



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.

JESUS, Author and Finisher

Jesus is described as the author and perfecter, or finisher, of our faith in Heb 12:2. An author is an originator or creator, as of a theory or plan. The Greek word translated "author" can also mean "captain," "chief leader" or "prince." From this we can deduce that Christ is the originator of our faith in that He begins it, as well as the captain and prince of our faith. This indicates that Jesus controls our faith, steers it as a captain steers a ship, and presides over it and cares for it as a monarch presides over and cares for his people.

The Greek word translated "finisher" appears only this one time in the New Testament. It means literally "completer" and speaks of bringing something to its conclusion. Putting the two words together, we see that Jesus, as God, both creates and sustains our faith. We know that saving faith is a gift from God, not something we come up with on our own (Eph 2:8-9), and that gift comes from Christ, its creator. He is also the sustainer of our faith, meaning that true saving faith cannot be lost, taken away or given away. This is a source of great comfort to believers, especially in times of doubt and spiritual struggles. Christ has created our faith and He will watch over it, care for it, and sustain it.

It is important for us to understand that God in Christ is not only the creator and sustainer of our saving faith, but He is also the sustainer of our daily walk and the finisher of our spiritual journey. For if God in Christ is not the author of our new life, and if Christ is not the finisher and perfecter of our faith through the Holy Spirit's indwelling power, then we are neither born again nor are we a true follower of Christ.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:6); ***"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory"*** (Eph 1:13-14).

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.***

Missionaries **Papua, New Guinea**

Here are some photos from the new class at Puntuble, which meets in a church. We had about 60 kids the last time. Janine, a missionary from NZ and I started the class. Lillian, who teaches with me at Polga, came last time as well. We hope to resume classes at Polga tomorrow. The churches there were supposed to meet Sunday about the fighting that has disrupted everything. The little boy I am holding is named after his father (Joseph) and Neal, as in JoNeal. Lois



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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

Sep. 25, 2015 / China: Pray for Pastors Cheng and Zhao, Imprisoned for "Undermining Police"

Chinese pastors Cheng Hongspeng and Zhao Weiliang were found guilty on May 27 of "using a cult to undermine law enforcement" and sentenced to three and four years of imprisonment respectively. Last year, police raided a factory owned by a church member and arrested 22 Christians at choir practice. The other Christians were eventually released, but both pastors were held. Their lawyers say the evidence against them was fabricated and their imprisonment is "an attack on religious belief." Please pray for the pastors and their families.