



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.

H O P E

The word *hope* in English often conveys doubt. For instance, "I hope it will not rain tomorrow." In addition, the word *hope* is often followed by the word *so*. This is the answer that some may give when asked if they think that they will go to heaven when they die. They say, "I hope so."

However, that is not the meaning of the words usually translated "hope" in the Bible. Biblical hope has as its foundation faith in God. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word *batah* has the meaning of confidence, security, and being without care; therefore, the concept of doubt is not part of this word. In most instances in the New Testament, the word *hope* is the Greek *elpis/elpizo*. Again, there is no doubt attached to this word. Therefore, biblical hope is a confident expectation or assurance based upon a sure foundation for which we wait with joy and full confidence. In other words, "There is no doubt about it!"

Our faith is confident assurance, for it is founded upon the Rock of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the verses in which we find the word *hope* is Hebrews 11:1. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." All of the actions of the heroes of the faith recorded in Hebrews 11 were made possible because they had this faith based in their confident assurance or hope in God. Therefore, biblical hope is a reality and not a feeling. Biblical hope carries no doubt.

Biblical hope is a sure foundation upon which we base our lives, believing that God always keeps His promises. Therefore, accepting Jesus' gift of eternal life means our hope is no longer filled with doubt but, rather, has at its sure foundation the whole of God's Word, the entirety of God's character, and the finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, as believers, we are also called to give an answer for that hope that is within us to any who would ask (1 Peter 3:15). Therefore we should live our lives in such a way that our hope in Christ is so noticeable that people who come in contact with us can't help but notice the difference in us and want to know "what our Secret is". We then have an open door to share the Gospel.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ *The church's new website:*
www.fcaphila.org also visit us on
Facebook (link is on the website).

Missionaries

Phyllis & Donna

URGENT PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

We know you've prayed for Nancy for years, the young women who suffered Rheumatic Fever about 16 years ago. Her doc at that time said she should never get married, she would not survive childbirth because of damaged heart valves. But God in His mercy gave her a gentle hard working husband, and incredibly easy labors for two precious lives! Then He also gave her and her husband, Simon, new spiritual hearts! Now, as the course of Rheumatic Heart Disease goes, she would probably not survive too many more years without a new physical heart -- well at least two new valves.

We've been working for two years to comply with the requirements of the government Heart Center to qualify her as one of the recipients of free surgery (normally costing over \$50,000 here) by a team of volunteer doctors from abroad! The last few weeks have been intensive for Cindy and Donna to get her through all the final clearances and preliminary tests... And Donna just texted from the city "one more window to go to, and we're done!"

So sometime, during the week of January 20-24, by God's great mercy, she will get a new revised heart! Would you pray for her, for the docs, and for all of us "watchers" standing by to support and encourage her!?

We thank you for those who have given, which has helped the process of her monthly visits across the island, tests, and communication! Simon has been working hard to harvest his cassava crop for some funds, as we know there will be other out-of-pocket expenses like paperwork, medicines not available in the government pharmacy, follow-up visits, and maintenance blood thinners and tests -- it was mentioned at one time an estimate of \$1,500 total. So we ask you to join in lifting this need to Him as well.

(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.

We must meet the uncertainties of this world with the certainty of the world to come. ~ A.W. Tozer, American pastor/author

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.

