



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.

As a Little Child

At one point during Jesus' earthly ministry, some children were brought to Him so that He could lay hands on them and pray for them (Matthew 19:13). The disciples tried to turn the children away, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Mark 10:14 adds that Jesus was "much displeased" with His disciples for their actions. He then blessed the children (Matthew 19:15).

It is important to remember that children in Jesus' time were not necessarily regarded as special or particularly endearing, except to their own parents. Many cultures today look on children as especially sweet, innocent, and even wise. Jewish culture in that day probably did not see children in such optimistic terms. The disciples most likely rebuked those bringing the children to Jesus because they felt bringing children to Jesus was socially improper or because they thought the children would bother Jesus.

It is wonderful to think of Jesus interacting with a child. Children are needy and dependent, and they know almost nothing about life. They function mostly on emotion rather than reason. Yet Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Scripture often compares believers to children, Luke 10:21; Galatians 4:19; 1 John 4:4. In fact, Jesus told those following Him, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4; cf. Mark 10:15).

Like children who implicitly trust their parents, believers trust God. Faith is not about knowing everything or doing everything right. It is about knowing that, no matter what happens, our Father will take care of us. That faith or trust in Him, even when life is terrifying and sad and makes no sense, is what makes a believer like a child. "All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). God loves His children!

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries Binu John, India

(From Aug 5 email-update from last week's article.)

Highway Prayer Fellowship is the name of our new church plant that started on July 17th. Ten to fifteen people started to attend. I am encouraged by one testimony:

Mercy is her name. During our weekly outreach, we met her in front the rented house she lives. After handing out the Gospel tracts, in our conversation, Mercy requested our prayers. Me and two of our Ignite Bible Institute students with me, went in.

Mercy started to cry. No words. I could not understand. Her son, about 17 years, came out of his bedroom, stood beside us quietly...

With words broken...sentences cut off ...Mercy started to explain her agony. Husband is an alcoholic & comes home fully drunk, beats her up, chases her out of home... Just a day before we met, she was driven out at 3am... Fed up with this life, Mercy said "**I want to kill myself**".

Just as angels visited the tent of Abraham, we believe we were sent by God to speak life into Mercy's life. We did and we invited Mercy to the new church plant.

Mercy was the first person to come to church on the following Sunday. I first met Mercy with tears of sadness, expressing her desire to commit suicide. The second time I saw in the church with tears of joy and hope to live again. What an impact of Gospel! What an answer to our prayers!!

I am excited and anticipate what God will do in the lives of many people like Mercy who are under the bondage of sin and oppression.

Would you please pray for Mercy's family and our continued ministry? We have only one life and we want to invest it for His glory. I also want to share our needs for your prayers. We need help for the monthly rent of \$150 and \$100 for the associate staff. No one has committed to help us so far...

Appreciate your love and prayers. God bless you.

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

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Jul. 08, 2016 / Sierra Leone: Pray for Evangelists Using Digital Media Players for Outreach
Evangelists in Sierra Leone are using digital media players to share the gospel with Muslims and other unreached people. Because of illiteracy and poverty, many of these people cannot access God's Word in their own language. With the use of high-quality speakers, the digital players enable evangelists to share Scripture, sermons and other Christian materials with as many as 300 people at once. Please pray for the evangelists as they reach out to those who have never heard God's Word.