



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.

WITNESS

A "witness" is someone who attests to a fact, so in order to be an effective witness for Christ, one must have firsthand knowledge of Him. John the Apostle speaks of this in 1 John 1:1-3, when he says, "*That . . . which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life.*" Today, we who have experienced new life in Christ give an account of His love and forgiveness, both verbally and in the way we live our lives. This is witnessing. To be effective in our witness, we should remember several basic things:

The **THEME** of our witness is Jesus Christ. Paul defined the gospel as the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). If we aren't explaining the sacrifice of Christ, then we're not really sharing the gospel. An important part of this theme is the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, not just one of many ways. "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" (John 14:6).

The **POWER** of our witness is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who transforms a life (Titus 3:5), and a transformed life is evident to all. As we witness, we should spend much time in prayer, appropriating the Spirit's power so that we are enabled to let our light shine in such a way that others will recognize the power of God in us (Matthew 5:16).

The **VALIDITY** of our witness will be shown in how we live our lives. Philippians 2:15 sets this goal for us: "*That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*" The effective Christian witness will live his/her life above reproach in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fruit we exhibit when we remain in Christ.

Perhaps most importantly, we must be familiar enough with the Scriptures to be able to accurately and coherently present the gospel to others. Always being prepared means diligent Bible study, memorizing Scripture, and praying for God-given opportunities to share with those whose hearts have been prepared by the Lord to hear His message of salvation.

Missionary Highlights

Donna Schaber, Philippines

Dear Partners in prayer,

I'm recently impressed by Revelation 3:8" ...I have set before you an open door; which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power; and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." Where is God opening doors, windows, even little cracks in the wall for us to shine His love through Jesus the Messiah.

My former team working with our beloved B-town family of Maranao Muslims and my more recent team in the north (the Beyond) continue to lift up Jesus. They have shared stories with me about new "listeners". One worker "storied" to a neighbor about Jesus' raising of the dead son of the widow of Nain. The response: "I didn't know Jesus did that. I want to hear more." They are encouraged to tell more. From this report I am eager to prepare more one-sheet true stories of Jesus in the language even home in the US for these workers to use in the context of their busy lives.

It is very sad to see posts of people's negative attitudes toward Muslims and their beliefs. The last one I saw presented the controversy about whether the Muslim God is totally a different God than the God of the Bible. Yes the differences of the concept of His character are very significant. But some truly seek to worship the Creator God! So instead of writing them off as wrong and bad, I am praying that we can be the open Book with Jesus shining in our lives and words, allowing Him to grow us in the knowledge of Him as well as that of our Muslim friends. Remembering what Jesus said, "If I am lifted up, I will draw all men to me", I'm excited to see our teams doing this.

(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

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 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 (Fellowship area)</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
- Paula Grazulis

Announcements:

- ***Tuesday evening's service has an emphasis on Discipleship and Practical Christianity. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and include instruction followed by small group discussion and prayer. Meetings take place in the Basement Fellowship area.***
- ***Easter Outreach - There is still time to reserve a meal that you can personally deliver to an individual or a family in need this Easter. Please give the names and number of meals that you need to Gloria Felicione.***