



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.

Pre-Existence of Jesus

Pre-existence is defined as "existence in a former state or previous to something else." In the case of Jesus Christ, His pre-existence means that, before He became a man and walked upon the earth, He was already in existence as the second Person of the triune God. The Bible not only explicitly teaches this doctrine but also implies this fact at various points throughout the Gospels and Epistles. In addition, Jesus' own actions reveal His divine identity and, as a consequence, His pre-existence.

Several places in the New Testament explicitly teach Jesus' pre-existence. Jesus said, "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" (John 17:5). This passage alone is sufficient to show that the Scripture supports Jesus' pre-existence, but it is just one of many such passages. Jesus Himself explicitly taught His own pre-existence (John 3:13; 6:33, 38, 62; 8:23; 16:28). Christ even said that He existed prior to Abraham's birth (John 8:58-59) even though Abraham's birth preceded Jesus' own birth by many centuries! Several texts present Jesus as pre-existing with His Father (Romans 8:3; 1 John 1:2; Galatians 4:4). Several passages even identify Jesus as the Creator (John 1:2-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2).

That Jesus pre-existed in His divinity is further proven by His being the object of worship repeatedly in the Gospels (Matthew 28:9, 17; Luke 24:52; John 9:38; 20:28). Never did Jesus reject such adoration. He saw such worship as entirely appropriate. Jesus implied that He had authority over the Sabbath (Mark 2:28) as well as the authority to abolish the Law (Ephesians 2:14-15). Such behavior is sheer blasphemy coming from anyone short of a divine (and therefore pre-existent) Person.

In addition, Jesus identified Himself as the divine Son of Man (Mark 14:61-64) and claimed to be able to raise Himself from the dead (John 10:17-18)! This turned out to be the very miracle that He claimed would authenticate His radical claims and ministry (Matthew 12:38-40; 16:1-4). Jesus accomplished this grand miracle and gave convincing proof of it (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:26; 21:1-14; Acts 1:3-6). This miracle established Jesus' claim to deity and thus provides further confirmation of His pre-existence.

Please join us on Thursday Evenings at 7:00 PM as we continue our study of Jesus (Christology)

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

⇒ **POWER in PRAYER** – Prayer services Tuesday night, 6:30 @ FCA & Thursday night, 6:00 @ PAC.

Missionaries – John Cutts, Indonesia

As we reflect on this past year and what lies ahead in the New Year, we are reminded of each of you and the incredible, multi-talented team God has put together. Not only has 2014 seen the teamwork between our village communities and the Timika Rock Church and the Jakarta Praise Community Church grow, but we have been blessed by the generous giving and service of so many other individuals.

(example) Our team of Moni translators works tirelessly on a volunteer basis to translate hundreds of verses each quarter and is simultaneously working on Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and 10 other books of the Old Testament!

We will blast out of the starting blocks in January 2015 with a team of doctors from Gainesville, GA who will be visiting some distant villages and working with a team to address health needs. My sister Amy, a nurse practitioner, and Jaime, Alina and I will be along to help translate while our Moni sister, Alice, does some serious cooking. With reports coming in of unusually high numbers of people dying in some of these places, this visit isn't happening any too soon.

May God give you a fabulous 2015 filled with reminders of His love, care, protection and guidance because of and through His "unspeakable gift". . . . Jesus!

(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

Christians from around the world join the "online prayer meeting" at www.icommittopray.com to share their prayers for our persecuted family members. A Christian man was shot and killed just outside a Mombasa, Kenya, church gate on Jan. 11 after he was mistakenly identified as the church's pastor. George Muriki, 25, was at the gate of the Maximum Revival Ministries church when he was approached by unidentified gunmen.