



# 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.

## Does God Change His Mind ?

Numbers 23:19 is clear: "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?" No, God does not change His mind. Many other verses assert that God is unchanging and unchangeable.

How then do we explain verses such as Gen 6:6, and Jonah 3:10. Similarly, Exo 32:14 proclaims, "Then the LORD relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened." These verses speak of the Lord "repenting" of something and seem to contradict the doctrine of God's immutability. However, close examination of these passages reveals that these are not truly indications that God is capable of changing. In the original language, the word that is translated as "repent" or "relent" is the Hebrew expression "to be sorry for." Being sorry for something does not mean that a change has occurred; it simply means there is regret for something that has taken place.

Consider Gen 6:6: "...the LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth." This verse even goes on to say "His heart was filled with pain." This verse declares that God had regret for creating man. However, obviously He did not reverse His decision. The fact that we are alive today is proof that God did not change His mind about creating man. Also, the context of this passage is a description of the sinful state in which man was living, and it is man's sinfulness that triggered God's sorrow. Again in Jonah 3:10 God was going to judge Nineveh because of its evil. However, Nineveh repented and changed its ways. As a result, God had mercy on Nineveh, which is entirely consistent with His character.

The Scriptures that are interpreted as God seeming to change His mind are human attempts to explain the actions of God. God was going to do something, but instead did something else. To us, that sounds like a change. But to God, who is omniscient and sovereign, it is not a change. God always knew what He was going to do (Isa 46:10-11). God threatened Nineveh with destruction, knowing that it would cause repentance. God threatened Israel with destruction, knowing that Moses would intercede. God does not change His mind but rather acts consistently with His Word in response to our actions.

## 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.

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### Missionaries

#### John & Joy Cutts - Indonesia

The very next day an exuberant community in Tomosiga called on the single side band radio to say a plane had mysteriously landed and dropped off the precious load! I later heard back from Matt with this message: " I'm not the most religious guy but I'm sure someone wanted to help those villagers out today and made it all happen as there were so many variables for it all to work out; certainly makes me think. " He went on to say that the weather was spectacular, he ended up being scheduled first flight of the day to a place which gave him a better chance of finding Tomosiga, and he had just enough time on the plane to make the extra stop. That, my Friends, is a God answering the prayers of all those villagers who have so much at stake in completing the runway, and using Matt as a critical stepping-stone.

This trip to the interior was special in that I had some gifts from several different people, given in love to help the Papuans, and my only job was to be sure they got to the right people. A soccer buddy, Aaron, donated a brand new soccer ball which NEVER needs to be inflated and a pair of soccer shoes. One young soccer player was very happy when the shoes fit him. . . . probably the first pair of anything he had ever had on his feet, and of course all the soccer players were "pumped" to have a ball that doesn't need pumping, as pumps are hard to come by in these off-the-beaten track places. (*more in newsletter in upcoming months*)

**"In his teaching, the islands will put their hope." – Isaiah 42:4 (NIV)**

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 (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**

	FCA	PAC
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



- ❖ *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.

