

August 21, 2016



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.

Pray for Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law [the week of July 3] a measure punishing any kind of religious evangelization outside of churches, which some observers have called one of the most restrictive move[s] in "post-Soviet history."

"This new situation resembles the Soviet Union in 1929. At that time confession of faith was permitted only in church," Hannu Haukka, president of Great Commission Media Ministries, told National Religious Broadcasters, according to Breitbart News. "Practically speaking, we are back in the same situation. These anti-terrorist laws are some of the most restrictive laws in post-Soviet history."

The law, which is supposed to be aimed against the spread of terrorism and extremism, has also been approved by the Russian Parliament's upper chamber. The move blocks the sharing of faith in any place that is not a government-sanctioned house of worship.

"The church is appalled at the news of the new law. About 7,000 evangelical/protestant churches are in fasting and prayer at the moment over the news," Haukka said.

The Christian Post reported earlier this month that several Christian groups in Russia have already spoken out against the draconian measures, with the Seventh-day Adventist's Moscow-based Euro-Asia Division stating that it is nearly "impossible" for religious believers to comply with the requirements.

"If this legislation is approved, the religious situation in the country will grow considerably more complicated and many believers will find themselves in exile and subjected to reprisals because of our faith," the group said before Putin's signature.

Under the new law, foreign missionaries will not be allowed to speak at churches unless they have a work permit from Russian authorities; any kind of discussion about God with non-believers would be considered missionary activity and punishable by law; and religious activities even in private homes will not be allowed.

What is more, anyone from the age of 14 found to be preaching will be subject to prosecution, and every citizen is required to report religious activity to the authorities, or face punishment him or herself.

Haukka asked Christians around the world to join in prayer with the Russian churches as they face uncertain times. (Christian Post Online, 7/12/16)

www.fcaphila.org

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries **Binu John, India**

(From July 6 email) Started with three - me, my wife and my daughter - God has increased our church to over thirty people in three years!!! Weekly evangelism, monthly fasting prayers, VBS and your prayers helped the growth of the church.

Out of thirty members, two are Muslims, fifteen are Hindus and rest of them comes from nominal Christian backgrounds. Three years we survived many battles - threat, intimidation, food poison issue etc... But the grace of God has sustained us thus far. We praise God for His marvelous deeds and thanks for your faithful partnership to make things happen! Appreciate your sacrificial help.

Sensing the urgency, we are now moving into another level...

New church plant: - After much prayer, we have decided to start another church in the nearby town, Pandalam. It is considered to be a holy town... During pilgrimage season, devotees come to this town in large number to worship the deity of Valiyakoikkal Temple. The Lord has laid a burden in me to start a new church in this town.

Few missionaries had started the work in the past, but had given up not seeing any fruits. But by faith we are stepping in, believing in God to build His church. I am only a co-laborer with Him.

(See most recent info on the church in next week's FCA newsletter.)

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

Jul. 01, 2016 | Middle East: Pray for Ali, Who Has Decided to Continue Serving in His Country

The challenges of ministering in a highly restricted country had led "Ali" to sell his house and possessions, with the intent of seeking refugee status in the West. After meeting with other Christian leaders for training in another country, however, he reconsidered his plan. One topic discussed at the meeting was the decision of whether to continue ministering in a difficult situation or to leave for the West. After a discussion of Matthew 28, including Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations and His promise to be with His followers to the end, Ali decided to return to his country and persevere through whatever challenges he might face. Ali's wife, who had not wanted to leave, was excited about his decision. Please pray for Ali and his family as well as the other Christian leaders who attended the training.