

Proud to Serve in Worship

Opening Prayer	May 16, 2021 Charles Hall	May 23, 2021 Joe Holloway
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Barry Blackburn	Joe Burnsed
Assist	Wade White	Kenneth Jenks
Dismiss Services	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall

Announcements

Calendar for May – on the table in the foyer

Super Sunday – next week

Save Food Pantry Items, Cans, peanut butter

Bookmark our Facebook page. And add EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com to your contact list. Brother Paulasksthatyousimplyemailhimanythingyouwant to appear on the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.

Call List– There are forms on the back table 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 table 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. Subscribe to our YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5OdoHWTNUba_av5NqR_Vfg

Worship Zoom Meetings – add your email and you will get an email when we have services

<https://www.ellabellchurchhome.org/worshipservicesonline.htm>

Ellabell Church of Christ

I can do all Things
through Him Who
strengthens me.
-Philippians 4:13

May 16, 2021

**Speaking Where The Bible
Speaks; Silent Where The
Bible Is Silent**

https://www.wttd.com/ap/savannah-may-double-parking-meter-rates-in-historic-district/article_c2912b3e-2877-11e7-a00b-3343347a3f14.html

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2021 (TOM EKPO JR)

On behalf of my wife, Sandra, my two sons, Goodnews and Godswill, I greet you all in Christ name, believing the grace of God is sufficient to you all. We pray the same grace that saw us through last month be extended to us this month. We thank everyone of you for taking time to pray for us. God is working with your prayers to salvage the disturbing situation in Africa. We are actually living in a fallen world, and things are getting worst every passing day. Hoping that things will return to the “old good days” is just a wishful thinking. Every rational and sincere Christian, seeing what is happening should draw more closer to God now than ever in history. It may be worst in some areas than others, but certainly, the world is in crisis. God has actually been gracious to us in Nigeria, as each day is a surprise. Traveling along some roads is seen as suicide mission. We are experiencing deadly attacks on daily basis; kidnapping has become so rampant, as young people without jobs find it as a lucrative business. Islamic terrorists are also using that as a means to raise funds for their weapons. Last month alone, several people were kidnapped, and out of the huge number, two were members of the church. We thank God that one is released, while we are still on our knees to God to set free the other sister. Some schools are shut down as Islamic militants are killing people all across the nation, in an attempt to Islamize the country.



Well, we have to stand up for Jesus, His banner must not suffer loss.

Glory be to God, Plateau State had its first rain during the last week of April after 6 months of dry season. The onset of rain being a blessing, especially to farmers, marks the beginning of farming activities. The conflicts between crop farmers and cattle breeders will increase, adding to the existing challenges we have. Please, pray for us as this conflict often changes to religious violence.

Am not pessimistic, however, I do not think that situations will ever return to normal across the world. We cannot postpone what we need to do today with respect to expanding the kingdom of God, as the angels of the devil do not rest in carrying on their father's mission. The devil is taking advantage of the idleness in the church, caused by covid 19 and insecurity to discourage some Christians from actively engaged in good works. We must rise up and say NO to Satan's schemes. I am trying to communicate this message to Nigerian Christians, to see what is happening as Satan's method of turning our eyes from Light to darkness. If we allow Satan an inch, it will be difficult realize how far we have fallen. The best we need to do is to deny its deceptions. Sad enough, the covid 19 has made people to see the abnormal as normal. Some people are no more comfortable coming to church activities. They feel, if God did accept online worship during the lockdown, He will accept worship irrespective of where we are. As harmless as this belief may seem, it is important to note that human contact cannot be replaced.

In view of this, the Church at Mazah road has consistently continued with their programs. The door knocking evangelism, which was suspended during the height of the corona virus, has resumed. We however are only conscious of working during the daylight, as evenings and night are so dreadful. Last month, I taught 8 Bible classes and preached once at Mazah congregation. Because of the series of lesson we have on Sundays, I was unable to worship with either Foron Mission nor New Foron villages. However, our weekend evangelism outing at Foron Mission is still on course. Our studies by correspondence is on track. The picture below shows brother Charles Cordon, our visiting missionary to the Bible school,

preaching at Mazah Road congregation. Brother Cordon and his wife Marci returned to Nigeria since last January. They have accompanied me to all the congregations in the rural area of Plateau I have been working with. At this time, he joined me to Mazah road. His wife works with my wife, Sandra in teaching the women class every Saturday. The couple



returned to US this week.

At the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, we are grateful to God for seeing us through the second semester, indeed the entire session of 2020/21. It is good to trust in God, as He remains the only dependable being. God granted us a peaceful semester, as our students have taken all their exams except the 100 and 200 level students who have their final this first weekend of May. Many schools had to vacate in the Northern Nigeria because of fear of kidnapping. God has been gracious to us that our students have successfully completed their session. Out of the 37 graduating students, two are foreign nationals (Sierra Leone and Chad). They are returning soon to their respective countries to help spread the Gospel of Christ. Please, keep them in your prayers. Sad enough, because of the insecurity across the nation, our school evangelism campaign for Christ has been postponed again this year. The wide spread of insecurity has caused congregations not to be willing to host our evangelism teams in their areas. Well, to God be the glory. As our students return to their respective villages, they will continue to preach the Gospel of Christ. Please, join us in prayers for them for safe travels. We really appreciate your kindness towards us despite the economic difficulties. May God bless you all in His special way. The sacrifices you make today will be rewarded in due course. Pray for us that God will continue to open door for us to share the gospel with those who want to be saved. May we have the needed boldness in the face of the present challenges to stand up for Jesus.