



# 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.

## **CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN ?**

Is it possible for Christians to celebrate Halloween without compromising their faith?

Halloween, no matter how commercialized, has almost completely pagan origins. As innocent as it may seem to some, it is not something to be taken lightly.

Scripture does not speak at all about Halloween, but it does give us some principles on which we can make a decision. In Old Testament Israel, witchcraft was a crime punishable by death (Ex 22:18; Lev 19:31; 20:6, 27). New Testament teaching about the occult is clear. The story of Simon Acts 8:9-24, shows that occultism and Christianity don't mix. The account of Elymas the sorcerer in Acts 13:6-11 reveals that sorcery is violently opposed to Christianity. Paul called Elymas a child of the devil, an enemy of righteousness and one who was perverting the ways of God. In Acts 16, at Philippi, a fortune-telling girl lost her demon powers when the evil spirit was cast out by Paul. The interesting matter here is that Paul refused to allow even good statements to come from a demon-influenced person. In Acts 19 we have the story of new converts who have abruptly broken with their former occultism by confessing their evil deeds, bringing their magic paraphernalia, and burning it before everyone.

So, should a Christian celebrate Halloween? Is there anything evil about a Christian dressing up as a princess or cowboy and going around the block asking for candy? No, there is not. Are there things about Halloween that are anti-Christian and should be avoided? Absolutely! If parents are going to allow their children to participate in Halloween, they should make sure to keep them from getting involved in the darker aspects of the day. If Christians are going to take part in Halloween, their attitude, dress, and most importantly, their behavior should still reflect a redeemed life (Phil 1:27). There are many churches that hold "harvest festivals" and incorporate costumes, but in a godly environment. There are many Christians who hand out tracts that share the Gospel along with the Halloween candy. The decision is ultimately ours to make. But as with all things, we are to incorporate the principles of Rom 14. We can't allow our own convictions about a holiday to cause division in the body of Christ, nor can we use our freedom to cause others to stumble in their faith. We are to do all things as to the Lord.

## **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. TRY them both out. You will be BLESSED!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Missionaries - Binu John, India**

My beloved:

Greetings! I want to send you this **thank you note** for praying for us. God did answer your prayers:

1. Our pastors reached safely yesterday. They rested and started the conference well.
2. God provided the fund for 11 pastors. Thanks for those who made it possible.
3. We already had two powerful sessions this morning. Its impact is beyond words as the Mission leader of Odisha spelled out: "I envision to birth **one hundred prayer cells** by the year 2020 and plant ten churches." I continue to expect Great things from God as we move on...

### **Some prayer concerns:**

1. Two of the pastors could not make due to physical illness. Please pray for their healing.
2. We still need sponsors for nine pastors so that I will be able to pay the bills and end the conference without deficit. It costs \$50 per pastor.
3. God will continue to minister to us to look beyond the natural to accomplish Great things from God.
4. We will continue to pray, set goals, fellowship and minister to each other.

I foresee every **tongue and tribe will confess** Jesus is Lord" through the continuous ministry of these men and women. All we need to do is – empower them, pray, support and send. Thanks again for joining me in this mission. God bless you.  
Binu John, Director, Care India Mission

(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

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](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



- ❖ *Operation Christmas Child – see Gloria for details...we will be accepting completed shoeboxes on 11/9 & 11/16.*
- ❖ *Global Missions Frontier Conference at FCA on Nov. 11 – Nov. 14 at 7:00 PM. Our missionary to Zimbabwe, Pastor Cleopas Chitapa, will be one of the speakers.*
- ❖ *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.

