



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.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The doctrine of the virgin birth is crucially important (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27, 34). First, let's look at how Scripture describes the event. In response to Mary's question, "How will this be?" (Luke 1:34), Gabriel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35). The angel encourages Joseph to not fear marrying Mary with these words: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20). Matthew states that the virgin "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18). Galatians 4:4 also teaches the Virgin Birth: "God sent His Son, born of a woman." From these passages, it is certainly clear that Jesus' birth was the result of the Holy Spirit working within Mary's body. The immaterial (the Spirit) and the material (Mary's womb) were both involved. Mary, of course, could not impregnate herself, and in that sense she was simply a "vessel." Only God could perform the miracle of the Incarnation.

However, denying a physical connection between Mary and Jesus would imply that Jesus was not truly human. Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully human, with a physical body like ours. This He received from Mary. At the same time, Jesus was fully God, with an eternal, sinless nature (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14-17.)

Jesus was not born in sin; that is, He had no sin nature (Hebrews 7:26). It would seem that the sin nature is passed down from generation to generation through the father (Romans 5:12, 17, 19). The Virgin Birth circumvented the transmission of the sin nature and allowed the eternal God to become a perfect man. So then does someone have to believe in the virgin birth in order to be a true born-again child of God? The answer is yes. Without the virgin birth, we cannot have a messiah. It is impossible. Only God can forgive or remove sin. Therefore a sinful man would have been unable to accomplish what Jesus, accomplished on the cross on our behalf. Jesus, the sinless God-man, took our sin upon Himself, He suffered, died and rose from the dead to pay our sin debt. *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable [are] his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*
Rom 11:33

Join us as we continue our study of Jesus on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM –(PAC conference room)

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- ***Men and Women's Fellowships – Monday, May 18 at 6:30 PM. The men will meet at FCA and the women will meet at Gloria Melloni's house. Please let Gloria Felicione and Dominic Cesari know if you will be attending.***

Missionaries

John & Joy Cutts, Indonesia

Steve Wisehart, after a crazy day back at the office wrote this: "It's 1:00 am and the day has been long, but what better time to say thanks for encouraging our medical team to head out to Papua with you. Thank you, John & Joy, for sharing your people, the Moni, with us. The generational investment of you and your parents has clearly yielded a harvest which can not be denied; however, we can and must pray that God will raise up the leaders to carry this mission forward.

Hopefully a plan for the growth and education of Moni leaders will continue to take shape. Prayerfully, the commitment of partners around the world will grow as it seems the needs are great and the people are fragile. I must say the country was so beautiful with its rugged mountains and abundant streams. It has bountiful resources with fertile ground and awesome fruits that I had never seen or eaten. Though picturesque, this landscape brings isolation and physical challenges. We saw a friendly, gracious, and poor but charitable people pressing on through physical wear, disease, and uncertain futures. The leaning of pastor Jacob on The Lord in spite of his "Job- like" losses was touching to me as were the prayers and tears of gratitude of many patients we tried to help. The people are the richest and most colorful resource. I hope they will weather the killer diseases they barely understand, the rebels who would misdirect their affections, and the pressures of a nation anxious to use its resources.

Thank you again for the trip of a lifetime and for your tireless service to these people. May the Lord continue the harvest in that land until His coming."

(to be continued)

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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 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

Apr. 10, 2015 | Kenya: Pray for Christian University Students Attacked by al-Shabab

Four gunmen from the Islamist group al-Shabab stormed Garissa University on April 2, killing at least 148 people. The militants forced their way into the university in the early morning hours with the intention of holding Christians hostage. A student who escaped the attack said he could hear the militants opening doors, asking students if they were Muslim or Christian and immediately shooting those who replied that they were Christian. The four militants were killed by police more than 15 hours after the attack began.