



# 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.*

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## *JESUS Not a Socialist*

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According to a new poll from the Barna Group, Americans think Jesus was a socialist who would vote for Bernie Sanders. When asked whether capitalism or socialism best aligned with the teachings of Jesus, 24 percent said socialism and just 14 percent answered capitalism. The rest answered "neither" or "not sure..." Socialism is based on the involuntary transfer of wealth from some citizens to others, which is nothing but theft. Just because it is done under color of law, and done by the government rather than a guy with a gun in an alley, does not make it right.

But even a cursory review of the parables of Jesus reveals that he was anything but a socialist. In his parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30), for instance, the main character is an entrepreneur who recruits three employees to manage his property while he is gone on a trip. Note that the property was his own and not the state's; the story is predicated on the concept of private property.

And the entrepreneur entrusts his property to his employees based on merit, not on affirmative action, quotas, or any other such thing. He gave "to each according to his ability." Note how socialism is upended right out of the chute. Socialism piously asserts "to each according to his need," while in Jesus' worldview it's just the reverse.

The owner expected them to work hard, invest, and return a profit on what he had entrusted to them. And he held them accountable through performance reviews upon his return. The ones who proved dependable, trustworthy and capable were rewarded with praise and promotions: "You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much."

The employee who buried his talent in the backyard received no sympathy from the owner. Rather, he was rebuked as a "wicked and slothful" servant....

This is not to say that Christianity does not teach the redistribution of wealth. Christians believe in the redistribution of wealth just as passionately as the most ardent socialists. We simply believe that the redistribution of wealth is to be voluntary, not involuntary. While liberals believe generosity is giving away other people's money, followers of Christ believe generosity is giving away our own money, motivated by compassion for the poor.

Fischer, "No, Jesus was not a socialist," OneNewsNow online, (5/18/16) - Excerpts

## **Ministry Highlights**

### Missionaries

### Neal & Lois Semanision

### Papua, New Guinea

We just got back to the MAF compound where we live when we heard the police gunshots just started up somewhere in town. The night security guard, Kia, and his wife and I had gone to the prison in town to do outreach. My message today was about the two thieves on the cross with Jesus in between. One rejected Jesus and the other believed and was promised he would be in Paradise with Jesus that day. On our way to the prison, Kia had shared he was nervous because someone from his bush place had killed someone and he feared someone from the tribe of the deceased would see him, knowing he was from the same line as the murderer, and that they would kill him as payback. I talked to Kia about how our life is in God's hands and God determines the day we die. Until that time, we can walk without fear.

I had felt it was urgent to go to the prison today as there has been student unrest in Port Moresby, the capital, and I feared that if it came up here, we may not be able to go to the prison. Today, I had two pastors turn me down to accompany me as they were busy, but Kia and his wife were willing. Kia was surprised to see a relative, who is a good friend, in the cell. You know, this was a God thing.

All I can say is that we praise God for this opportunity and know God had an appointment with that prison today. The gun shots continue. Thanks for praying...Lois

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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](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</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, Missionary to Afghanistan - PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- 1.) I graduated Language school! But trust me my Dari still needs your prayers!
- 2.) Please keep praying for a place to move to that is closer to the area where we want to do the project.
- 3.) Pray for us to be able to start a business up in the next two months so we can begin the next phase of the project.
- 4.) A partner called to A land.
- 5.) Going to Mongolia for the month of July