



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.*

To PRAY or not to PRAY

To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven. It is to be on the road to hell. Now can you wonder that I ask the question, Do you pray?

I ask again whether you pray, because a habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian.

All the children of God on earth are alike in this respect. From the moment there is any life and reality about their religion, they pray. Just as the first sign of life in an infant when born into the world is the act of breathing, so the first act of men and women when they are born again is praying.

This is one of the common marks of all the elect of God, "They cry unto him day and night" (Luke 18:1). The Holy Spirit, who makes them new creatures, works in them the feeling of adoption, and makes them cry, "Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). The Lord Jesus, when he quickens them, gives them a voice and a tongue, and says to them, "Be dumb [speechless] no more." God has no dumb children. It is as much a part of their new nature to pray, as it is of a child to cry. They see their need of mercy and grace. They feel their emptiness and weakness. They cannot do otherwise than they do. They must pray.

I have looked carefully over the lives of God's saints in the Bible. I cannot find one of whose history much is told us, from Genesis to Revelation, who was not a man of prayer. I find it mentioned as a characteristic of the godly, that "they call on the Father" (1 Peter 1:17), or "the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:2). Recorded as a characteristic of the wicked is the fact that "they call not upon the Lord" (Ps. 14:4).

--J. C. Ryle (1816 - 1900)

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ **REMEMBER** – *We have other services during the week. Sunday 9:45 Bible Study, Tuesday 7 PM service (with prayer @ 6:30), Thursday 7 PM Bible Study @ PAC (with prayer @ 6:00)...several opportunities to worship, praise, and learn.*

Philadelphia Access Center

From PAC email:

Thanks to you, we exceeded our \$5,000 end-of-the-year fundraising goal...by \$1!

We raised \$5,001 between November 1 - December 31. With the dollar-for-dollar matching grant, the final total was \$10,002! We are amazed at how God provided for our needs through your generosity!

In a city with so much need, it can be easy to feel that your donation doesn't make a difference. But the Philadelphia Access Center tells a different story. These end-of-the-year gifts alone will enable us to provide social services, counseling, and training appointments free of charge to 322 guests.

We can't wait to share stories of how God is building His Kingdom through your partnership with us in 2015.

THANK YOU!

From all of the staff, volunteers, and guests at the Philadelphia Access Center

(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.



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.

This and That

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Location: China

Arrested: December 2012

After completing his two-year prison term, **Wenxi Li** was released on Dec. 18. His wife, Cai Hong Li, along with another church member, greeted him upon his release. He reports that he is in good health. VOM workers will meet with him and his wife soon. (*He is one of the Christians imprisoned for his faith some people at FCA was praying for. See more at www.prisoneralert.com. See Paula for more info or prayer cards on others.*)