



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.

The Purpose of Marriage

What is the purpose of marriage? The Bible has a lot to say about this topic. The first reason that the Bible gives for the existence of marriage is simple: Adam was lonely and needed a helper (Gen2:18). This then, is the primary purpose of marriage, fellowship, companionship, and mutual help and comfort.

Another purpose of marriage is to create a stable home in which children can grow and thrive. The best marriage is between two believers (2 Cor 6:14), the children of faithful people will tend to be faithful too.

Not only does marriage teach children how to be faithful and give them a stable environment in which to learn and grow, it has a sanctifying effect on both marriage partners when they submit to God's law (Eph 5). Every marriage has difficult moments or difficult dynamics. When two sinful people are trying to create a life together, they must submit to God's command to love each another as God has loved us—selflessly (1 John 3:16). So, marriage is very helpful for the one trying to live a godly life; it helps to scrub the heart clean of selfishness and other impurities.

Marriage also protects individuals from sexual immorality (1 Cor 7:2). The world we live in is full of sexual images, innuendo, and temptation. Even if a person doesn't pursue sexual sin, it pursues him or her, and it is very hard to escape it. Marriage provides a healthy place to express sexuality, without opening oneself up to the potential severe emotional and physical damage that may be caused by casual, non-committed sexual relationships. It is clear that God created marriage for our good, to make us happy, to promote a healthier society, and to produce holiness in our lives.

Finally, marriage is a beautiful picture of the relationship between Christ and His church. The body of believers that make up the Church are collectively called bride of Christ. As Bridegroom, Jesus gave His life for His bride, "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word" (Eph 5:25-26), and His selfless act provides an example for all husbands. At the Second Coming of Christ, the church will be united with the Bridegroom, the official "wedding ceremony" will take place and, with it, the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized (Rev 19:7-9; 21:1-2).

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- ⇒ **PLEASE** see Gloria for details on Operation Christmas Child. We will be accepting completed shoeboxes on 11/9 & 11/16.
- ⇒ **Bible Studies: Sunday 9:45 AM in FCA fellowship hall & Thursday 7:00 PM in PAC conference room.**

Missionaries

Neal & Lois-Papua, New Guinea

Finally the plane Neal and his students and volunteers built in Australia over a 3 year period has flown. Praise God. You can see a clip of the flight on the site listed below. Is this exciting or what!

<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianCentreforMissionAviation>

Leti stopped by after taking a 6 hour bus ride from her province so she could see us. Leti is the young girl we helped with getting into grade 9 after she could not do so here. She said school is ok, but the teachers and students had had a rock fight. Prayerfully this will not continue as the previous school where she had enrolled in her province had closed due to tribal fighting. She said she usually gets to eat once a day. Sometimes not at all. When she is hungry, she thinks of me as I always used to feed her when she was here. Her village is about 6 hours from her school's location.

Esther is an orphaned young woman who was living with her 2 aunts in a compound adjacent to the nearby MAF compound. The poor girl was beaten every day, at times with a bush knife. I was able to connect with her and to have her over here to visit as a sort of sanctuary. However upon our return from our visit abroad, I found that Esther had been kicked out by her aunts. They kept everything, her clothes, school bag and books. When we got here, she had been on her own for 3 weeks, sleeping in the street.. We are helping out with fees, bus fare, and so on (*for school & exams*).

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721
 215-389-1985

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



- ❖ *Operation Christmas Child – see Gloria for details...we will be accepting completed shoeboxes on 11/9 & 11/16.*
- ❖ *FCA will be holding Discipleship Training classes soon. Details to follow.*

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.

