

February 12, 2017



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.

HELL

It is interesting that a much higher percentage of people believe in the existence of heaven than believe in the existence of hell. According to the Bible, though, hell is just as real as heaven. The Bible clearly and explicitly teaches that hell is a real place to which the wicked/unbelieving are sent after death. We have all sinned against God (Romans 3:23). The just punishment for that sin is death (Romans 6:23). Since all of our sin is ultimately against God (Psalm 51:4), and since God is an infinite and eternal Being, the punishment for sin, death, must also be infinite and eternal. Hell is this infinite and eternal death which we have earned because of our sin.

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as "eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41), "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2), a place where "the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44-49), a place of "torment" and "fire" (Luke 16:23-24), "everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where "the smoke of torment rises forever and ever" (Revelation 14:10-11), and a "lake of burning sulfur" where the wicked are "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

The punishment of the wicked in hell is as never ending as the bliss of the righteous in heaven. Jesus Himself indicates that punishment in hell is just as everlasting as life in heaven (Matthew 25:46). The wicked are forever subject to the fury and the wrath of God. Those in hell will acknowledge the perfect justice of God (Psalm 76:10). Those who are in hell will know that their punishment is just and that they alone are to blame (Deuteronomy 32:3-5). Yes, hell is real. Yes, hell is a place of torment and punishment that lasts forever and ever, with no end.

Praise God that, through Jesus' finished work on the cross on our behalf, we can escape this eternal fate and live eternally with Him in Heaven (John 3:16, 18, 36).

Please join us Sunday Mornings at 11:00 AM as we continue our series in Revelation.

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries-Binu John, India

... **Barbara, 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, a 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 Kampala 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

(continued on back page)

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 (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

Binu John (Continued from front page.)

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.