

*Proud to Serve in Worship*

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>April 19, 2020</b>	<b>April 26, 2020</b>
<b>Song Leader</b>	Joe Holloway Sr	Barry Blackburn
<b>Communion</b>	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
<b>Assist</b>	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall
<b>Assist</b>	Wade White	Kenneth Jenks
<b>Dismiss Services</b>	Tim Rone	Toim Rone
	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall

## Ellabell Church of Christ

April 19, 2020

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

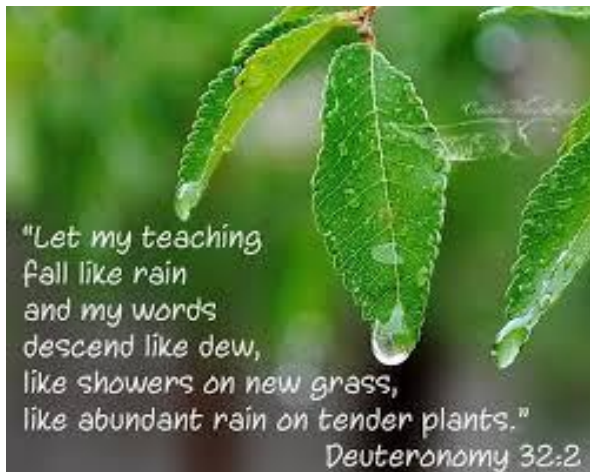
<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/ga--savannah/events--this-weekend/>

**Service Times:**  
**Sunday AM**  
**Bible Study 10am**  
**Worship 11am**  
**PM**  
**Worship 5pm**  
**Wed**  
**Bible Study 7pm**

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

### REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020 ( TOM EK POT JR)

Dear beloved,  
Greetings to you all in Jesus. I know we are facing the most trying time in our human history. The world in our days has not experience something similar to this, where the whole world is sick because of just one tiny particle, called Corona Virus. Thousands of people are dead, several more are helpless in the isolation centers. Church buildings are closed, Bible studies are no in place especially in places like African countries where online system is not working well, house fellowships have stopped in some places, especially in the cities. Satan is taking advantage of this to deceive people that God does care or has the power to assist. We have cried and lamented, we have called on God, and I know he hears us. I strongly believe, His silence and delay are not sign of lack of care or power as the "foolish" people assume. To God, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years, is like a day. At His own right time, He will ack. His silence





however, has proven beyond doubt that science cannot do anything except God allows them. He has proven the foolishness of human wisdom. Our faith in God will not be shaken because of life perils. We certainly know that it is a difficult time, but this will not last forever. I left Jos to Abuja on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, I left Nigeria to Guinea to speak in their two day lectureship program and attend

their maiden edition of the graduation of the Bible college there. I arrived at Sierra Leone and



met with one brother Steven Ashcraft, an American Missionary to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and we moved by road to Gueckedou in Guinea where there the program was held. It was easy to access Gueckedou Guinea, from Sierra Leone because of the closeness of the place to the border of Sierra Leone. We drove by road for over 10 hours, the road network was somewhat bad. Our vehicle broke down on the road and we had to hire another vehicle. We arrived at the border where we had to cross over to Guinea by hand paddled boat. One of my former student at the School of Biblical Studies, is working as an evangelist in this country. But he could not attend the program because of the long distance where he is staying.



The program went on well, at the end of the program, two souls were baptized (See the picture right).

The first graduation ceremony of the only Bible School in that country took place on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a day after the lectureship. Guinea is a country with 85 percent Islam. Only very few people are Christians. It is a French Country. For the first time, I had to learn how to communicate in French or sign language where I

got stocked. Christians from Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone came for the program. It was interesting to see cooperation among Church of Christ, even in the mid of the spread of the COVID 19. Am glad that none of us came down with the virus, because it was practically difficult to observe 2 meters social distance. It was of interest and challenge to me to meet people like brother Philip, a visual impaired brother, a preacher of a local congregation, very zealous for the work. Though originally from Sierra Leone, an English speaking country, but his stay in Guinea has offered him the opportunity of learning French. He did most of the translation from French to English and English to French for those who like me who would not understand the two languages.

I returned to Nigeria on the 19<sup>th</sup>. My flight was for 18<sup>th</sup>, but was delayed because of the closure of Abijan airport. I am glad I made it back to Nigeria before Nigerian Government also shut



down their airports. This journey was one of the most risky journeys I ever made because of the pandemic that is ravaging the whole world. I still believe God will bring his perfect will to pass in due course. At this

moment, we are encouraged to reduce our interaction with people, hence the popular call to STAY AT HOME. I still go to office since I am not meeting with much people. It is now we see more advantage of the Bible study by correspondence. Even though the social distancing is in place, we still give our prospects their courses. They complete it and return to us by hand for grading.

We are meeting for our weekly Bible study at Mazah Road Church of Christ on Fridays. Our population is not up to 50 people ban by the Government meeting at once. We space ourselves to ensure that the distance of 2 meters is obtained. We are also meeting for worship at Foron Mission. Being a congregation in the one of the remotes part of the State, they are not even aware of the challenges faced by the COVID 19. However, Sandra and I go there to educate them on the need to observe social distance and practice strict hygiene to avoid any

infection. A brother working with the Teaching hospital here in Jos has been of great help, as he goes with us to encourage these brethren.

From the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, we have suspended our classes and other activities because of the COVID 19 pandemic. Most of our students have returned to their villages. We still have some of them remaining on campus especially the Foreign students.

Join us in praying for peace to visit Nigeria again. Recently, 4 of our brethren were killed in Borno state. These 4 brothers are students of one of the Christian Bible Colleges in Nigeria. As the Government ordered schools to close, they were going back to their villages, but the Islamic militants killed them on their way. This has brought a difficult time to their congregations and their families. The Church as a whole in the Northern Nigeria is sad with this, and many people are afraid of leaving their homes to go to school, especially Bible colleges. I know it is a strategy of the Devil. We pray God will not allow him to win this fight. Our constant prayer is that let it not be too long before the end of this problem will be halted. I equally plead with God to use this moment to draw us even more closer to Him, even as we have been reminded the temporality of human existence. Keep praying for us, especially in our country Nigeria, where there is no good health system. As at this day, April 4, the cases have risen to 210, with 4 death so far. We are also praying to God on your behalf. May He see us through this moment to His glory.

Grace and Peace,  
Tom



We also broadcast our services in a Zoom meeting. This is also free. This is a way to participate more fully. All you have to do is one time add your email to our Online Services page of our web site.

From then on, you will receive an email inviting you to join each time we have Worship Services or Bible Study. I am trying to make online services more like being here. The first time you join a meeting, Zoom will ask you to download their client. To get started, add your name to our Zoom email list at

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

Add your email and then watch your inbox right before services. It's ok. I have been teaching school this way for two weeks. There is an article on our web site to answer any questions. It is easy to do.

Everyone is welcome



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