



# 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.*

## *First Love*

Revelation 2:1-7 contains Jesus' message to the church in Ephesus. Ephesus had some unique challenges for a Christ-follower in that it was home to the Emperor's cult and the worship of the Greek goddess Artemis (Acts 19:23-40). Because of these influences, the Ephesian believers had developed great discernment when it came to false teachers and heresy. Christ commended them for this discernment, but He faulted them for having lost their "first love."

The first love which characterized the Ephesians was the zeal and ardor with which they embraced their salvation as they realized they loved Christ because He first loved them (1 John 4:19) and that it was, in fact, His love for them that had made them "alive together with Christ." So overwhelmed were they by the joy that came from understanding their former state—dead in trespasses and sins—and their new life in Christ, that they exhibited the fruit of that joy (Ephesians 2:1-5). Because of God's great love for the Ephesians, they were "made alive in Christ" and that new life was exhibited in the passion of gratitude. That passion for the Savior spilled over onto one another and out to those in the culture they inhabited, corrupt as it was.

Jesus commends the Ephesians for their many good and hard works. However, they lost their warmth and zeal for Christ, and when that happened, they began to "go through the motions" of good works, motivated not by the love of and for Christ, but by the works themselves. What was once a love relationship cooled into mere religion.

Surrounded by paganism and false teachers, the Ephesian church would have had ample opportunity to correct false doctrine and confront heretical teachers. If they did so for any reason other than love for Christ and a passion for His truth, however, they would have lost their way, and would be in danger of falling away from Christ completely.

Jesus called the Ephesians to repent: "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:5). In this case, the corrective was to remember the heights of their former love, repent, and return to their previous way of doing things. It was time for revival in the church.

Jesus warns those who have "ears to hear" to prove the reality of their salvation by returning to Him their first love and to rekindle the love that had begun to cool.

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- *Please join us in celebrating the Lord's Supper on Sunday, November 27 in the morning service.*

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### Missionaries Papua, New Guinea Neal & Lois Semanison

God encouraged me in the prison outreach this past week. Pastor Nelson, the associate youth pastor from the Four Square Church up the street, often goes with me to the prison in town. Well last week he had taken his young people to the big prison out of town, pronounced "buy shoe". Four Square has a church next to it but that church had never done outreach in that prison, so this was a first. Pastor Nelson told me that going with me to the one in town had been a new experience for him and in doing so he had been learning how to do prison outreach. How good is that? The large prison has about 360 inmates. In the past I had gone once with an MAF team to there. The one we frequent in town has close to 60 persons. The population changes each time we go as this is the place arrested persons are taken initially.

You know when we were in Brasil, I had been concerned about the women's prison with 800 inmates that had a church right next door to it. I had asked its pastor if they were doing outreach in the prison and he told me they could not fit it into their schedule. Hello? What could be more important? Well, the Baptist Church in town that we were attending at the time did start to do outreach there, but that is another story. ----Lois

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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. 14, 2016 / Lebanon: Pray for Rima, Who Is Serving Syrian Refugees*

"Rima" is helping Syrian refugee children through her work at a kindergarten in Lebanon. While Muslim parents know that the children are learning about the Bible, they are responding positively to the ways in which Rima and the other school teachers are caring for their children and meeting their many needs. In addition to teaching Bible lessons and a standard Syrian school curriculum, the teachers are providing the children with food and basic medical care. Many children have asked Rima to pray for them, and parents have invited her to visit and pray with them in their homes. Please pray for additional leaders to help Rima, and pray that she will trust the Lord with the many difficult situations she sees.