



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.

SUFFERING

The Bible is startlingly realistic when it comes to the problem of endured suffering. For one thing, the Bible devotes an entire book to dealing with the problem. This book concerns a man named Job. Job suffers because God contested with Satan. As far as we know, this was never known by Job or any of his friends. It is therefore not surprising that they all struggle to explain Job's suffering from the perspective of their ignorance, until Job finally rests in nothing but the faithfulness of God and the hope of His redemption. Suffering, like all other human experiences, is directed by the sovereign wisdom of God. In the end, we learn that we may never know the specific reason for our suffering, but we must trust in our sovereign God. That is the real answer to suffering.

There are many other examples of suffering in the Bible. David for example, cried and complained to God on many occasions, much of which is contained in the Psalms. It remained a mystery to David as to why God did not intervene and end his suffering and pain.

Did God ever answer David? Yes, not only by bringing comfort during David's lifetime, but then roughly one millennium later, a descendant of David named Jesus was killed on a hill called Calvary. On the cross, Jesus endured the suffering and shame of his forefather. Christ's hands and feet were pierced. Christ's garments were divided among his enemies. Christ was stared at and derided. In fact, Christ uttered the words with which David opened Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" thus identifying Himself with the suffering of David.

In addition, the New Testament contains some comforting words for those enduring hardship and suffering, Romans 8:28 declares; "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." In His providence, God orchestrates every event in our lives—even suffering, temptation and sin—to accomplish both our temporal and eternal benefit.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

Men's and Women's Fellowship – TOMORROW, Monday, February 23. Both will begin at 6:30 PM. Men will meet at the Church and Women will meet at Gloria Melloni's house. Women see Gloria Felicione and men see Dom Cesari if you are planning to attend.

Missionaries – Papua, New Guinea

The Lord Is My Flag preschool in the village of Polga has begun the new school year. Opening was delayed due to building damage from high wind storms. During the opening ceremony, thanks was expressed for the computer donated by Lidi, the Brazilian missionary. (She had been able to buy it used from MAF for a very small fee.) Also, thanks was expressed to the American friend who had sent 3 boxes of children's books through Lois. These were the first books the school has had. Praise God. Next week I will start the weekly Bible class. The only thing that frightens me is the drive to there on the public motor vehicle where we ride around a road section that disappeared due to a landslide. It appears to be bigger.

I pray. Blessings, Lois

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 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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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

Gabriel Jeyva, 19, was serving his mandatory military service when he was accused of forming a cartel against the Cuban government. When Gabriel's father, a pastor, went to the prison to visit him, the guards refused to let them speak to one another. "We know this is a form of persecution from the government, to hurt this young man because he is the son of a pastor," a VOM contact said. The Jeyva family is integral to a new church plant that VOM sources say is a "powerful blessing" in the community.