



# 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.*

## CASTING CROWNS

Revelation 4:10–11 is part of the vision Jesus gave John. In this scene of heaven, we see that “the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.’”

Jesus promised various rewards for those who faithfully serve Him on earth (Matthew 5:12; 1 Corinthians 3:14; Revelation 22:12). Some of those rewards are crowns (James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 3:11). These may be the crowns that John saw the elders lay at the feet of Jesus. In their words of worship, they indicate that, despite what they may have done on earth to earn these crowns, only Jesus is truly worthy of glory and honor. In the presence of the Lord Jesus Himself, all good deeds we have done will pale in comparison. A crown will seem but an insignificant gift to present to the One who gave His life for us (Galatians 2:20).

The elders’ response is most likely the way we will all respond when we receive our reward from Jesus. We will be so overcome with gratitude because of what He has done for us that worship will be spontaneous. Regardless of what we endured on earth, a priceless crown will seem a paltry offering, but it will be the best gift we can give Him. They recognize that the worth, the worthiness belongs to God, not to them. If God is worthy of the **glory and honor and power**, then *He* should get the crown.

Although the Scriptures do not state it specifically, it is likely that all of the redeemed (the church), will follow the example of the twenty-four elders in casting our crowns at Jesus’ feet.

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

- *Beginning this Tuesday January 10th, Tuesday evening’s service will have an emphasis on Discipleship and Practical Christianity. Meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and will include instruction followed by small group discussion and prayer. Meetings will take place in the Basement Fellowship area.*

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### Missionaries

#### Donna Schaber, Philippines

*(Donna is currently in the U.S.)* The pre-school team in B-town is doing well. Thank you for keeping them in prayer as they serve and have their Christmas break. They are Wylene, Marilyn, Aida, and Izzy. Other B-town workers are Cindy and Robert with their 2 sons Nathan and Daniel, Juvie, Cutie, Apple and Cirello. Jim and Roxy, our believing cousins, are well and have been an encouragement to papa George, Phyllis’ dad, and Phyllis.

My team in the “Beyond”, Lanao Development Team, continues their service in the muslim communities along the highway and some have been involved in teaching the required Bible lessons to the many drug users who have voluntarily surrendered themselves. It is part of the government’s crack down on the drug problem along with a 60-day rehab. Their names are : Nerlene, Leah, Noel and wife CharyGrace, Susana, Nora, Raymon and wife Ritchel (who just had a new baby in October).

In January I will need a follow-up health check and will do that on a 2-month trip to the Philippines leaving on January 17. I will also join Phyllis for several trips to B-town visiting the community leaders. It will be good to be with the Lanao teams too, and join them where they are working. On February 13 both Phyllis and I will attend a 10-day medical conference in Thailand.

**SEE PRAYER REQUESTS ON BACK**

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721  
 215-389-1985

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

From **Donna Schaber**: Thank you for praying through these requests for us all.

- That we will stand firm, not be defensive but ready to give a response for the hope that is in us.
- That they have opportunities to answer their Muslim friends the way Jesus answered---with a question or with a parable.
- That they will believe the **best** about the one they are talking with.
- That they will believe that the harvest is **ripe**.
- They will lift up Jesus and not Christianity or their church and He will draw them to Himself.
- They will speak in terms a child could understand and not in Christian-ese.
- Support for each worker as they are living at a minimal level.