



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.

BORN OF GOD

The term born of God is found primarily in First John 5:1 "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well."

The term born of God closely mirrors Jesus' words in John 3:3 when He told Nicodemus that he must be "born again" or, in some translations, "born from above." Nicodemus responded the way anyone would. He asked, "**How can someone be born when they are old?**" Jesus' answer was even more puzzling. He said, "**The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit**".

Why did Jesus begin talking about the wind in relation to being born again? The Greek word for "wind" is pneuma, the same word used for "spirit." When wind blows, we cannot see it, but we see where it has been. Tree leaves move, plants bend, and we feel the wind touch our faces. Yet no one can catch it or restrain it. When wind blows, it changes everything it touches. So it is with the Spirit. Spiritual birth is an act of the Holy Spirit. He is invisible, yet whenever He moves, there are definite changes. Neither persuasive words nor intellectual agreements have the power to make someone "born of God." Only the Holy Spirit can perform that transformation in a repentant heart Acts 2:38. Later on in John 3, Jesus explains how to become born of God: "**Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life**". When we are born into the family of God (John 1:12), we grow to look more like our Father.

When we are born of God, we have a new heart, one that wants to please God (2 Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:10). This does not come about by good intentions or white-knuckled effort. We please our new Father by surrendering to His Holy Spirit who lives within us. We allow Him to change our desires, our goals, and our will to conform to His (Romans 8:29; Philippians 2:13). As a baby grows to look like the parents to whom it was born, so do we grow to be more like our heavenly Father when we are born of God (Philippians 3:10; Romans 6:1-2).

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- **Learn more about God's Word and His desire for you and your life at FCA's Bible Studies. Sunday @ 9:45 AM, Tuesday @ 7:00 PM and Thursday (at PAC) @ 7:00 PM.**

Missionaries - Binu John, India

Jerina showed me how she was stitching cloths with her broken arm!

I came back safely after fruitful trip through our mission fields. My first stop was at the center we run Mukti Tailoring School. Nine women are taught here. Each of them had a touching story. This is about Jerina:

Full Name: Muhammad Khan Jerina. Religion: Islam

Jerina is married. Husband is an alcoholic. He comes home late night, fully drunk; breaks the pots and household items. Jerina says, "I am fearful at night. I don't pass a day without tears. It started right after marriage and it continues. (She weeps while sharing with me). I had no children until four years after marriage. My mother-in-law wanted my husband to divorce me and marry another girl. But God heard my cry and He blessed me with two girls now."

Jerina does not own a home. "We stay in a rented house, and we have a lot of debt. I was working in a coconut factory to raise some money to support home. One day, at work, my hand went under the machine that broke my hand."

An accident at work put her future at stake. There was no compensation system in those rural areas. She finished off all her savings and increased the debt and interest. *(to be continued)*

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (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</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

Apr. 22, 2016 / Middle East: Pray for "Suraya," Whose Children Have Been Kidnapped
 "Suraya," a Christian convert from Islam, was abused by her husband long before she became a Christian. He became even more violent after she turned to Christ, even trying to kill her. A judge had granted Suraya custody of their children, but her ex-husband has kidnapped them. Suraya's children have been allowed to leave her voice messages, but she hasn't spoken with them directly. In the messages she has received, the children are often crying for her to remember them. Suraya's ex-husband does not answer her calls. Please pray that Suraya's children will be returned soon and that the Lord will comfort them.