



# 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.*

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## LESSONS FROM SAUL

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There are many lessons we can learn from the life of King Saul. First, obey the Lord and seek to do His will. From the very start of his reign, Saul had the perfect opportunity to be the benchmark by which all future kings could be measured. All he had to do was to seek the Lord wholeheartedly, obey His commandments and align his will with that of God's, and his rule would have been a God-honoring one. However, like so many others, Saul chose a different path and strayed away from God. We find a perfect example of his disobedience in the incident where God commanded him to kill all the Amalekites, but Saul kept the king (Agag) and some of the spoils of war. Saul compounded his troubles by lying to Samuel over the incident. He claimed that it was the people that saved all of the animals (1 Samuel 15). This act, plus many others over the course of his rule, emphasized the fact that he could not be trusted to be an instrument of God's will.

The second lesson we learn is not to misuse the power given to us. There is no question that King Saul abused the power God had entrusted to him. The over-riding reason for this is the pride that often creeps into our hearts when people are serving and honoring us. In time, this type of "star treatment" can make us believe that we really are something special and worthy of praise. When this happens, we forget that God is the one who is really in control and that He alone rules over all. God may have chosen Saul because he was humble, but over time that humility was replaced by a self-serving and destructive pride that destroyed his rule.

How much different Saul's life would have turned out had he simply obeyed God. The life of King Saul could be summed up in a modern cliché: *It's not how you start; It's how you finish.* Saul started out very well only to see his subsequent disobedient actions derail what could have been a stellar, God-honoring rule over the nation of Israel. However, by ignoring God and His wise counsel (given through the prophet Samuel), Saul allowed the spiritual health of his people to deteriorate and ultimately, alienated himself and them from God. Join us on Tuesday's at 7:00 PM as we continue our study in 1 Samuel.

### Ministry Highlights

#### Announcements:

- *Both Fellowships are at 6:30 TOMORROW, Monday, 3/23. The men will meet @ FCA and the women will meet at Gloria Melloni's house. Men and women please let Dominic C. or Gloria F., respectively, know if you will be attending.*
- *You Are Invited to the Philadelphia Access Center's Seventh Annual Fundraising Banquet, Friday, April 10, 2015 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM; silent auction checkout at 9:30 PM. Free parking in the IATSE Ballroom lot adjacent to the building. Please contact PAC to purchase tickets by March 20.*

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#### Missionaries- Papua, New Guinea

I accompanied the Brazilian couple to Kuna where I had previously been when Pastor Coelho had baptized a huge group in the river. The flood had come there as well, but no one had been killed. This amazing new church has among its members a magistrate and two big community leaders who have come to faith in Jesus there. I did a little program with the children during the sermon time. The presence of the LORD is there and such a blessing.

MAF had a crisis this past week. One plane (Caravan) loaded with passengers, including a burn victim, was stranded in a remote bush airport due to propeller damage when it tried to take off; the propeller had gotten damaged in the mud. With all the rain, there are sink holes. Then another plane (Twin Otter) was sent in and it got stuck in the mud. A helicopter was sent and it could not land due to overcast. Three days later, they finally got the second plane out. The first one needs repairs so that will involve flying parts out and so on. Neal had heard that the burn victim was suffering badly. Flying here can be very dangerous at times. Prayer covering for MAF needed at all times....Lois

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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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

### **WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	<b>FCA</b>	<b>PAC</b>
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service &amp; 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**

Padina's next move could lead to her arrest or death. She leads one of Iran's secret house church networks. These Christians must operate like secret agents, using code words, confidential identities and secret meeting places. Their mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to train His disciples in the Islamic Republic of Iran. If caught, they could be imprisoned, tortured or even put to death.

Padina shares what life is like in Iran, where Christianity is growing dramatically even though the penalties for following Christ are some of the world's most severe. What transformed a Muslim woman intent on suicide into one of Iran's leading Christians? Hear more at [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com) on the "Get Involved"/"Radio" tab.