



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.

Promise of Perfection

Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:

Eph 4:13 says that the spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Some translations say that we will become "perfect" (instead of "mature"), and from this some people have mistakenly thought that we can reach sinless perfection in this life. The Bible teaches that, while we are in the flesh, we will always struggle with a sin nature (see Rom 7:14-24). No one will be "perfect" (sinless) until we reach heaven.

The word translated "mature" in Eph 4:13 is the Greek word *teleios*. It is used throughout the New Testament to mean "perfect," "complete," "full-grown," and "mature." What Eph 4:13 teaches is that, the more we grow in Christ, the stronger and more unified we will be as a church. The verse does not teach that we will be perfect.

Another passage that sometimes causes confusion is Col 1:28, which says, in some translations, that Paul wants to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Also, in Col 4:12 Paul prays that we would "stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." In both verses, the word *perfect* should be translated as "mature" or "full-grown," not "perfect," in the sense of having no sin.

As human beings we are bound under the curse of Adam in this world. No matter how hard we try not to, we will still sin against God. Paul rebuked Peter for showing favoritism (Gal 2:11-13). Late in his ministry, Paul calls himself the chief of sinners (1 Tim 1:15). Peter, James, John, and Paul all admitted that they were imperfect. How could you or I claim anything different?

True perfection will not come until the Rapture of the church, when we rise to meet Jesus in the air. At that time, we will receive a new body (1 Cor 15:54). We will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10) where our works will be judged and rewards will be given (1 Cor 3:9-15). We will then live forever and reign with Christ in sinless perfection. In the meantime, we have Jesus' promise to complete in us, what he has started. (Phil 1:6)

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- **Join us for the Lord's Supper TODAY Sunday, March 20.**
- **A Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, April 8 at 7:00 PM. The movie is titled "Woodlawn". Tickets are free but are required to reserve a seat. See Gloria Felicione for tickets.**
- **PLEASE NOTE: Due to a communication error, the Philadelphia Access Center's 8th Annual Fundraising Banquet and Silent Auction has been moved to Friday, September 16, 2016.**

Missionaries – Papua, New Guinea

From: [Lois]...to be continued

I had wanted to go to the prison for so long and God gave me the desire of my heart yesterday, as I accompanied a group of us from MAF. This was the second MAF trip. It had been initially initiated by Dan, a volunteer from Switzerland. He has come to PNG for 6 months and his time is about to end.

The prison is located outside the city and to get there we had to traverse this unbelievably horrible road. I guess one does not need a chiropractor after that as every bone is adjusted into new places. The prison is located in a beautiful valley with mountains surrounding it. There are 360 inmates, the majority being men, about 27 women, and a small group of male youth.

It is amazing that we have such freedom here in PNG to do outreach in prisons, hospitals, and so on. The inmates had been organized into groups on the lawn and we had benches under a temporary shelter. It was really hot and I felt for the inmates under the sun. A group of inmates led singing with a guitar and then 4 of us spoke. I had a chance to speak in Tok Pisin, sharing Bible verses that the LORD gave me. I trusted the Holy Spirit to direct in this matter as He knows the needs of each one...

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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 (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. 29, 2016 / Russia: Pray for Worship Team Members Attacked During Rehearsal
 Men believed to be Russian nationalists attacked members of a worship team on Jan. 8 as they rehearsed at Emmanuel Church in Alexandrov, a small town northeast of Moscow, Russia. One of the attackers pressed a knife to the throat of one worship team member and made demands for the pastor's whereabouts as well as a list of all church member names. The attackers told the worship team that they planned to eradicate all evangelical churches.