

# Those Who Serve

	March 4	March 11
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Charles Hall	Joe Holloway
<b>Song Leader</b>	Joe Burnsed	Kwesi Garvin
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Holloway	John Story
<b>Assist</b>	Olan Bacon	Joe Burnsed
<b>Assist</b>	Mike Powell	Olan Bacon
<b>Dismiss Services</b>	Olan Bacon	Paul Kuntz



## Prayer List

**Carol Hall** -- upcoming PET

Scan Results

**Bob Emsweller** – at home and



feeling better

**Darlene Monreal** – Mike Powell's daughter.

health problems

**Gregory Dozier** – family problems

**Lorianne Broussard** – Sister in law of Nick & Lisa Barratta; son Jacob Olivier has been missing for several months. In Florida

**Linda McDonald** – friend of the Holloways, at home battling cancer

**Randy Edenfield** – son of Steve and Tammy Hurst, personal problems

**Patricia Kramer**-Sue Holloway's sister, upcoming PET Scan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Calendar for March**- on back pew

**Social** –one week from Wednesday , the 14th

**Save** –Labels, Food Pantry Items, Change Jar, Cans, Medicine Bottles, & OTC Medicines, sheets, pillow cases, peanut butter, Band-Aids, toilet paper

**Bookmark our Facebook page.** And add [EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com](mailto:EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com) to your contact list. Brother Paul asks that you simply email him anything you want to appear on the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.

**Call List** –There are forms on the back pew if you want to be added to our call list. If you want a call made, call me or text me and I will make the call and schedule it. 912-667-0519

**Prayer List** –There is a form on the back pew to add names to the prayer list.

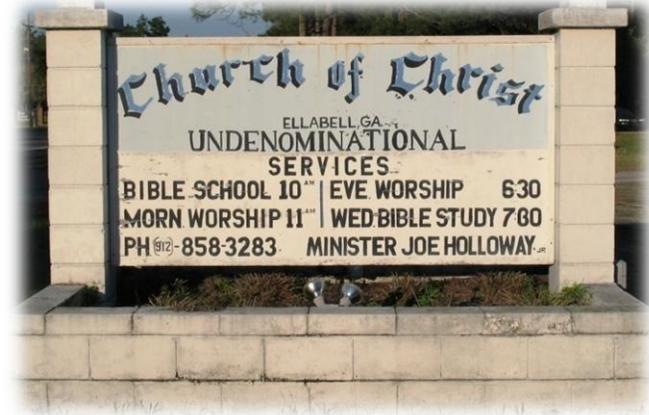
**Worship Services Online** – Go to our website and there is a link at the bottom. Join us from anywhere in the world online.

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

If you enjoyed reading our bulletin, please pass or forward it to others interested in the Cause of Christ

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

# ELLABELL CHURCH OF CHRIST



## SPEAKING WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS; SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT

March 4, 2012

### REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY (TOM EK POT JR)

To all those who love God and eagerly await His appearing, I salute you. My family and I will ever be indebted to God because of your continuous work of devotion and kindness. The month of February has come and gone, but the events of the month and their attendant effect do remain. We will continue to thank God almighty for His continuous protection over His people even in the midst confusion and danger.

I thank God because I was able to go down the south to see my parent and condole with my brother and his family as he lost his mother-in-law. I was opportune to see some of the congregations my father established those days when I was young. Believe you me, they have grown to become big congregations. I was amazed at the speed of their growth. I remembered that Jesus compared the word to mustard seed. I learn another lesson there that, no matter the circumstances, we should preach the word, and God will bring the increase at His right time. I can still remember those days my father will wake up by 4:30am to ride his motor cycle to one of the

congregations for morning devotion. On weekends, we will go for weekend evangelism.

At the beginning of the month, our weekly evangelism program that had been suspended since the beginning of the year in Jos city started again. We were mapping out strategies on how to go about the work, and it was working well. We did what we knew was right, but the God has the final answer. The devil struck again on Sunday 26 morning. One big denomination headquarter (Church of Christ in Nigeria) was bombed. Three people died at the spot. This spark fresh trouble in Jos, but we thank God the situation was brought under control. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the Muslim youth started their havoc again by killing two people in the morning. Right now we cannot say what will happen. We are praying to God have His will done. We can only move around the Christian dominated areas. Our evangelism is experiencing another setback.

At Mazah congregation, we are doing well with our Bible study and we were progressing with our evangelism program, but is affected now with the recent happening in Jos. Keep praying for us. At the School, we are in the middle of the road. We cannot say what will become of our lectureship program this year with all these that are happening. We are afraid people will not want to come to Jos because of fear of death. At Toro, the Church is doing just OK, but we are looking for someone who will reside there. Hopefully, we will have a preacher there soon. Brethren, we are not contending with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers. I strongly believe that God will take the glory in this fight. Keep praying for us, because not many people know God.

### **THINKING ABOUT GOD AND HIS WILL**

Human beings are creatures of rational thought and ideas. We are able to plan, and follow those plans, because of our ability to think concretely. Almost fifty years ago, university professor Dallas Willard said that “we live at the mercy of our ideas.” [*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*, 1963] A few examples showing the practical application of this statement might be helpful to us in understanding his meaning.

1. Paul warned the Corinthians, “*Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’*” (1Cor.15:33) The context of this warning was their danger of being influenced by the erroneous thinking of some who denied the

resurrection of the dead. His counsel was for them to “[c]ome back to [their] senses as [they] ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God...” (v.34) Ignorance of God (i.e., wrong ideas and a lack of understanding about God) can lead us to sin against God, both in our thinking and in our actions. It is *never* good to take God’s revelation about himself and his will lightly.

2. When we are influenced by the thinking of the world, it is demonstrated in our actions toward God, others and ourselves. In one of his confrontation with the Jews, Jesus rebuked them for their hypocrisy in criticizing his disciples for not washing their hands before eating. Explaining his comments to his disciples later,

Jesus told them that “...*out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*” (Mt.15:19)

3. A person who disbelieves the existence of God will be inclined to deny spirituality and morali-ty. (Seeming exceptions to this may not be exceptions at all, but rather individuals who simply have sincere questions about the existence of God, but see the value of living by moral standards.) Those who don’t believe in the God who created the universe will be prone to devalue human life and a high moral standard. Murder, abortion, euthanasia and other attacks against humanity reveal a mindset that is in conflict with the standards of a loving, caring Creator.

4. Greed is a form of idolatry (Col. 3:5), the worship of the physical things of this world, both good and bad. Jesus told a story about a man who was “*not rich toward God.*” (Lk.12) This was the attitude of his mind or thinking. His idea about wealth was that it was more important than God, and everything he did was colored by it. Paul told his disciple Timothy to tell “*those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*” (1Tim. 6:17) Our “*hope in God*” is our thinking about God...our confidence in him and his trustworthi-ness. (Note Heb. 11:6)

5. Paul cautioned the Romans, “*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*” (Rom.12:3) In our relationships with others, our thinking...about ourselves, about them, and about God...will determine the nature and spiritual value of those relationships.

Let us seek to constantly monitor our thinking, to keep it in line with the thinking of God, expressed in Holy Scripture.

Larry Sheehy  
Statesboro, Georgia