



# 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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## HELL

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It is interesting that a much higher percentage of people believe in the existence of heaven than believe in the existence of hell. According to the Bible, though, hell is just as real as heaven. The Bible clearly and explicitly teaches that hell is a real place to which the wicked/unbelieving are sent after death. We have all sinned against God (Romans 3:23). The just punishment for that sin is death (Romans 6:23). Since all of our sin is ultimately against God (Psalm 51:4), and since God is an infinite and eternal Being, the punishment for sin, death, must also be infinite and eternal. Hell is this infinite and eternal death which we have earned because of our sin.

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as "eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41), "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2), a place where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44-49), a place of "torment" and "fire" (Luke 16:23-24), "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where "the smoke of torment rises forever and ever" (Revelation 14:10-11), and a "lake of burning sulfur" where the wicked are "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

The punishment of the wicked in hell is as never ending as the bliss of the righteous in heaven. Jesus Himself indicates that punishment in hell is just as everlasting as life in heaven (Matthew 25:46). The wicked are forever subject to the fury and the wrath of God. Those in hell will acknowledge the perfect justice of God (Psalm 76:10). Those who are in hell will know that their punishment is just and that they alone are to blame (Deuteronomy 32:3-5). Yes, hell is real. Yes, hell is a place of torment and punishment that lasts forever and ever, with no end. Praise God that, through Jesus, we can escape this eternal fate (John 3:16, 18, 36).

## Ministry Highlights

### Missionaries in Indonesia

#### John & Joy Cutts,

*Continued from last week...*

I had no idea how prophetic Pastor Markus' prayer for our safety was as he quoted from Isa. 43: 2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." He had served for 11 years in this hostile environment. His whole church and community of Dapiaga had been wiped out, he said, about 143 people, forcing his family to move to Nambisiga, where our chopper landed. His resounding prayer came from a deep knowledge of what we would face in the days ahead and his concern for our lives, as he was now leaving us after two days to return to his village. Having heard his prayer and then hourly cheating death along the life-threatening course before us, I was so grateful for every person who was praying for our safety around the world. As we prepared to leave this "ghost town village" of Dapiaga, now grown over by the jungle, the only remaining people, a husband and wife, told us that they would not move and would plan to die in this, their home. The early morning dawn reminded us we had to be on our way, but it also beckoned a new day with new hope that we would be able to find a solution that could allow these villages and these communities to once again live life without having one foot in the grave.

These next stretches of mountainous jungle also had raging rivers which had to be crossed 30 and 40 times a day, guaranteeing that we stayed wet most of the time and that slick slippery rocks would keep us stumbling along with no sure footing. Some of the rivers were just too big to ford so we all would become a construction team building vine and sampling bridges which would transport us across the thundering turbulence and froth. Watching a mother and father who had dared to bring their 4 year old son along riding on his dad's shoulders crossing these makeshift bridges where certain death would occur if one fell, indelibly imprinted on my brain what childlike faith looks like. Without the slightest fear or concern, this child was content to leave all the worry and stress to dad, and everything was okay. How I longed to have that same childlike faith, as I stressed daily over the toll the sickness was taking, as well as freaking out over the safety of the two Englishmen, John and Donald who were also along and for our whole team of Papuans. One slip could be the end of any one of us. *(to be continued)*

SEE SPECIAL MESSAGE ON REVERSE PAGE

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

	<b>FCA</b>	<b>PAC</b>
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.

#### ***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!!!