



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.

All Things Through Christ

In Philippians 4:13 the apostle Paul writes, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." The "him" of this verse is the Lord Jesus, and Jesus is, of course, all-powerful. But does this verse mean that we can do anything and everything we set our minds to?

The context of this verse focuses on the God-given power to endure any circumstance. Verse 12 notes, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." Paul had faced times of abundance, yet he had also faced many trials for his faith.

In 2 Cor 11:24–27, Paul shares some of his sufferings up to that point in his faith: Despite these and other problems, Paul believed and taught he could persevere because he could do "all things through him who gives me strength."

Also, the focus in Philippians 4 is what the believer can do through the strength that *Christ* gives. This is not a promise that Christians will have superpowers or that they will be invincible or immune to life's challenges. Instead, the promise of Phil 4:13 is that we will have strength from the Lord to faithfully endure the difficulties that arise in life.

Paul taught that the believer will endure suffering but can be content in any circumstance, given Christ's strength. Just as Christ faithfully endured on the cross, His followers can faithfully endure the problems they face. In fact, Phil 4:11 states, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Paul focused on contentment, not earthly abundance.

Finally, Phil 4:13 is part of a larger passage that addresses Christ's ability to meet our needs. Christ can give contentment during times of plenty and of poverty. He can help us do all things through His strength. In Paul's case, it was the strength to serve as a missionary despite facing intense suffering. In our lives, this same strength is available. Christ's power can enable us to stand firm on His promises and endure the most difficult of life's challenges. Paul concludes this passage with these words: "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen".

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries

Neal & Lois Semanision

Papua, New Guinea

Neal is the oldest male MAF missionary up here and I am the second oldest female MAF missionary up here. This year we are only 65. How did that happen?

Lillian, the young woman..., who used to go with me to Polga to teach Bible lessons to the prep school, and who is attending the Nazarene Teachers College, stopped by to pick up some magazines for her practice teaching projects. She shared some alarming news about her school. Some students are involved in witchcraft... Witchcraft is done in secret. Very common in the schools here. They are praying about all this.

She also said the original owners of the school grounds, called "papa bilong graun" have been periodically starting fights with the school. The most recent one lasted 2 days... One boy was hurt seriously... Usually original owners of property will ask for more money for property and so on. To them they are owners for all time. Imagine going to school with this stuff going on. As is common in the schools here, dorm students get very little food. Alarming. If they have no money to buy food to supplement this, they are hungry all the time. Please join us in praying for Lillian. Her Dad is a pastor and the Youth With a Mission have a prep school in their church which is run by a missionary from Brasil. I was recently able to pass on to the school some excess materials from the MAF children's library...

Thanks for praying, Lois.

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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</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

May. 20, 2016 | Bosnia and Herzegovina: Pray for "Petrus," Who Received Christian Movies from Front-Line Workers

Two front-line workers gave Christian movies to a gas-station attendant while on a trip to distribute Christian literature in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workers had stopped at the gas station in the early morning hours, and "Petrus," a store worker, came out to inform them that they had overpaid by about 30 cents. Impressed by Petrus's integrity, the Christians began a conversation with him about God. Petrus was open to hearing about the gospel and invited the two men to return for a future visit. He also accepted two Christian movies, including *Jesus: He Lived Among Us*. Pray for Petrus, and pray that the Christian workers will be able to meet with him again. Pray also for the workers as they distribute Christian literature in an area hostile to the gospel.