdom, there is room for all. Access to the divine throne for the masses. Doors thrown open. No saint left behind.

Good old Jude, who rants at the false teachers, is tender toward the weak and wavering. "And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh" (Jude 22-23). For the brother of the Lord, those who doubt, don't boot out. Even those who seem to be goners, whom we might want to wash our hands of, still deserve heroic measures to save. Mercy in last-ditch rescue attempts trumps smugness and arm-crossing every time.

John reveals Jesus' words to the Philadelphian church. "I know you have but little power" (Revelation 3:8). More little guys. More wallflowers that nobody notices. But the Lord says he'll make the false Jews come and bow down before them (v. 9). The humble will be exalted. The Lord will do this. He isn't going to forget the least in the kingdom. When he tells them, "I know your works" (v. 8a), it's an assurance to them.

Why does this matter? That weak one, that doubting Thomas, that wavering soul, that wilting heart, is "the brother for whom Christ died" (1 Corinthians 8:11). To wound the conscience of the weak is to "sin against Christ" (v. 12). To let the little guy drop off the map is to insult the Lord's sacrifice for all.

No brother left behind. May both our sentiment and our execution be worthy of the Lord.