



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.

Founding Fathers

With words like *God*, *Lord*, and *Creator* found in the Declaration of Independence, it is easy to assume that the founders of the United States were Christians. John Adams, the nation's second President, said, "The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity and humanity" (*The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States*, Charles Francis Adams, ed., Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1856, Vol. III, p. 421, diary entry for July 26, 1796). Benjamin Franklin, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, wrote to Yale president Ezra Stiles, "I think the system of morals and [Jesus'] religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see" (*Works of Benjamin Franklin*, John Bigelow, ed., New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904, p. 185). Such statements imply that Christianity was influential in the founders' lives.

The reality is that the Founding Fathers were a diverse group of individuals and there is varied evidence as to their religious affiliation. However, there is little doubt that the *principles* upon which the United States was founded are indeed found in the Bible. Equality, liberty, and justice are all biblical principles. The faith of the founders, on the other hand, will continue to be debated. Did the founders respect God and the Christian religion? Absolutely. Were they influenced by the Bible? Surely. Were they all born-again believers in Jesus Christ? No.

Even in reading what the founders themselves stated and wrote for the public, none of us will ever truly know their hearts. The apostle Paul wrote, "The Lord knows those who are his" (2 Timothy 2:19). While it is interesting to research the religious convictions of the founders, only God truly knows the ones who put faith in Jesus. More important than the heart condition of the Founding Fathers, is the spiritual condition of those presently in public office. It is our duty to pray for rulers and those in positions of authority (1 Timothy 2:2).

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries in Indonesia

John & Joy Cutts,

Continued from last week...

These last few weeks have been some of my most difficult in Papua, as again I was interacting with Papuans in extremely remote areas facing an unknown sickness which had left several hundred of their members dead after burning up with a high fever for two days. Two previous government medical teams had been unsuccessful in identifying or stopping the disease, so now we were trekking through this most inhospitable area searching for clues which could help another medical team be more successful in combating the sickness.

Two months prior to this trip I had sent word via a single sideband radio to the area, saying we needed 6 to 7 porters to travel with us and we needed the village of Kumbugutadi to clear an area where the helicopter could land and we would begin our search. We were told via radio that it would be very difficult to find porters due to the many deaths. As we circled the village it was clear their idea of a heli pad was significantly different from what the pilot had in mind, so we were forced to land in the village of Nambisiga. It was no mistake we landed here, because this was the only place we were able to get 7 porters to help trek to at least Kumbugutadi, where we hoped to hire two more able porters, Elianus and his close friend, Timotius. They had heard about our trek a month before and Elianus and his wife Joanna planned to be two of the porters who went the whole distance with us. Unfortunately, she suddenly died of the two-day fever about 3 weeks before our trek and he had been in mourning in his hut till our arrival. He decided the best way to shake these haunting memories of her death was to do the trek as they had originally planned. He, too, had caught the deadly disease but had been one of the few survivors. In actuality, our whole team of Papuans were survivors who had fought to live another day, and they were almost super-human in what they accomplished on this trip. *See pictures on back page.*

(to be continued)

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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.

John Cutts (right-back row), team, and villagers doing the medical search trek. (See partial story on reverse page.)

