



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.

God, Are You Speaking?

The Bible records God speaking audibly to people many times. There is no biblical reason why God could not speak to a person audibly today. With the hundreds of times the Bible records God speaking, we have to remember that they occur over the course of 4,000 years of human history. God speaking audibly is the exception, not the rule. Even in the biblically recorded instances of God speaking, it is not always clear whether it was an audible voice, an inner voice, or a mental impression.

God does speak to people today. First, God speaks to us through His Word (2 Tim 3:16–17). Isaiah 55:11 tells us, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." The Bible is God's Word, it contains everything we need to know in order to be saved and live the Christian life. 2 Peter 1:3 declares, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

God can also "speak" to us through events. He allows events to occur in our lives to direct us, change us, and help us to grow spiritually (James 1:2–5; Heb 12:5–11). Additionally, God helps us to discern right from wrong through our consciences (1 Tim 1:5; 1 Pet 3:16). God also is in the process of conforming our minds to think His thoughts (Rom 12:2).

God may sometimes speak audibly to people. It is highly doubtful, though, that this occurs as often as some people claim it does. Again, remember, even in the Bible, God speaking audibly is the exception, not the rule. If anyone claims that God has spoken to him or her, always compare what is said with what the Bible says. If God were to speak today, His words would be in full agreement with what He has said in the Bible (2 Tim 3:16–17). God does not contradict Himself.

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.**
- ⇒ **Please see Gloria for details/location if you would like to attend the church picnic on Sept. 20.**

Missionaries

John & Joy Cutts - Indonesia

I had an urgent single sideband radio transmission from the village of Tomosiga where you may recall we are trying to complete a jungle runway which has been under construction for 28 years, the villagers using sticks, shovels, crowbars and more recently, some wheel barrels, now that there is a surface to roll on. The tires were dry-rotted, flat, and the axles had actually worn through and broken because of overuse. The dirt runway is too short for planes to be landing, a helicopter costs thousands of dollars to drop the tires and parts, and trekking is a rugged 10-day ordeal there and back. I was again in one of these situations where easy solutions are not readily at hand.

As God often does, he sent Matt, a bush pilot flying in our area, to our outpost with a load of supplies, and out of the blue, he suggested grabbing a cup of coffee at our house next to the runway. As we talked, I related to him the predicament I had: tires to keep the progress rolling and also hundreds of durian seeds which could become a fabulous cash crop, but they were going to rot if not delivered very soon. Matt related the jam he was in. . . .a plane ready to be grounded for inspection after just 3 or 4 more hours, horrible weather for the past month which has made reaching many villages almost impossible and then the several-day celebration of the end of fasting which would shut down the flying program for days. Above all, he would have to ask his boss permission to land on an unknown patch of rough ground, with all the risks that entails. He agreed to take the tires and fruit seeds with no promises to deliver them to an airstrip which was unfinished and one he had never landed on before. I gave him the GPS coordinates just in case God pulled off something miraculous. (see next week for more)

(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



- ❖ *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.

