



# 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.*

## F A I T H

The spiritual gift of faith is found in the list of the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. Verse 9 says that some people are given the gift of faith, but the gift is not specifically explained. All believers have been given saving faith by God as the only means of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), but not all believers are given the spiritual gift of faith. Like all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual gift of faith was given for the "common good," which means the edifying of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7).

The gift of faith may be defined as the special gift whereby the Spirit provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence so they can take heroic stands for the future of God's work in the church. The spiritual gift of faith is exhibited by one with a strong and unshakeable confidence in God, His Word, and His promises. Examples of people with the gift of faith are those listed in Hebrews chapter 11. This chapter, often called "the hall of faith," describes those whose faith was extraordinary, enabling them to do extraordinary, superhuman things. Here we see Noah spending 120 years building a huge boat when, up to that time, rain was non-existent and Abraham believing he would father a child when his wife's natural ability to do so had ended. Without the special gift of faith from God, such things would have been impossible.

As with all spiritual gifts, the gift of faith is given to some Christians who then use it to edify others in the body of Christ. Those with the gift of faith are an inspiration to their fellow believers, exhibiting a simple confidence in God that shows in all they say and do. Extraordinarily faithful people show a humble godliness and reliance on God's promises, often so much so that they are known to be quietly fearless and zealous. They are so convinced that all obstacles to the gospel and to God's purposes will be overcome and so confident that God will secure the advancement of His cause, that they will often do far more in the promotion of His kingdom than the most gifted preachers and teachers.

## Ministry Highlights John & Joy Cutts, Indonesia

*Continued from last week...last installment of their update*

The people came out in numbers, some of them crying while telling us they had been praying the whole time we were trekking for our safety. Many who had heard stories of that stretch of jungle kept saying they could not believe we had made it. After we had a huge collective group prayer to thank God for a safe arrival, we were led to where we would spend our final night out, but not under a tarp this time. They had brought all the best from their gardens and our team ate till we could not hold any more.

We thanked our porters and the villagers and then I was overwhelmed with how thankful I was for all the miracles God pulled off to make this possible. We all 10 survived a most grueling trip. . . John and Donald started immediate courses of antibiotics for their infections. God made sure we landed in the right village to find guides and porters, as none of the others would have worked out. Our numbers dwindled only as the loads dwindled, allowing us to keep going forward. God held the rain back, as there were 2 solid days of river crossings which would have been impossible with rain. The times we did need just a bit of rain water to cook with and drink, as our camp site was far from a stream, God sent just enough to catch in our tarp! We were able to get needed information and numbers and locations in order to plan properly for a medical response in the near future. And I should add. . . God also protected our families while we were away. I called Joy on a satellite phone one rainy night under a dripping tarp in the jungle only to find out she had had an accident with the car driving to see her mom. She was a bit bruised, and later had some heart palpitations, but overall alright, even though the car was totaled.

As we flew out of Pagamba early the next morning, aware of all the sickness, pain and death they had shared with us, the questions kept coming back. . . why is this happening to these beautiful people and how can we possibly get on top of the situation in this very remote area? As I started off in the first paragraph of this update, life does not seem very fair out here in the jungle. . . As I looked out the window of the plane, it was as though God put a rainbow there just for me, to reassure me that He has promised that even after the most devastating storm, the rainbow is His sign that He is still in control and that there is a bright tomorrow ahead. In the last couple of days, I have been assured by a top government official that they have put aside funds for a medical team and a helicopter to begin addressing some of the needs we have shared with them. We can pray that they actually try to identify the root cause of all this and not just treat the symptoms, as we have encouraged them to focus on the cause. Thanks for that rainbow, God. . .

(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

215-389-6721  
 215-389-1985

**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.

**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!!!