

March 1, 2015



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.

RESIST THE DEVIL

[1Pe 5:8-9] 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Interestingly, the Bible never gives Christians the authority to "rebuke" the devil, only to resist him. Zech 3:2 and Jude 1:9.

The phrase "resist the devil" is found in James 4:7 where the apostle exhorts believers to resist the devil in order to cause him to flee from us. To resist means to withstand, strive against, or oppose in some manner. Resistance can be a defensive maneuver, such as resisting or withstanding the temptation to sin. Or it can be an action we take to use the only offensive weapon in the full armor of God (Eph 6:13-18), the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Using the Scriptures to expose Satan's lies and temptations is the most effective way to strive against and defeat them.

It is important to read the whole verse: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Resisting the devil must be accompanied by submitting to God. A disobedient or un-submissive believer will not see victory.

Why will resistance cause the devil to flee? Because he knows he cannot have victory over us if we are prepared to do battle against him. There is nothing more frightening to Satan than a believer who is fully equipped with spiritual armor, beginning with the "helmet of salvation," which protects our minds, and the "breastplate of righteousness," which protects our hearts. Only a true believer wears these because only those who have received God's forgiveness by grace through faith have eternal salvation and the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

The final piece of armor is prayer. We pray for strength to resist evil and to actively battle against it. We pray for wisdom in the conflict, and most of all, we remain steadfast in our prayers, both for the ability to resist the devil and also for other believers who struggle in the same battle. When the church, the body of Christ, stands united against evil, fully equipped with the armor of God, we present a formidable foe to the evil one and we will see God get the glory for the victory.

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries – Philippines

Dear Friends and family,

Thank you for your valued time in thought and prayer for all of us. Enjoy your time in His presence. As the Psalmist says, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16: 11

We love because He first loved us,

Donna

The K-team that I serve with volunteered to help teach the Family Development Seminars in the government financial assistance program called 4 Ps. This allows the team to visit 2 new communities and in their teaching of family/community values to naturally incorporate God's values.

It was a fun co-teaching experience in a mixed Maranao/Cebuano speaking community with Lea teaching the lesson on dealing with family stress in Cebuano and me telling the story of Nabi Nok (the prophet Noah) in Maranao. Afterward our appreciative audience clapped and the older community imam was curious as to why I could speak Maranao. He kindly asked who I was. I answered, "I'm a follower of Isa al Masih." He then said, "Jesus was a created being." To which I responded with amazement at the many titles given Him both in the Koran and the Bible, ie "the spirit from God, the word of God, the Son of David, the Son of Man." This led to telling the story of the paralysed man who was healed and his sins forgiven by "the Son of Man." Our friendly conversation ended with a smile and him accepting a book of Jesus, the gospel of Matthew.

(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

Pakistan – Pray for:

Humara's mother, a Christian, was kidnapped and murdered while visiting relatives in another city. As a poor Christian, she was probably seen as a target. After her mother's murder, Humara was often left at home alone while her father worked. The young girl's father struggled to provide for her, so when he learned about a Christian children's home, he asked for their help. Humara is doing well at the children's home and is attending school for the first time. Her father visits her regularly.