



# 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.

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## CHINA

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The number of Christians in Communist China is growing so steadily that by 2030 it could have more churchgoers than America.

It is said to be China's biggest church and on Easter Sunday thousands of worshippers will flock to this Asian mega-temple to pledge their allegiance - not to the Communist Party, but to the Cross.

The 5,000-capacity Liushi church, which boasts more than twice as many seats as Westminster Abbey and a 206 ft crucifix that can be seen for miles around, opened last year with one theologian declaring it a "miracle that such a small town was able to build such a grand church." The £8 million building is also one of the most visible symbols of Communist China's breakneck conversion as it evolves into one of the largest Christian congregations on earth.

"It is a wonderful thing to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It gives us great confidence," beamed Jin Hongxin, a 40-year-old visitor who was admiring the golden cross above Liushi's altar in the lead up to Holy Week. "If everyone in China believed in Jesus then we would have no more need for police stations. There would be no more bad people and therefore no more crime," she added.

Officially, the People's Republic of China is an atheist country but that is changing fast as many of its 1.3 billion citizens seek meaning and spiritual comfort that neither communism nor capitalism seem to have supplied.

Christian congregations in particular have skyrocketed since churches began reopening when Chairman Mao's death in 1976 signaled the end of the Cultural Revolution. Less than four decades later, some believe China is now poised to become not just the world's number one economy but also its most numerous Christian nation. "By my calculations China is destined to become the largest Christian country in the world very soon," said Fenggang Yang, a professor of sociology at Purdue University and author of Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule. ( *From Berean Call 4-23-2014*)

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- ⇒ *If interested in the Voice of Martyrs video (a portion of which was seen on Easter), please provide \$2.00 (\$1 for the video and \$1 for a donation to VOM's work). FCA will request the videos based on orders received.*
- ⇒ *Bible Study - Sunday 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall at FCA - now in the Gospel of Mark.*

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### Missionaries

#### **From John Koehler, Mongolia:**

I returned to Mongolia just in time for our Martnii 8 bayar mend hurgie party (women's day). Two of my staff put together the party just for the women who are a part of our organization. They rented a Karaoke room, divided the women into teams and away they went, for over two hours of non-stop singing and laughing! It was so fun and funny!

I love watching our women learn that you can have a great time without the influence of alcohol! Please continue to pray that our women can realize that joy does not need to be manufactured, but is a result of a relationship to the joyous God.

Also, Please pray for our transition of leadership. There have been some bumps in the road (not unexpected) and I need God's wisdom to guide us through this time.

While I was in the US, I also received a three-month visa for Afghanistan! As of now it looks like I will be traveling to Afghanistan near the end of April and staying for one month. There is a new development; I will not be traveling alone. A good friend of mine also senses the Lord leading her there to pray about possible long-term service. Please pray for us that we will be sensitive to the Lord's leading as we make plans...

Thank you for all your support! This past few months has reminded me a fresh and anew just how weak I am but how powerful His grace is in my weaknesses! All of you are a manifestation of that grace to me! Thank you!

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

### **WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	<b>FCA</b>	<b>PAC</b>
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service &amp; 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



- ❖ *Monday, May 19, 6:30 PM @ FCA – Men's and Women's Fellowship. Let Gloria know if you will be attending.*
- ❖ *To blessings and fellowship at Worship & Watch. Stay tuned for details of future gatherings of God's people. PRAY & ATTEND*

### **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.

