



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.

Are You Listening God?

Some of the most promising words ever spoken by God are found in Jeremiah 29:13-14: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you". And sometimes, in our quest for finding God, it appears that He wants to remind us of this extraordinary promise to us. We're deeply troubled, so we fervently pray. We're distressed, so we cry out to God for relief. But sometimes all we hear in reply is silence—a silence so deafening it drowns out every thought but this: God isn't listening. So we ask, "Has God abandoned me?"

The Scriptures speak of cries of help, cries of distress, calling for God in times of great need and turmoil: "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unending love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time?" (Ps 77:7-8).

At times our spiritual lives are like this. We think we know where God is, where we stand in our relationship to Him and yet, one day, something changes. We lose a job, our spouse wants a divorce. Even good changes, such as a job promotion or the birth of a child can bring about a sense of uncertainty. So we question: "Where is God anyway? Why am I having such a difficult time finding God?"

For the key to "finding" God, we have to go back to Ps 77. After the psalmist laments that God has rejected him and His love has vanished, he comes to his senses and writes verses 11-12, giving us the two-part solution to feeling abandoned by God: "I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds." First, he determines to remember God's deeds and His miracles. Just remembering how God saved us from a life of futility and an eternity in hell should give us a proper perspective on His love.

Second, the psalmist determines to meditate on God's works and His deeds. Meditating on God's Word is the only sure way to come to right conclusions about God. Those who are "blessed" in Psalm 1 are those who meditate on God's Word day and night. When we seek God with all our hearts, God will be found.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ Month of August – There will be NO Bible studies on Sunday, 9:45 AM or Thursday, 7:00 PM. These will resume the normal schedule after Labor Day.

Missionaries

John & Joy Cutts - Indonesia

The village of Kolaepa was well known in the Kemandoga Valley because of its Ugai or dance house. Only certain villages had the distinction of being the proud sponsors of such a place... Upon its completion, hundreds of men and women and teens would come from the surrounding villages to dance all night under low bamboo torchlight in this seedy atmosphere. Now, to the amazement of all the communities, Kolaepa decided to build a church.

Then a very interesting question was posed to the 1000 plus people attending the celebration (*church dedication*) . . . why build a dance house and why build a church? The answers came back that the dance house was used as a giant market, also for dancing, settling old debts, addressing war settlements, and often became the scene for new outbreaks of war as old grudges and emotions were rekindled. The responses on the church stated that its construction showed the village was ready to stand on its own and become a source for living the Gospel while being a center for growth, well-being and unity. The huge crowd was reminded that the church was built exactly where the old dance house once stood and that it would be a beacon of light for the future. I sat mesmerized, listening to the past history of these villagers and the stance they now took to lead the charge into the future with God's light shining through them, showing the way and being His stepping-stone to the Moni.

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 (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



- ❖ *A church picnic is being planned for Saturday September 20, 2014, 12 Noon to 5:00 PM. Details will follow. See Gloria if you are interested in attending.*
- ❖ *Movie night being planned*

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.

