



# 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.*

## *FOOD FOR FAITH*

Unless we understand how to properly digest the Word of God, even a knowledge of Bible truth can puff us up with intellectual pride, rather than build us up in our spiritual life. Instead of merely gaining knowledge during our daily time together with our Lord, we need to receive nourishment from His banqueting table that will provide us with 'food for faith'.

In striking contrast to those who read the Bible as only an academic exercise are the many joyful believers who have discovered the secret of reading the Word of God so that it becomes a practical and living source of true spiritual nourishment in their lives. These Christians are experiencing the growing reality of a life of fellowship with God and in the process are discovering the way of genuine worship and fruitful service. To such people the bondage of self-consciousness will give way to the blessing of God-consciousness.

To approach God confidently and personally each day with an open Bible and an open heart is the wonderful privilege of every born-again Child of God.

The question you may be asking is: What is the best way to read the Bible so that it will nourish my soul and enable me to grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ? The secret is found in what I call "togetherness with the Lord." It is really a two-way conversation with our living Lord. **Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to His children.** As we respond correctly and personally to what God is saying, we will learn how to pray biblically and with expectant faith.

When I speak about 'praying biblically', I mean that we actually use the very words of the Scriptures we are reading when we respond to our Lord in prayer. To pray biblically is to enjoy a growing assurance of praying in accordance with the will of God.

As the Holy Spirit makes God's Word living to us, we use those exact words of Scripture and relate them to the concerns that may be upon our heart. Praying in this way, we will be saved from stereotyped prayers. Instead, when we pray biblically, we will enjoy privileged fellowship with the Lord as we enter into a growing understanding of His own concerns and purposes in our life.

*Excerpted from Food for Faith by Richard Bennett*

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- *Believers' water baptism will be scheduled soon. Anyone interested in being baptized, please see Pastor Melloni.*
- *Sunday morning and Thursday night Bible studies will not be held during the month of August.*

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### Missionaries Papua, New Guinea

I recently had a community leader from Enga Province come by with his wife to see me. Apparently I had given him a Bible a while back and Ben Peter told me he had changed since then. His first wife had given him 11 children and then had run away with a new husband. He said his own new wife was taking care of him. He said he is a Christian now. I talked to him about the importance of being the spiritual leader in his home and not taking bribes in his role as a community leader. His wife had made me a bag with our names on it. They were spelled phonetically, but I treasure that moreso than if they had been spelled correctly.

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

*Jul. 09, 2015 | Iran: Praise God for the Release of Homayoun*

Homayoun, an Iranian Christian, was released from prison on June 28. He and three others were arrested in February 2012 in a raid on their house church. Homayoun was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison. In April of this year, he was transferred to a notorious punishment ward in Adelabad Prison and was not allowed to have contact with his family. Please pray that he will recover quickly and readjust to life outside prison