



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.

TALKING DEAD ?

A medium is a person who communicates with spirits. A medium is, literally, an "intermediary" between the spirit world and ours. The Bible condemns the practice and any attempt to speak to the dead, through séances or other means.

Sometimes mediums are called "channelers," as they allegedly "channel" communication from the dead to the living usually through the use of the medium's "familiar spirit". The messages may come audibly, visually, or through physical sensations.

In Lev 20:27 and Deut 18:10–11, mediums are condemned along with "spiritists, including diviners, sorcerers, witches/wizards, anyone who casts spells, and anyone who practices child sacrifice.

King Saul's sinful use of a medium is recorded in 1 Samuel 28. The prophet Samuel was dead, and King Saul was frustrated that God had ceased telling him what to do through prophets or dreams. So the king, in direct violation of God's Law and his own previous command, told his men to find a medium who could communicate with Samuel. This medium conjured Samuel, and Saul communicated with the dead prophet. Theologians discuss whether this conjuring was a physical reappearance of Samuel or merely an image of him. There is also some question whether or not the medium actually meant to conjure Samuel, as she seems to have been the most surprised at his appearance—"When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice". Perhaps she was a fraud who did not expect to actually see a spirit, or perhaps she was expecting to communicate with her "familiar" and not with Samuel directly. Either way, God seems to have allowed Samuel to return in order to drive home His point to Saul. The prophet's message to Saul was one of doom, and he died the next day.

It should be noted that the spirit a medium conjures is *not* the spirit of a deceased person. Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:18–31 gives strong evidence that, once a person is dead, his soul remains in either heaven or hell. Thus, the spirits who communicate with mediums are lying spirits who deceive people into believing their lost loved ones are communicating to them. Any involvement with such practices, including asking mediums for guidance is sin and is strongly warned against in the Bible.

Please join us on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM as we continue our Study in 1 Samuel.

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries – Philippines

I'm thankful for the Mobile Clinic, the team and Colin, who works so hard to keep the truck running. We were in 3 separate areas with the mobile clinic in the last month. Nerlene and Leah also arranged a small circumcision clinic to do without the mobile clinic in one of the K-town communities. We just took the needed equipment in our old Pajero car. We are also required by the mayor and the police of K-town to take along a police escort if I or any other foreigner is a part of the group serving. So we did. Our escort was a very polite M officer, Andy.

The team did circumcisions for 4 little boys and I did health check ups with the parents and neighbors. During our time there Nerlene was excited to tell stories leading to Jesus that encouraged several of the young women. It is a farming community and since I've been meditating over the story of the sower these days, I told that story, emphasizing the importance of the word of God (Allah) and that the enemy (shaitan or satan) wants to steal it away. When we showed them the book of Matthew where the stories come from they all wanted to have a copy. Without hesitation, we gave away 7 books to our friends and to our nice police escort, Andy.

The following day we visited with an oosta (oosta'da'; a lady teacher in the Arabic school) and her husband who are old friends of the team. After some social exchange and health checkups, we talked about Jesus. They wanted the whole Bible in their language, and enjoy reading the one they have that is in the trade language. We plan to go back and hopefully have a regular time of listening and learning together from God's writings and the words of Jesus.

Pray as we visit that we would prayerfully talk about Jesus that they would have eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him. Please **pray** that Jesus will be lifted up in every way by our visits in the community.

(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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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

Just as 61-year-old Elizabeth Odipo rushed the last of her five grandchildren from her burning home, the roof collapsed. The Muslim militants who burned her home in Hindi, Kenya, wanted her to deny her faith and reject Christianity. Despite the possible consequences, she stood firm in her faith. Elizabeth and her grandchildren, like more than 3,000 other Kenyans who fled attacks, received immediate assistance through VOM's Families of Martyrs Fund. VOM provided food, bedding, mosquito nets and other means of support.