### Proud to Serve in Worship

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	March 7, 2021 Wade White	March 14, 202 Joe Burnsed
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall
Assist	Kenneth Jenks	Wade White
Dismiss Services	Joe Holloway Sr	Barry Blackbur

#### Announcements

### Calendar for March – on the table in the foyer MEETINGS - Today

Save Food Pantry Items, Cans, peanut butter

**Bookmark our Facebook page.** And add <u>EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com</u> to your contact list. Brother Paulasksthatyousimplyemailhimanythingyouwant toappearon the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.

**CallList**-Thereareformsonthebacktableifyouwanttobeadded 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

**PrayerList**–There is a form on the backtable 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 You Tube 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.htmand



# **Ellabell Church of Christ**

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

## February 28, 2021

Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible

Is Silent

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## REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021 (TOM EKPOT JR)

I bring you all Greetings from my family and brethren in the Northern Nigeria. I wish you a happy March 2021. The month of February has come and gone. On one side, we have many things to thank God for, on the other hand, we have some laments. This is just the nature of life on earth. My heart aches so much for the death of one of my lovely mothers, late Wilma Stevens of Windsong Church of Christ, Little Rock, AR. I knew her every since I was a school boy. She kept sending weekly bulletin of the Windsong Church, then Sixth & Izard Church of Christ. My inspiration to become a preacher was motivated by the write-up of John Gipson, who is now one of the elders of the church. It is important to do good to all, because we do not know how much life we will touch by such good. When I finally went to Freed Hardeman University, she visited me. She kept sending the Church bulletin to me, and even when I returned to Nigeria, she never stopped sending me those inspirational materials. Through her, I met with Dr Holloway. Holloway's parents adopted me as their son. Sister Wilma's death was shocking to me, my wife and children. I know everybody who knew her, has one good thing or more to say about her. Wilma and my mother, late Sue Holloway, every year, ask us what our needs were. They will send clothes to my children and wife, And they were

always trying to meet our needs. Their departure leaves a vacuum in our hearts. May God comfort her daughter, her sonin-law, grand children, and foster children like me, friends and the Windsong Church.

From the Foron Mission congregation, am glad to report of the baptism of a convert I have been working on for more than four years now. She was a Catholic member, selling alcoholic drinks for a living. We had series of Bible studies with her, and at a point, she started visiting us during our worship services. We kept talking to her. She became convinced of the need for her to be saved, but was worried about what other business she will get involved to make a living since her alcohol business is causing her to sin against God. I introduced her to small scale poultry farming. I advanced her with some help to start the business, sad enough after collecting the money, Satan deceived her again. She used the money to expand her alcohol selling business as she then had more customers. In the month of January this year, she came to confess that she is living the dirty business finally. We praved with her. Last Sunday, she was baptized for the remission of her sins. Glory be to God! I know she is going to be under intense persecution as majority of the locals belong to Catholic Church, where she was before. The devil is not happy that a soul is won to God. Please, join us in prayer for her to continue in faith. We will have to see how to help her set up another business so that she won't think of returning to the mud. We are going to present her a Bible in Hausa language, since that is what she can read well.

At New Foron village congregation, I have resumed meeting with them twice a month, while I meet with Foron Mission congregation at least twice a month also. Our studies by correspondence continue in these rural areas. Brother Charles Cordon and his wife Merci, who are visiting missionaries to the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, accompanied us on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February to worship with the small congregation. Below is a picture of Cordon, Merci, Sandra, Me, and the small congregation.

New Foron village congregation is not having many children like Foron mission. We are working to start children Bible class so that kids around can come in and learn the word



of God as we are doing at Foron Mission congregation. Catching them young is an important thing to do The congregation has more men and women than the Foron Mission congregation. The two villages have had their share of violent attacks by the Islamic militants. We give God the praise that congregations are coming up. Our Friday and Saturday Bible classes at Mazah

Road congregation are in progress. I teach the general class on Friday night, Sandra takes the women class on Saturday night. Sister Merci, the wife of Charles Cordon now joins her every Saturday for the class.

At this time, I plead with you all to constantly pray for Nigeria as a country. The insecurity in Nigeria has reached its highest peak. People are killed on daily basis, many are kidnapped for ransom daily. Several young people have withdrawn from schools as life is not safe in schools again. Homes have been burnt down by these dangerous set of people. Farmers cannot go to farm because the fear of Islamic militia, who are killing people in the farm. We do not know where these are leading the country into. Sad enough, the impact of the government is not felt at all. Food prices have risen beyond the reach of the common people. This may lead to a complete state of anarchy if prompt intervention is not secured. We know God has the power to uphold this country and rescue us from the mess happening now. We know we are living in a fallen world. Things will continue to deteriorate in the world till Jesus come. We are only asking for a relative peace to enable us continue with our daily responsibilities, especially that of serving our Creator.