



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.

Pergamos

This third letter is to the believers in Pergamos, which was a beautiful and art-filled city in the province of Asia. Pergamum was a center for the worship of Dionysus, Zeus, and other pagan gods.

The message was from the Lord Jesus Christ. The depiction of Jesus holding a sharp, two-edged sword refers to the Lord's readiness to bring judgment (Rev 1:16).

First, Jesus affirms the church's positive actions: "I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives". The Pergamene believers lived in a difficult place, surrounded by pagan influences, yet they held fast to Christ's name and did not deny Him during difficult times.

One Christian in Pergamum named Antipas is mentioned as a "faithful witness." Church tradition says that Antipas was a physician suspected of secretly propagating Christianity. Upon being condemned to death, Antipas was placed inside a copper bull, which was then heated over a fire until it was red-hot.

The church was not perfect, however, and Jesus took note of their sin: "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. The "teaching of Balaam" is explained in the context, as Christians were eating food that had been sacrificed to idols (religious compromise) and committing sexual immorality (moral compromise).

Jesus then issues a clarion call to repent of their sin: "Repent therefore! Our Lord hates religious and moral compromise. He calls His people to live differently.

Jesus notes the judgment that would take place if the church of Pergamum did not repent: "I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth". Jesus desires purity among His people, and we have a responsibility to remove false teachers from the church.

Jesus makes a final promise to the believers in Pergamum: "To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it". **Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM as we continue our series in Revelation**

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- ***There will be NO Bible Study on Christmas Day. Services will begin at 11:00 AM.***
- ***New Year's Eve service will begin at 7:00 PM. Please let Gloria Felicione know if you plan on staying for coffee/fellowship following the service.***
- ***There will be NO Bible Study nor service on Sunday, New Year's Day.***

Missionaries **John Koehler, Afghanistan**

Thanksgiving Outreach:

I woke up Friday and it was raining and cold outside. Then when we got to the bridge with the buses, there was a large police presence and many of the men were afraid to come up from under the bridge. We also had less follower volunteers show up than I had hoped for. So it was a struggle.

But as He always does, our Father knew what was best. In the end we had 80 men show up and they were very open.

(to be continued)

(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 (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
- Our country and God's will for it

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Nov. 25, 2016 | Indonesia: Pray for Church Bombing Victims and their Families

One child was killed and three others were critically injured on Nov. 13 when a terrorist threw a Molotov-style bomb into the Oikumene Church in East Kalimantan. The attacker lobbed the bomb into the church yard as the Sunday service concluded, critically injuring four young children playing in the yard. Intan Olivia Marbun, 3, died of severe burns... Authorities confirmed that the bomber, Muhammad Aceng Kurnia, is a convicted terrorist who spent more than three years in prison for an attack in 2012. Please pray for Intan's grieving family and for healing for the three children who were badly burned.