



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.

God's Plan for Israel

This topic is one of the more controversial in the Church today, and it has significant implications regarding the way we interpret Scripture, especially concerning the end times. More importantly, it has great significance in that it affects the way we understand the very nature and character of God Himself.

In Genesis 12, God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, the Jews would possess a land, that nation would be blessed above all other nations, and all other nations would be blessed from Israel. So, from the beginning God revealed that Israel would be His chosen people on the earth, but that His blessing would not be limited to them exclusively. Galatians 3:14 identifies the nature of the blessing to come to all the other nations: "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." All the nations of the world were blessed by Israel, through whom the Savior of the world came.

God's plan of redemption is built upon the finished work of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David and Abraham. But Christ's death on the cross is sufficient for the sins of the entire world, not just the Jews! Galatians 3:6-8 states, "Consider Abraham: 'He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' Believers become the spiritual descendants of Abraham. Believers do not become physical Jews, but they may enjoy the same type of blessings and privileges as the Jews.

Now, this does not contradict or nullify the revelation given in the Old Testament. God's promises in the Old Testament are still valid, and God's relationship with Israel as a chosen people points to the work of Christ as a Redeemer of the whole world.

Promises made to Israel are still going to be kept in the future. We can be sure that all God has said is true and will take place, because of His character and consistency. The Church does not replace Israel. As one reads Scripture, it is necessary to keep Israel and the Church separate.

Missionary Highlights

Donna Schaber, Philippines

Travel Dates for Phyllis & Donna:

- March 14-29 Visiting supporting church in Maui
- March 29-April 11 Loveland, CO for the memorial service and internment of the ashes of Mom & Dad Oblander and visits to supporters and church family.
- April 11 until June – PA, NJ, and MA...then back at the Chapel in Akron, OH.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for my new team, the Lanao Development Team, that they would see fruit; and God's provision for their needs and support. Pray for them as they teach the good Word that many would *hear* and **listen**.
- Pray for the caregiver team that became family over the last two years for Phyllis' parents. They long to continue to serve the Lord in tangible ways. We are forming a partnership for Arlene to be able to open a generic pharmacy for missions' fund raising, and are helping Marissa form a board of believers to work with to open a boarding /discipleship house for college students.
- Thank you for praying for Jim and Roxanne. They are a blessing to the other believers especially Nora, who had her rheumatic heart valves replaced in 2013, and her deaf son Ralph, whose father is absent. They are also seeing God's provision for them by stewarding the lands of Jim's cousin.
- Prayer for two long-term friends of ours in Btown, Bonnie and Norine, who had been by our side for many years in the clinic and village pharmacy. They have yet to call our Savior Lord. We are spending time with them these days to train them to handle more primary care issues, as they will often not have the team professional help in this next year.

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(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
- Each other

Donna Schaber, Prayer Requests cont.:

- Pray for Robert and Cindy. Robert has become the Executive Director of the PIE team as Phyllis begins furlough and makes the planned transition to Filipino leadership. He and Cindy face complicated issues, care for two busy toddlers, and Cindy does part time work in the clinic with only the two above (Bonnie/Norine) as her team