



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.

ASCENSION

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven. The account of Jesus' ascension is found in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11).

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:

- 1) It signaled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
- 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-9).
- 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father (Eph 1:20-23). The One with whom the Father is well pleased (Matt 17:5) was received up in honor and given a name above all names (Phil 2:9).
- 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Heb 4:14-16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Heb 9:15).
- 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Dan 7:13-14; Matt 24:30; Rev 1:7).

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honor and authority (Ps 110:1; Eph 1:20; Heb 8:1). Christ is the Head of the Church (Col 1:18), the giver of spiritual gifts (Eph 4:7-8), and the One who fills all in all (Eph 4:9-10).

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries John & Joy Cutts, Indonesia

Joy and I want to take this opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU to each of those on the team for the love they shared, the sacrifices they made, and the quality care they provided to the tribal communities around the highlands area of Pogapa. They will not soon be forgotten. . . and the stories will only get bigger with time, much like Ben, our 6 foot 6 inch gentle giant who threw kids in the air to dizzying heights, giving them their first flying lessons, and then catching them to assure a safe landing! I am sure there will be endless tales of Dr. Steve who made the blind to see after doing an eye tune up and finding exact glasses to meet each situation.

Mark Henson, an infectious disease specialist, wrote the following: "The trip to Papua with some of my friends taught me that God is not quite done with this old doctor. He still has things for me to do in His world. He had things to remind me of about Himself. He is transcendentally sovereign over His entire creation and lovingly imminent with all those He has made in His image, even me.

What a joy and privilege it was to see first hand some of the work that He has done among these Moni people through the Cutts family and to participate in some small way in medically caring for some of the church, Jesus' bride, there. We were welcomed and in many instances embraced, by these broadly smiling Papuans. My heart was in many ways revived to what God is doing all over His world and made hopeful again of my participation in it. Our entire trip was exhilarating, exhausting, challenging and fun. I am hopeful that I am allowed to return."

(to be continued)

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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

Mar. 26, 2015 | Pakistan: Pray for Christians Affected by Two Church Bombings

At least 17 people were killed and 78 wounded in two separate church bombings on March 15. The suicide-bomb attacks occurred within minutes of each other in the Christian neighborhood of Youhanabad, in eastern Lahore. Witnesses said four security guards and police, who died in the attacks, prevented even more injuries and deaths by tackling the bombers before they detonated their explosives. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks.