



# 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.*

## *Overcoming Temptation*

The Scriptures tell us that we all face temptations. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man." Perhaps this provides a little encouragement as we often feel that the world is bearing in on us alone, and that others are immune to temptations. We are told that Christ was also tempted: "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Where, then, do these temptations come from? First of all, they do not come from God, although He does allow them (James 1:13) (1 Peter 5:8). By these passages we can know that temptations come from Satan. We see in James 1:14 that temptation originates in us as well. We are tempted when we are "carried away and enticed by our own lust". We allow ourselves to think certain thoughts, allow ourselves to go places we should not go, and make decisions based on our lusts that lead us into the temptation.

How then do we resist the temptations? First of all, we must return to the example of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by Satan in Matthew 4:1-11. Each of Satan's temptations was met with the same answer: "It is written," followed by Scripture. If the Son of God used the Word of God to effectively end the temptations, how much more do we need to use it to resist our own temptations? All our efforts to resist will be weak and ineffective unless they are powered by the Holy Spirit through the constant reading, studying, and meditating on the Word. In this way, we will be "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. If our minds are filled with the majesty and holiness of God, the love and compassion of Christ, and the brilliance of both reflected in His perfect Word, we will find that our interest in the lusts of the world diminish and disappear. We need to renew our thinking as we are told in Romans 12:1-2. We must no longer think as the world thinks, or walk in the same way that the world walks.

## Ministry Highlights

### Missionaries-Binu John, India "Impressions of Tracy"

#### **My Trip to India**

My name is Tracy. I'm a surgical nurse from the Midwest, I was pleased to learn of an opportunity for a mission trip to India from my pastor and his friend Binu John. Through prayer God allowed me to take off work for Three weeks to travel there.

Impressions of my trip to India are ones of being able to experience complete dependence on God while in a beautiful and amazing country that needs him desperately. Although I had nearly a year to plan and prepare for my visit to India I found that it could only be understood by experiencing it firsthand.

I found India to be a place of great contrast. Most people live a simple easy going life but it's lived on the edge of daily survival.

They live in a country of spectacular beauty as created by God but most people labor to worship gods made by their own hands.

I was privileged to witness God's miraculous power at work as he protected me and Pastor Binu during our travels as well as His mighty power as we ministered along the way. I was cared for with love by my brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere I went. They were incredibly kind and generous to me and I formed great and eternal friendships with Binu and his family as well as Pastor Srinu and his family.

I hope to return as soon as the Lord leads.

Tracy

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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](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**

Mohammad and his family now live in a tent. They were forced to flee their home in Mosul, Iraq, after the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) invaded in 2014. Because he was a Christian convert from Islam, Mohammad would have been executed.

The family had lost everything because of their faith; they didn't even have basic first-aid items, such as bandages and gauze. Mohammad and his family were the first recipients of a Family Med Pack earlier this year.

Family Med Packs provide an added measure of comfort to Christian families who lack everyday first-aid items. The bags are filled with items like bandages, gauze, medical tape, washcloths, toothbrushes and soap. VOM, through their supporters, help provide these packs especially to Christians in need.