



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.

Thyatira

Thyatira was a wealthy town on the Lycus River in the Roman province of Asia. The author of this message is Jesus Christ: "The words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze." After identifying Himself, Jesus affirms the church's positive actions: "I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first" (Rev 2:19).

Next, Jesus notes their sin: "Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching, she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols". Apparently, a false prophetess was leading believers into compromise. The church was engaging in sexual immorality and dabbling in idolatry. It is likely the name was a metaphorical reference to the Jezebel of the Old Testament—another idolatrous woman who opposed God's ways. Rather than rebuke this false teacher and send her out of the church, the believers in Thyatira were allowing her to continue her deception.

Jesus pronounces judgment on this "Jezebel" and calls the church of Thyatira to repent of their sin: "I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead".

Then Jesus encourages those who had remained faithful: "Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come". The faithful believers did not fall into Satan's trap, and they only needed to remain faithful until Christ's return.

Jesus lists His promises to the believers in Thyatira: "To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star" (Rev 2:26-28). This morning star is Jesus Himself, Rev 22:16. Jesus will give Himself to His church, and they will fellowship together forever.

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

(continued from last week)

The first man who arrived knew some English and told me he came because when he received the invitation card, with "New Life" on it, something sparked in his heart that maybe, just maybe he could have a new life free from drugs. Everything worked out really well because these men were very very hungry, so we were able to give them two meals instead of one since we had ordered 300 meals! The young man who led the celebration shared that we were not doing this to earn merit from God but that God was searching for them because he valued them and so did we (Luke 15). One of the volunteers then shared his story and the men were so attentive and appreciative.

...After the meal we told them they were welcome to leave and probably 50 left. We then shared a funny drama (ah, I was a donkey!) and a serious drama. Then a foreigner shared 3 worship songs in English and a hush came over the place. **I believe those who stayed experienced the presence of God...** Afterwards so many men thanked us. They were going back to the bridge but they were smiling and **I believe God has sparked hope in some of their hearts; there is Hope for a new life!**

(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. 04, 2016 / Sierra Leone: Pray for New Converts

A field worker in Sierra Leone shared recently that the tools VOM has provided to pastors and evangelists are being used effectively to share the gospel. "Countless souls" are coming to Christ "all over the country to the glory of God," he said. Although Sierra Leone guarantees religious freedom for its citizens, new believers still pay a high price for turning to Christ. They have been stoned and poisoned, and their homes have been burned by those opposed to the Christian faith. Opposition comes from those following a variety of ethnic religions, including the occult, witchcraft and Islam. Pastors have also been beaten and their churches destroyed. Pray that new believers will grow in faith, withstanding any persecution they may face.