

FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So this is Christmas

Luke 2:7-11 KJV- 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Christ Jesus, being God in nature, existed from the beginning. He willingly left His throne (John 1:1-14) to become a man. He did this so that He might pay the penalty for our sin, so that we would not have to pay for it for all eternity in the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15). Because mankind's sin has been paid for by our sinless Savior Jesus Christ, God who is just and holy can now forgive our sins when we accept Christ Jesus' payment as our own (Rom 3:21-26). Thus, Christ's love is shown in His leaving His home in heaven, where He was worshipped and honored as He deserved, to come to earth as a man where He would be mocked, betrayed, beaten, and crucified on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, rising again from the dead on the third day. He considered our need of a Savior as more important than His own comfort and life (Phil 2:3-8).

He gave the most He could give for those who deserved it the least! Furthermore, when we place our trust in Him as our Savior, He makes us God's children! He comes to dwell within us through His Holy Spirit, promising that He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5-6). No matter what we go through, He is there, and His love is ever available to us (Rom 8:35). But as He rightfully reigns as King in heaven, we need to give Him the position He deserves in our lives as well, that of Master and not merely companion. It is only then that we will experience life as He intended and live in the fullness of His love (John 10:10b).

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ Please **SIGN UP now** for New Year's Eve Service & Dinner so we can ensure enough food is provided. See Gloria Felicione.

Missionaries – Indonesia

(excerpt from John & Joy Cutts 11/29 –PT3):

I was trapped and had to do something. I winged a short prayer as I dialed the number of the official, knowing from experience it is almost impossible that he would pick up. Suddenly he was answering and I had to come up with a strategy which was polite yet honoring, while cutting to the chase. "Sir, you know how hard many people as well as myself have been working with the Zombandoga people for the last 10 years, and they are so excited that the strip is done and they have invited me to party with them. I know they would love to have you attend also, so how about if we attend together?" I was in shock as the words tumbled out. . . and now there was an uncomfortably long pause. "Yes, I will plan to attend also, but I need your help to talk to the people while we are there because a big problem has arisen from the death of a government worker, and you can help them understand better." WOW. . . we all had our green light, and God came up with a solution which made the official welcome my presence at this massive gathering! He never showed, but his assistant did, and I was able to talk to him about signing the papers to get the runway officially opened. Amazingly, the day before flying to the villages God organized for me to just stumble into a long-time soccer player friend who is now the new Head of Aviation in the capital. The pictures don't begin to express all that went on that day, but I shared with them how God had been their shepherd through these many long years, and He stood ready now to lead and guide them in all that was ahead. . . providing they want to follow His leading. Two pilots, Marc and George and their planes spent the night also, after making numerous flights in. . . something that had never happened before at a strip opening!

We left the party spirit behind as several of us piled onto another airplane to take off on a wing and a prayer to the Duma area, another Moni valley, but on the rainy and clouded south side of the island. We had heard that vine bridges were washed out due to much rain, and that there had been deaths of those trying to cross these same rivers we were going to try to cross to visit villages. We had also heard that the break-away group I have mentioned before which has burned down 30 plus churches was also in the area stirring up the villagers. . . so it was unclear what we would face upon landing.

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	FCA	PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service & Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Worship (Sanctuary)</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM <i>Men's Fraternity (on hiatus)</i>	1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Right Path</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Right Path*: A Christ centered support and recovery group for people whose lives have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support and fellowship; in genuine confidential sharing, coupled with a Biblical twelve step model of recovery.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Looking Ahead

- ❖ There will be **NO** service on (Tuesday) December 24, (Wednesday) December 25, and **NO** Bible Study on (Thursday) December 26.
- ❖ Our annual New Year's Eve service and dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 31st at 6:30 PM. Please **SIGN UP** now with Gloria Felicione for this event to reserve a space.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ministries (present and future) at First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family.

