



# 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.

## GRACE WINS

A pastor from North Carolina was just about ready to pounce on a dangerous-looking man who walked into his church wielding a rifle near midnight on New Year's Eve.

But instead of him using his 6-foot-2, 230-pound body to tackle the armed newcomer, Pastor Larry Wright said he embraced and ministered to him after the latter told him that all he wanted was his prayer....

Wright said he took the man's rifle and handed it to a deacon. One by one, the deacon and three other church members hugged the man to make him feel loved. "And then I began to minister to him and pray to him and talk with him," the pastor said.

Wright...said he was talking to his small congregation about the senseless deaths in his community when the man holding a rifle in one hand and an ammo magazine in the other entered the church, sparking fear among the 60 worshippers inside.

Wright, who was a retired Army sergeant, said at first he thought the firearm was a "dummy gun."

"But then I saw the bullet clip in his hand and the bullets were shining," he [said.]

As first reported in the Fayetteville Observer, Wright said he walked up to the man and said, "Can I help you?"

Wright told the man to sit in the front row and stay there.

"I finished the message, I did the altar call and he stood right up, came up to the altar, and gave his life to Christ," the pastor said. "I came down and prayed with him and we embraced. It was like a father embracing a son."

Wright said had the man made an antagonistic move, he would have tackled him to the ground to stop him from harming the people inside.

Indeed, the unidentified man later admitted that he intended to do "something terrible" that night, but that the Lord "spoke" to him and told him to seek prayers instead, Wright said.

The man then apologized to the churchgoers.

*(Reprint from Berean Call 2/1/16 and Christian Today, 1/3/16).*

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- **Men & Women's Fellowships will be held Monday, March 7. Both start at 6:30 PM. Men will be @ FCA and women will be @ Mrs. Melloni's house. See Gloria Felicione and Dominic Cesari if you are interested in attending.**
- **Join us for the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 20.**
- **A Movie Night is being planned for April. Details to follow shortly.**
- **The Philadelphia Access Center's annual dinner will be held on April 22. More details coming.**  
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### Missionaries – John & Joy Cutts, Indonesia

In November of 2015 I met Alion Belau at one of our highland airstrips. Thanks to help from Freeport, Alion is now the first full-fledged pilot from the Moni tribe with commercial, instrument and multi-engine ratings, and he is beginning his flying career to assist the highlands communities of Papua where he grew up. When he was working on his private license in the USA we called him regularly and had friends from a local church pick him up for services so he would stay "on course" living far from home. He is an extreme example of a committed Moni who has risen above the confining social, economic, educational and technical borders which often exist in remote villages, and is using his new found skills of piloting a Cessna Caravan to serve and motivate his home villages.

(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](https://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 (on a hiatus)</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 a 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**

*Jan. 01, 2016 | Central Europe: Praise God for Christians in the Former Soviet Union*

Christians in the former Soviet Union have remained strong and faithful, praying regularly for persecuted Christians around the world. Recently, a woman approached a VOM contact in church and showed him a copy of the VOM newsletter from 2010 that she has been using to pray for persecuted Christians. A VOM worker said this is one example of how Christians in the former Soviet Union pray and seek out newsletters and other tools that offer a "source of real prayer for the persecuted in our world."