



April 17, 2016

# 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.*

## *Designer Blood*

### BLOOD - ANOTHER MASTERPIECE OF DESIGN

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied"(1 Peter 1:2).

Have you ever wondered why blood cells look like red discs that are indented toward the middle? Furthermore, is this distinctive shape an element of design or is it the product of millions of years of mutations and natural selection?

Creationist and biologist Alan Gillen makes a strong case for design in his aptly named book *Body by Design*. According to Dr. Gillen, scientists used IBM mainframe computers to determine the ideal shape for a cell whose job is transporting oxygen to cells and taking away waste products. They discovered that the red blood cell's bioconcave shape allows for maximum surface contact of oxygen-carrying hemoglobin with the cells. This facilitates the two-way exchange of blood gases. He also points out that this shape gives red blood cells flexibility and elasticity, so they can be folded when flowing through narrow blood capillaries. Plus, they have smooth, rounded edges that reduce the amount of friction as they scurry through veins, arteries and capillaries.

Now, what if evolution's first attempt produced red blood cells that were shaped like cubes and had thin, sharp edges? What if the cells didn't have their distinctive bioconcave shape? Obviously, blood cells had to be designed just right the first time or else the living organism would have died.

And while we're on the subject, try asking an evolutionist which evolved first - the blood, the heart or the circulatory system with its veins, arteries and capillaries? Once again, God had to have created them all at the exact same time.

Reprint from Berean call 4-14-2016

- [creationmoments.com/radio/transcripts](http://creationmoments.com/radio/transcripts)

[www.fcaphila.org](http://www.fcaphila.org)

## Ministry Highlights

### Missionaries

### John Koehler, Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

This newsletter is two pages long (*referring to his emailed newsletter*). I usually try to keep my newsletters to one page but today decided to share what is going on inside of me as well as some reflection. Hope you don't mind!

**My time here in A Land has been a real time of experiencing the paradox of weakness, of my limitations!** I have been very aware of my weakness in learning the language and sometimes it has been very discouraging. Then recently I moved into a new apartment which is nice, but I am alone and have been incredibly aware of that aloneness accentuated by the fact that I do not have the friendships I had in Mongolia.

That aloneness has also been highlighted to me by my turning 60 and having, it seems, every person in A land asking me why I am not married by now, i.e. what is wrong with me?

Finally, in Mongolia I was able to get out and walk whenever I felt stressed, but not here. So here are the paradoxes in the midst of my seeming limitations and weaknesses; In this phase of language learning I had to share my life story. So in my broken Dari, I shared about some of the brokenness of my family growing up and how I came to experience Jesus...*to be continued.*

*(Also, turn this newsletter over to see John's prayer requests.)*

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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**

	FCA	PAC
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.

**John Koehler's Prayer Requests**

- Language language language! I really need His enabling!
- I really want to move to an area of the city where I can mingle with the people. My trip to the other part of A land showed me just how helpful this is to language learning. Please pray for a place more suited to using the language I am learning.
- My volunteers want to begin doing acts of kindness, such as giving out bread, to the addicts under the bridge here. This will be a real financial challenge for them and will call for some sacrificial giving. Pray that they take this challenge and as they sacrificially give I believe God will do some amazing acts of provision.
- A partner called to A land.