#### Proud to Serve in Worship

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	January 10, 2021 Wade White	January 17, 2021 Barry Blackburn
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Charles Hall	Joe Holloway Sr
Assist	Kennth Jenks	Wade White
<b>Dismiss Services</b>	Joe Holloway Sr	Mike Reinitz

#### Announcements

Calendar for January – on the table in the foyer

### Super Sunday-in two weeks

Save Food Pantry Items, Cans, peanut butter Bookmark our Facebook page. And add

<u>EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com</u> to your contact list. Brother Paul asksthatyousimplyemailhimanythingyouwanttoappearon the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.

**CallList**–Thereare 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 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

### January 10, 2021

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

### REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2020 (TOM EKPOT JR). Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all and Happy New Year! We give God the praise for seeing us through the year 2020. It was actually a great and memorable year that history will not forget in a hurry. In all that happened, God still saw us through to where we are. The year actually started like every other year, but came in with so many challenges. We thank God for all those challenges, because they helped in a way to redirect our focus and hope only on God. We cannot question God for why thing went the way they did. Even if we do not see the reason, God's thought towards us remain that of good, to give us an expected end.

The year helped to remember the fact that, I have to do the work of him who sent me while it is day, because night comes that no one can work. Some of our precious time were wild away in the previous years, thinking that we still had time. But some of our challenges remind us that the only time we have is now. If I failed to be kind to my brother today, tomorrow may never present such opportunity. While we rejoice over God's graciousness in bringing us to this new year, our heart of sympathy goes to those who lost their beloved ones during the year 2020. I know in Ellabell family, we had our moment of grieve. Different people had theirs too. May God continue to comfort us, while we keep preparing for our own day. Recently we lost Larry Kirby to corona virus. Larry Kirby was a preacher in the State of Alabama. He used to come to Jos and speak in our lectureship, preach in local congregations in Nigeria, train WBS workers. It is sad that we have lost such a nice preacher. He has simply gone ahead of us.

I have been sick of malaria and typhoid fever for two weeks now. It started few days to Christmas, and continued through the new year celebration. I give God the praise, because I am still able to move. I did not miss our fellowship. I initially thought it was corona virus because we visited a young family who lost their baby. Later that same day, we got the news that the brother whom we visited tested positive to covid 19. Sandra and I went for test, the result did not come out until after two weeks. During that time of waiting for the result, my health went bad. I had to mask my face everywhere I entered to avoid transmission if I had the virus. But I give God the praise that I am getting better. The result came out, and we all turned to be negative. This challenge is becoming more serious every day. May God protect us from the challenge of corona virus. As brother Holloway mentioned in one of his preaching last December, God has assured us that time is coming that we will not have to use mask to mall, to work, to church worship because corona virus would have disappeared. We trust God's saving grace, and look forward to that time with hope.

The picture in the next column shows some foreign students in our school assembled in my house to celebrate the new year with us. We have students from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Chad and Cameroon. We thank God because we were able host them, to feel home away from their homes.

The congregations Mazah and Foron Mission are doing well. The surfacing of corona virus in large scale is giving

every congregation difficulty on what to plan for this year. I have so many correspondence courses waiting collection. By the grace of God, I will be able to collect the courses from my prospects



soon, so that we can send in new ones. It is still not easy to arrange for inter-personal studies.

The insecurity in Nigeria is worrisome. Every day, we live by the grace of God. Traveling on some Nigerian roads sometimes amount to suicide mission. But we give God the praise for standing up to our defense every moment. Some of our youths who attended a wedding ceremony of another brother here were kidnapped along the way. God helping, only two were detained with the kidnappers until the ransom was paid. That is the situation we find ourselves. Please, keep praying for us. We will continue to walk by faith and not by sight. We trust God that this year will present better opportunity for us to serve God even better. Things may not necessarily be better in the world all the time, but God can make things turn out right for His own. The faith of people in God is dwindling. This is the work of Satan. We must resolve that Christ must be glorified in our lives this year. In whatever the circumstances of life turn out to be, we will remain on the side of God. I join the host of well-wishers to wish everyone of us a happy 2021, irrespective of what may happen around, our joy of salvation will keep us happy in Christ.

# To learn more about the work in Nigeria, we have dedicated a web page at

https://www.freewebs.com/ellabellcofc/index.htm