



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.

HANNAH'S STORY

Hannah was one of two wives of a man named Elkanah who lived "in the hill country of Ephraim" near Shiloh. The other wife of Elkanah, Peninnah, had children, but Hannah had no child. Because of this, Hannah was very grieved. She desperately desired a child but could not conceive. To make matters worse, Peninnah taunted Hannah concerning her barrenness. Although Elkanah loved Hannah and was very kind to her, Peninnah's unkindness on top of her natural grief was too much for Hannah to bear. Hannah cried out to God about her situation. She promised the Lord that if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him to God.

The Lord answered Hannah's prayer. She bore a son and named him Samuel, whose name means "Asked of God." When the child was old enough, she kept her promise to the Lord, taking him to Eli, The High Priest, and giving him to the Lord to serve in the tabernacle.

Hannah's story gives us insight into God's heart. God does not despise human desire. Hannah's longing for a child was obviously placed in her heart by God Himself. Her husband tries to comfort her, saying in loving exasperation, "Am I not more to you than ten sons?" He does not understand why she cannot be content with what she has – namely, him! But Hannah's desire for a son would not be quenched. She was mocked by Peninnah, misunderstood by her husband, but heard by God. God did not chastise her for being discontent. We know that godly contentment is great gain (1 Tim 6:6). But that does not mean that our human desires – even those that overwhelm us with sorrow when they are unmet – are sinful in God's eyes. He understands our feelings. He knows that "a hope deferred makes the heart sick" (Prov 13:12). And He invites us to bring our requests to Him (Phil 4:6).

Every person experiences desires that will not be quenched and circumstances that cause grief. Many times, we simply do not understand these things. But in the life of Hannah we see that God knows our story from beginning to end, that everything has a purpose, and that trust in Him is never misplaced.

Join us on Tuesday Evenings as we learn more about Hanna's story in our Study of 1 Samuel.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ **Worship and Watch** – Will be held on **Sunday January 25, 2015 – 6:00 PM City Life Church – Penn's Landing Caterer – 1301 South Columbus Blvd., Phila, PA 19147. Please make every effort to join the Body of Christ from various parts of South Philadelphia for an exciting night of prayer, worship and fellowship.**

Missionaries – Binu John, India

– (financing) for a property in India being sold by an Indian believer in the U.S. In three floors..., we can have office rooms, staff housing and Ignite students housing. We can also have class rooms and conduct church services.

- With the Hindutva government in power, RSS and other Hindu militant organizations are raising their ugly head against Christians in India. With their mission of **GHAR WAPASI** means **Return to Home**, they started to reconvert Christians to Hinduism in different places... We need your prayers more than ever before. The time ahead is not going to be easy. (Their public statement includes: No Christianity. No Bible. Either covert or else leave our Hindurashtra soon. Will erase Christianity by 2021. We are ready to die for Hindutva.)

From VOM:

Ten Christian workers and three girls under the age of 6 were arrested in the central region of **India** on Dec. 28 and charged with "deliberate and malicious acts intended to hurt religious feelings." They were accused of forcing conversions and insulting the gods and goddesses of the village.

(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

Visit www.vomclassroom.com to view a selection of online classes that will guide you through persecution studies. These courses, available at no cost, will deepen your knowledge of and effectiveness in ministry to the persecuted church. Each class is self-enrolled and self-paced, allowing you to study and complete courses as your schedule allows.