



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.

FEAR OF GOD

In the Bible, the 'fear of God' has a number of meanings. There is the fear of God, meaning the fear of judgment, 'if we're bad'. With this is also the hope of reward 'if we're good'. Unfortunately, most people think that Christianity has little more to offer than this. There is, however, much more to it.

As Christ is formed within us (Galatians 4:19), a different 'fear of God' becomes known, arising from a much more adequate God-consciousness. We become aware of God's true nature and begin to glimpse His holiness, beauty and goodness. The clearer we see God, the more unthinkable it becomes to sin against Him. Just as we might fear dropping a priceless vase that we own, and take great care when moving it, so we fear doing anything that might show disrespect towards God. This knowledge then turns an immature fear of God (the fear of punishment) to a mature 'fear', which is really 'a labour of love'. God becomes so wonderful in our thinking that we grow to love Him and desire to serve and bless Him. The apostle John wrote, ***There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love***' (1 John 4:18).

According to Proverbs 9:10, ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One [God] is understanding.*** -Dominic Statham (Creation Ministries International)

2 Peter 3:18 says; ***But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen.*** Join with us Sunday mornings or on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as we learn to "grow together in the proper fear of God. See our Webpage www.fcaphila.org for more information.

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries in Indonesia

John & Joy Cutts,

Continued from last week...

In the span of my whole life in Papua, this was possibly the most difficult and life-threatening trek from a physical standpoint—too often the potential for the next step to end in disaster had our adrenaline on overdrive as we ascended and descended slippery vertical cliffs for a week while trekking through different villages. From a trekking standpoint it was akin to Russian roulette adding in some mean leaches! From a medical standpoint it was terrifying to hear the individual stories of death and survival and to walk through "ghost villages" where the jungle was working overtime to reclaim huts, churches, airstrips and whole areas which once thrived with laughter and village life. I must confess that eating, breathing and sleeping in huts with people we had no way of knowing if they were infected with the dreaded disease or not was sobering and concerning. From a spiritual standpoint it was mixed. I rubbed shoulders with some of the most amazing and dedicated Papuan pastors who had lost family members as well as whole churches, and yet, here they stood steadfastly, serving traumatized communities while comforting and spreading a message of hope in an area called "mbai emo" or the dangerous and forbidden area. It was depressing, though, to be reminded of the darkness and the power of evil each day while trekking when the Papuans would point out where the "devil killed" this person or that person. It was equally depressing to encounter little sacrifices, some very fresh, made to the evil spirits along the extremely dangerous path in the hopes the travelers would not be injured by the spirits while passing through the area. It became obvious that someone in our party was placing these fresh sacrifices on behalf of our group of 10 adults and a baby. I finally told our team that our God was much bigger than the dangers ahead and we did not need to be making sacrifices to the spirits any more...knowing that if anything happened to any of us going forward, they would certainly attribute it to the spirits getting even for trespassing. If we all made it without a major catastrophe, that too would certainly speak volumes to those fearing the spirits.

(to be continued)

SEE SPECIAL MESSAGE ON REVERSE PAGE

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721
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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.

Special Message from John Cutts:

...as crazy as this might sound...have you ever thought you would like to come over to Papua and see firsthand what God is up to? We hope in 2016 we will be able to start a ministry we will call TRANSFORMATIONAL TREKKING. So many who have visited have said. . . it changed my life. What they didn't know is that it also changes the lives of our Papuan people too...a serious WIN-WIN kind of deal. This will not be on a scale like what you have just read about [on the reverse page] but will be 5 days to go into 5 different villages and really get to know and understand these incredibly special people and to get a feel for their lives, culture, challenges, spiritual compass, survival skills, and so much more. Think and pray about this, both men and women, and then let us know if you might be one of the first to take the plunge. It will be a life changer...we promise!!!