



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.

DISCIPLINE OF LOVE

Why is it that we find it so difficult to love others? The main reason we run into difficulty is sin, both ours and that of those we try to love. Apart from God and His power, we are selfish, and loving ourselves comes much more naturally than loving others. But love is not selfish; it seeks the best for others (1 Cor 13:5).

Another reason it can be difficult for us to love others is that we sometimes misunderstand what true love is. We tend to think of love as primarily an emotional response. But the kind of love God calls us to have for others is the same kind that He has for us. It is agape love, the essence of which is sacrifice. God's love for us is a sacrificial love, the kind that sent Him to the cross for our sins. He didn't save us because we were lovable; He saved us because His love caused Him to sacrifice Himself for us. Do we love others enough to sacrifice for them, even when they are not lovable? Loving others is a matter of the will and the volition, not the emotions.

God died for us at our worst, in the midst of our sin, when we were totally unlovable (Rom 5:8). When we make sacrifices in order to love someone, we get a glimpse of the depth of God's love for us, and we also reflect Him to the world. Jesus told His disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Notice He didn't say, "Feel loving toward one another." He said, "Love one another." He commanded an action, not a feeling.

Part of the difficulty of loving others is that we often try to do it on our own, whipping up feelings of love where none exist. This can lead to hypocrisy. We must understand that we cannot love apart from God. It is when we remain in Jesus and the Holy Spirit remains in us that we are able to bear the fruit of love (Gal 5:22-23). ***To learn more, please join us on Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM as we study Discipleship and Practical Christian Living.***

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHTS

Meet Barbara, who at the age of 85, making an impact in India. By starting a tailoring school, not only Barbara helps poor women in vocational training to earn future income, she also teaches them to strengthen their families and present Christ to them. Out of fifteen students who enrolled so far, majority are Hindus including the tutor.

The good news is that one of the Hindu women started to attend our local church for the first time. I am amazed at what God does through those who are available to fulfill the Great Commission. What surprises me is, it took 74 years for Barbara's dream of coming to India to become a reality. This is what she wrote to her friends and I thought you might be inspired:

"This is the place where I have longed to be ever since I was a child....a long, LONG, long time ago. I began by reading every story I would find on India. Rudyard Kipling to be sure but more contemporary things as well. This continent has captured my heart. The place, the people, their lives so different than mine. I believe the Lord placed India's people on my heart when I first read the beautiful little book called "Nectar in a Sieve", by Kamala Markandaya in 1954..

Last year while I was in Vietnam I had a dream....There was a man reaching out to me and I longed to reach his hand somehow to help him..I could not, the dream faded and I awoke crying. He was not Vietnamese but I thought he looked like he might be an Indian. I emailed my friend Binu and told him about my dream, and he said to me... "Come to India." And here I am! In church the very first Sunday the Lord whispered in my ear..... "see, I have given you the desire of your heart." Ps. 37:4.

It has taken approximately 74 years to get here. But the Lord is faithful and He has a plan, for you as well as me. He does not forget the desires of our hearts that align with His, but they are always fulfilled in His time, not necessarily ours. So, if you have some deeply held desire, as yet not seen...and the Lord has given this to you....don't be discouraged....He does not forget. Many obstacles may present themselves but each one will be overcome in His time. And one day you too will hear, "see I have given you the desires of your heart."

How exciting! Would you please keep Ms Barbara in your prayers for her safety, sound health and continuous ministry among women and children in India? I close with much appreciation and love for your partnership with our ministry in India. God bless you.

Binu John
Care India Mission International

(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 (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.**