



# 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.*

## COMPASSION

The Hebrew and Greek words translated "compassion" in the Bible mean "to have mercy, to feel sympathy and to have pity." We know that, according to the Bible, God is "a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Psalm 86:15). Like all of God's attributes, His compassion is infinite and eternal. His compassions never fail; they are new every morning (Lam 3:22-23).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, exemplified all of the Father's attributes, including His compassion. When Jesus saw His friends weeping at the grave of Lazarus, He felt compassion for them and wept alongside them (John 11:33-35). Moved with compassion for the suffering of others, Jesus healed the large crowds who came to Him (Matt 14:14), as well as individuals who sought His healing (Mark 1:40-41). When He saw the large crowds as sheep without a shepherd, His compassion led Him to teach them the things the false shepherds of Israel had abandoned. The priests and scribes were proud and corrupt; they despised the common people and neglected them, but Jesus had compassion on them, and He taught and loved them.

When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus responded that it is to love God with all our heart, mind and strength. But He added that the second commandment "is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matt 22:34-40). The Pharisee had asked Him which single command of God is the greatest, but Jesus provided two, stating not only what we are to do, but also how to do it. To love our neighbor as ourselves is the natural result of our loving devotion toward God.

1John 3:17 asks, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" Originally made in His image, man is to exemplify God's traits, including compassion. From this it follows that "If anyone says, 'I love God' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). The Bible is clear that compassion is an attribute of God and of God's people as well. **(Join us on Thursday Evening at 7:00 PM in the PAC conference room as we continue in - A Comprehensive study of the Gospels.)**

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- *We have begun collecting for Operation Christmas Child. For more information on this, please see Gloria Felicione.*
- *The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning service on Sunday, September 25.*

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### Missionaries – Donna Schaber Philippines

Time with mom and the Florida Schabers as they busy about their schedules of work, school, graduations and restful gatherings has been refreshing. Being part of a family is an amazing emotional support. How much more the family that God gives and promises. I'm reminded of Jesus own words that "everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life."

The precious team in the Philippines that I was a part of is very much like family; caring and celebrating and most importantly learning to work together. They continue to make weekly visits to our familiar communities caring for health and dental needs and talking about Jesus. Nerlene, Leah, Noel, Susana, Nora, Reymon and Ritchel are an encouragement of faithful service in their own home land.

Travelling again soon:

September 22-- mom and I will visit my aunt Roxie in Whittier, CA. She has a bone cancer and is weakening. I'm praying that she finds good rest in knowing the goodness of Jesus and His plans for her.

September 27-- we will visit my brother and attend the wedding of my nephew in Reno, NV.

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 (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.

#### **From: Voice of the Martyrs**

*Aug. 05, 2016 | Cuba: Pray for Christians as Conditions Worsen for Churches*

When Cuba and the United States announced a normalization of relations in December 2014, most did not expect conditions to worsen for churches and Christians. While life for the average Cuban has not changed, according to a VOM worker, Christians have faced increasing persecution because of changes within the Cuban government. Government informants make it difficult for churches to operate, even underground, and pastors and evangelists are routinely arrested and detained for hours or days at a time. Existing churches are forbidden from making improvements to their buildings, and new churches are denied building permits. Some churches are not even allowed to have electricity or other basic utilities in their facilities. Pray that Cuban Christians will persevere despite the obstacles they face in attending church or sharing their faith with others.