



# 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 Ascension of Jesus Christ*

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 (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, 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 (Psalm 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). *Join us as we continue our study of Christology on Thursday's at 7:00PM in PAC conference room*

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- Next Men & Women's Fellowship, November 16, will be the Operation Christmas Child shoebox party. In preparation for that, please note the collection box in the back of the church. Donations in that box will be used for purchasing the items for the boxes and the per box fee requested by Samaritan's Purse for shipping and handling.
- Global Missions Frontier Missions Conference is November 17-20th @ 7:00 PM here at FCA.

### **ENCOURAGING THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION TO:**

- *Worship in Christ's presence with other believers*
- *Be edified and equipped by the ministry of God's Word*
- *Be refreshed by the Holy Spirit*

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### OUR MISSIONARIES

- ❖ Pastor Binu John, India
- ❖ John & Joy Cutts, Indonesia
- ❖ John Koehler, Mongolia
- ❖ Neal & Lois Semanision, Papua, New Guinea
- ❖ Donna Schaber, Philippines
- ❖ Ed & Deb Gross, Citi Net/USA (CityNet Ministries)/South Africa
- ❖ Pastor Cleopas & Sarita Chitapa, Zimbabwe

(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**

*Sep. 11, 2015 / Uganda: Pray for "Michael," Christian Convert from Islam*

VOM workers met "Michael," a Christian convert from Islam, during a recent VOM-sponsored event. He was very well known as a Muslim, and after accepting Christ and beginning to challenge other Muslims about their faith, his father repeatedly threatened him. During the event, Michael stood at the podium for about 20 minutes, "singing to God and testifying of His goodness." On the day of the event, Michael's wife also placed her faith in Christ. Pray for Michael and other Christian converts from Islam who face persecution for their faith.