

January 29, 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.

Second Chances

God is not only the God of second chances; He is the God of *another* chance. This is good news because most of us mess up the second chance fairly quickly. One of the amazing facets of God's character is His incredible patience with us. Ps 86:15 says: "*But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*"

The Bible is full of people who received second, and even third and fourth chances: Peter, Jonah, Mark, Samson, David, and others to name a few.

Many of us are familiar with the concept of second chance because we live during the time known as the age of grace. However, God's grace will even be evident in the future after this age of grace ends, when the church is removed via the Rapture.

Some Bible interpreters believe that there will be absolutely no chance for salvation after the Rapture. However, there is no place in the Bible which says this or even hints to it. There will be many people who come to Christ during the Tribulation. The 144,000 witnesses (Rev 7:4) are Jewish believers. If no one can come to Christ during the Tribulation, then why are people being beheaded for their faith (Rev 20:4)? No passage of Scripture argues against people having a chance to be saved after the Rapture. Many passages indicate the opposite. All of these are people who were alive before the Rapture, but who were not believers until afterward. Therefore, there must be opportunity to come to Christ in faith after the Rapture, in other words a second chance.

However, even God has a limit on forgiveness. In Rom 1:18-32, the apostle Paul warns us what happens when we continue to spurn God's patience and reject His call to repentance. Three different times, the phrase "*God turned them over*" appears. When we insist on running our lives the way we want rather than the way God wants, He lets us. Eventually, when our hearts are hardened against Him, He lets us go. He turns us over to a reprobate mind, one that can no longer seek God. At that point, sin has become our god.

God does everything possible to draw us to repentance, offering forgiveness and second chances (2 Pe 3:9). But if we continue to reject Him, the offer is withdrawn and, at death, there are no more chances (Heb 9:27).

Ministry Highlights

Missionaries Neal & Lois Semansion Papua, New Guinea

Yesterday, Kia (the night guard), and Lillian (pastor's daughter who used to go to Polga when I taught Bible classes in the prep school), and I went to the prison in town. With help from friends in the US and Australia, I had been able to purchase New Testament/Psalms in Tok Pisin and we were able to give one to each prisoner and to some of the guards. We were surprised to see new gates on the cells. Now we could see the faces of the prisoners and sadly we could see the terrible conditions inside their cells: only cement floors and graffiti and darkness and trash...

My message is always that God is giving the prisoners a **second chance** and I cite Biblical accounts of persons in the Bible who were murderers and so on, but God gave them a second chance, (such as Moses and Paul). I talked about the Eternal God and Prince of Peace, prophesied in Isaiah some 700 years before Christ coming and how He came to give us His peace. They do not know what a prince is, but they know who Queen Elizabeth is, so I told them her son is a prince. Likewise, the Son of God is the Prince of Peace. I also told them that because Jesus shed His blood and took our place on the cross we can become part of a new bloodline, the line of Jesus. You see, with 860 languages here and tribal allegiance and tribal fighting, this is revolutionary that we can all be one as part of His bloodline.

(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

Dec. 09, 2016 | Laos: Pray for Ngam, Expelled from His Home Because of His Faith

After "Ngam" became a Christian two years ago at age 19, his relationship with his parents deteriorated until they eventually kicked him out of their house. His new beliefs were a constant source of conflict between him and his parents. They encouraged him to stop attending a house church and return to the worship of ancestral spirits, but Ngam refused. In November, his parents expelled him from their home. A local pastor offered the young man refuge, and for now he is living with the pastor's family. He hopes to one day study at a Bible school. Pray that God will restore Ngam's relationship with his parents and that they, too, will come to faith in Christ.