



# 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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## *EARS to HEAR*

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When Christ says, "He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches," that is what the Greek literally says. But what it most closely approximates in the English is, "Now, don't just hear, but really listen and think through what I have said."

This phrase appears a few other times in the Gospels. But it appears almost twice that many times in just two chapters of the book of Revelation. If God says something once, we need to pay attention to it. If He repeats it even one or two times more, then what He is saying, is very important! But, if He says it *seven times* in the course of two chapters, then He is intensifying what He says considerably.

Jesus, knew that we would live during a time when there would be more distractions to grab our attention than at any other time in the history of man. He could see that the ease and rapidity of communication would attract our senses, and it would be difficult for us to keep ourselves focused on our prime concern.

The book of Revelation is devoted to prophecy, and just about every Christian seems to be concerned with it, as everybody wants to have insight into what is going to happen. But this, giving us insight into the future, was probably not Christ's primary reason for inspiring the book of Revelation. Something else is exceedingly more important, and most of it is contained in chapters 2 and 3, right at the beginning of the book. The most important part of Christ's revelation is contained in the letters to the seven churches.

In this confusing world, what is difficult is keeping our personal life focused, yet it is a responsibility each one of us has before God. No one else can do it for us. Individually, we must make the choices about what we will do with our time and energies. This is what Revelation 2 and 3 is concerned with.

In this way, each letter is written not only to the church at large, but to each member of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is not only speaking to us but has also given us the capacity to hear and understand His words. And if the description fits, then we are to make the changes Christ commands.

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- ***Operation Christmas Child: The shoebox packing party will be held TOMORROW, Monday, Nov. 14. For more information, see Gloria Felicione.***

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### Missionaries – Papua, New Guinea

#### Neal & Lois Semanision

##### Wait Meri Sightings:

So you may wonder, what is a "wait meri"? Well, that means "white woman." Especially children here yell out to their Mothers, "Mama, mama, wait meri" pointing to me when they see me. Kids hang out at our gate hoping to see the "wait meri", that's me. Many people come into Mount Hagen from bush areas and may be seeing a "wait meri" up close and personal for the first time. The other thing that gets yelled out at me is "lapun" meaning old person.

It is traditional here to shake hands, and I often shake hands with little toddlers. Sometimes they are all smiles and other times they scream in terror at this "wait meri" sighting... The other thing I am called is "Mama." That is kind of endearing. So there you go,

Now people here can identify each other by tribe. Heaven help the person who belongs to an enemy tribe. People from the Highlands up here take their lives in their hands when they go to a coastal town called Wewak. They get robbed and attacked.

Well, so far I do not seem to be an enemy tribe. America is too far away and it seems mostly people here have had positive experiences with Americans. Now you know I am also Canadian. The day guard here told me there were Canadian teachers in his tribal area and some of them were "kranki". Oops as in cranky. Trying not to be a "kranki lapun wait meri." It is a challenge at times. Now you know why I need to have a prayer covering. -----Lois

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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 (on a hiatus)</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**

*Oct. 28, 2016 | Iran: Praise God for Pastor Behnam Irani's Release from Prison*

Pastor Behnam Irani was released from prison in Iran on Oct. 17 after serving six years because of his Christian activities. He was convicted of action against national security in 2008 and given a five-year suspended sentence. In 2011, authorities ordered the pastor to begin a one-year prison sentence on a separate charge, but they later added the five-year suspended sentence to his prison term. The pastor suffered numerous health problems while in prison, requiring surgery in 2014 to stop bleeding in his stomach and colon. He and his family are grateful for his release. Please pray that he will soon be reunited with his wife and two children.