



# 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.*

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## JOSEPH

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

As a 17-year-old shepherd, Joseph is something of a tattler, bringing a bad report about his brothers to their father (Genesis 37:2). This behavior, combined with Jacob's overt favoritism towards Joseph, causes his older brothers to resent him to the point of hatred (37:3-4). Because of Jacob's open love for Joseph, his favoritism was begrudged by his other sons. And when Jacob presented Joseph with a highly decorated coat, he was hated and resented by his brothers all the more (Genesis 37:3). To make matters worse, Joseph begins relating his dreams—prophetic visions showing Joseph one day ruling over his family (Genesis 37:11-15). The animosity towards Joseph peaks when his brothers plot to kill him in the wilderness. Reuben, the eldest, objects to outright murder, so instead, the brothers sell Joseph as a slave and deceive their father into thinking his favorite son had been slain by wild beasts (Genesis 37:18-35).

There is much to learn from Joseph's story. As parents, we have warnings concerning Jacob's favoritism and the effects that can have on other children as seen in Joseph's youthful pride and his brothers' envy and hatred. We have a good example of how to handle sexual temptation—run (Genesis 39:12; cf. 2 Timothy 2:22), and we have a clear picture of God's faithfulness. He does not forsake His children, even in the midst of suffering: "the Lord was with Joseph" (Genesis 39:3, 5, 21, 23).

There may be many distressing circumstances we find ourselves in, and some of them may even be unjust, as were those in Joseph's life. However, as we learn from the account of Joseph's life, by remaining faithful and accepting that God is ultimately in charge, we can be confident that God will reward our faithfulness in the fullness of time.

Perhaps most profoundly, Joseph's story presents amazing insight into how God sovereignly works to overcome evil and bring about His plan. After all his ordeals, Joseph is able to see God's hand at work. As he reveals his identity to his brothers, Joseph speaks of their sin this way: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Man's most wicked intentions can never thwart the perfect plan of 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.***

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#### Missionaries - Philippines

Monday morning, Oct 19, leaving Iligan at 2 am the K-team and I headed to Davao City for a week of meetings held once every two years for M workers. We had a nice breakfast stop earlier and now, 7 hrs into the drive and going through the mountains we stopped for a rest and birthday snack (it was Susana's birthday) and after that we met a number of new friends who tried to help us fix our car, Paji, that would no longer start. Five hours later after several other travellers, the security watcher of a nearby house, a near by mechanic, and even the owner of the rest area where we stopped tried to help, we were not going to travel by that car. The bus was a viable option until the mechanic said that he and his retired army neighbor would be able to tow us the 86 km to the city and our destination. So they tied...yes tied Paji to an old Jeepney (real old) and began towing us slowly down the mountain (real slow). The meetings where we were going to had started and the whole conference was praying for the "group that was broken down in the mountains"; for which we were all thankful... The meetings were good and encouraging and focused on caring for the workers and the theme, Jesus' words, "Do you really love me?".

Please pray that I will get the necessary papers together for my visa renewal that is due 11/21. I am so thankful for the servant hearts of the Baily's, Patrick and Shari, allowing me to stay with them in Davao...

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 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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><br>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><br>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><br>1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i> |
| Thursday  |  | 6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i><br>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.

### **From: Voice of the Martyrs**

*Oct. 09, 2015 | Middle East: Pray for "Zahirah," a Christian Convert Forced to Leave Home*

"Zahirah," a Christian convert from Islam, was abused by her husband long before she became a Christian. And her husband became even more violent when she put her faith in Christ. She and her children left home and are now living in a building shared by several families. Zahirah is sharing her faith with a Syrian couple with a Muslim background. Though the wife has had a vision of Jesus, the couple decided to become more devout Muslims for fear that their relatives would kill them if they converted to Christianity. "Jesus died for me," Zahirah said. "How can I give him less? I need to give my whole life for Him." The Syrian couple told Zahirah that they are now reconsidering their decision. Please pray for this couple. Pray also for Zahirah as she pursues her ministry, and pray that she will be granted legal custody of her children.