



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.

VIRGIN BIRTH

The very first verse in Scripture that contains a messianic prophecy, Genesis 3:15, speaks about the virgin birth: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." Notice that the seed mentioned is of a woman and not of a man — a fact that should not be overlooked as the Jews were a very patriarchal culture, with men being typically identified as the one begetting children.

Paul carries this exact same idea forward in Galatians 4:4-5 when he says, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons"

Of course, the most famous prediction of the virgin birth is found in Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

So the first reason why the virgin birth cannot be separated from the Christian faith is that the Bible teaches it in both the Old and New Testaments.

The second reason why Christianity cannot stand without the virgin birth of Christ is that salvation absolutely requires it.

The Bible teaches that since the Fall, each person is born in the sinful image of their parents. Paul states this explicitly when he writes, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12).

To escape the sin disease, and for Jesus to be the spotless/sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, He had to be virgin born. A. W. Tozer puts it like this:

He took that nature [humanity] unto Him by the virgin birth. The reason He took it by the virgin birth was that He could assume to Himself human nature without assuming any of the tainted human sin. So when you hear someone questioning the virgin birth of Jesus, saying it doesn't make any difference who His father was, it doesn't make any difference how He was born, you need to speak truth to them.

(Excerpted article from blogos by Robin Schumacher)

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

➤ **TODAY, First Christian Assembly is holding an OPEN HOUSE 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.**

Missionaries - Afghanistan John Koehler

I am always amazed at the kindness of God expressed in His gracious surprises. I have been experiencing His surprises here. **First**, the guest house where I am staying at, is not just nice, but the people have become like family to me. I have really enjoyed our times of interaction and gleaning from their years of being here. **Secondly**, my first meeting with like minded people was a refreshing time for me. I remember just feeling at home among these people of like mind and heart. **Thirdly**, getting to visit a few of the families of Afghan students who are studying in Mongolia has been an incredible joy! **Fourthly**, it has been so good to reconnect with a family from Kyrgyzstan. They are becoming good friends. Thank God for His surprises!

(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.

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Nov. 20, 2015 | India: Pray for the Family of "Jeejo," Who Was Killed Because of Missionary Work

In August, Maoists brutally murdered a missionary serving in Odisha state. The leader of the Maoist group came to Jeejo's home one evening, set his house on fire and took Jeejo into the forest. The next day, villagers found Jeejo's body, along with a note forbidding future evangelism in the area. Jeejo had been shot multiple times. "The main reason he was killed," a VOM contact said, "is that through his ministry 44 Maoists have received Christ as personal savior and turned away from their Maoist activities." Maoists are active in several eastern Indian states, including Odisha, where they are waging a guerrilla war in favor of communist rule.