



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.

SARAH

We continue our look at the Old Testament figures recognized for their life of faith.

Sarah began her life in the pagan world of Ur, in the land of the Chaldees, which was located in the area now known as Iraq. She was the half-sister, as well as the wife, of Abram who would become Abraham.

In those times, barren women were looked upon with disdain. Of course, her husband being the patriarch, as well as a man of prestige and wealth, helped to insulate her from the taunts of the other women who lived around her, but that, too, must have contributed to her deep-seated feeling of emptiness in not having a child of her own. In faith she and her husband Abraham trusted God that she would become the mother of Isaac, the son of the covenant.

Sarah was a simple, beautiful, and very human woman; she made mistakes, just like we all do. She stepped ahead of God and tried to handle His business on her own by foolishly sending her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham to bring forth the child God had promised and thereby ignited a feud that has lasted for 4,000 years (Genesis 16:3). She laughed in unbelief when, at 90 years old, she heard an angel tell Abraham that she would become pregnant (Genesis 19:12), but she gave birth to the promised child and lived another 30 years, dying at the ripe old age of 120.

Sarah took her marriage vows seriously; she loved her husband so much that she willingly left her comfort zone and stepped out into the unknown to follow him, as he followed the directions of a God with whom she was unfamiliar at the time. She loved her husband so much that she turned her head while he took another woman into their bed, with her permission, because she did not want him to go through life without an heir. She loved her husband so much that she willingly allowed herself to be taken by a pharaoh, and a king, just to keep Abraham safe. She loved her husband so much that she believed their union, at the ages of 90 and 100, would produce the promised heir, Isaac, which it did. In faith, Sarah knew how to honor her commitments, and although she lived in a world of danger and confusion, made mistakes, and had the same problems and issues that every woman does, she stood firm in her commitment to her husband and to God.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

➤ *First Christian Assembly will be holding an **OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday December 13th during our Morning Worship Service. We will be highlighting all the various ministries and services that are available at the Church as well as The Philadelphia Access Center. This will be a great opportunity to not only learn more about these ministries but also how you can get involved. I hope that you will be able to join us and please invite a friend.*

Missionaries - India

Me and Tracy had a fruitful time in the mission fields. Sadly we both fell sick in the middle of the trip and had to cancel some of the scheduled meetings. Yet God was good to us through the illness. Some of the highlights:

1. Inauguration of Discipleship training in telugu language: Ten candidates signed up for the course.
2. Starting of a tailoring school for empowering economically less privileged women
3. Daily two meetings. Some of the evening meetings lasted up to 10:45pm. Songs and wonders followed by the messages.
4. Travel by foot, auto, bicycle, bike, boat, bus and train.
5. Weather was good and the people were hospitable. No threats.

Thanks for your valuable prayers. It is a joy to partner with you in reaching the lost souls of India. Appreciate your prayers and faithful support. God bless you. With love and prayers:

Pastor Binu John

PS: Regarding the building fund, we need a miracle. God is adding little by little. If you like to generously give an one time gift, please mail your tax deductible gifts to: **Care India Mission, PO Box 52294, Philadelphia, PA, 19115.**

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

When Christian families were forced out of their homes in northern Iraq by the Islamic extremists known as ISIS, they had to leave everything behind. Many of the families fled to other areas of Iraq and the neighboring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. They have escaped immediate danger, but they are still living near the ISIS frontlines. These families are living in shelters, warehouses, and vacated apartments. The parents cannot work to provide for their children, and the children have no schools to attend. Partnering with local Christian leaders, VOM is working to launch a new Christian elementary school for children who have suffered at the hands of ISIS.