



# 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.*

## Unconditional Love

God's love, as described in the Bible, is clearly unconditional in that His love is expressed toward the objects of His love (that is, His people) despite their disposition toward Him. In other words, God loves because it is His nature to love (1 John 4:8), and that love moves Him toward benevolent action. The gospel message is basically a story of divine rescue. As God considers the plight of His rebellious people, He determines to save them from their sin, and this determination is based on His love (Eph 1:4-5). Listen to the Apostle Paul's words from his letter to the Romans: "*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Rom 5:6-8).

Reading through the book of Romans, we learn that we are alienated from God due to our sin. His wrath is being revealed against the ungodly for their unrighteousness (Rom 1:18-20). We reject God, and God gives us over to our sin. We also learn that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom 3:23) and that none of us seek God, none of us do what is right before His eyes (Rom 3:10-18).

Despite this hostility and enmity we have toward God, He reveals His love toward us in the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ, as the propitiation (that is, the appeasement of God's righteous wrath) for our sins. God did not wait for us to better ourselves as a condition of atoning for our sin. Rather, God became a man and lived among His people (John 1:14). God experienced our humanity—everything it means to be a human being—and then offered Himself willingly as a substitutionary atonement for our sin.

This divine rescue resulted in a gracious act of self-sacrifice. As Jesus says in John's gospel, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). That is precisely what God, in Christ, has done.

If God's love were conditional, then we would have to do something to earn or merit it. We would have to somehow appease His wrath and cleanse ourselves of our sin before God would be able to love us. But that is not the biblical message. The biblical message (the gospel) is that God, motivated by love, moved unconditionally to save His people from their sin.

## Missionary Highlights

### John Koehler :

#### Afghanistan

The house has also been quite the project; the roof, plumbing, and electrical all needed repairing and the ceilings were so water damaged that painting them was a nightmare! But the Lord has shown His grace here also! The owner came by to see what I was doing to his old home and as he walked through, he stopped and looked at me and said, "You are a good man" and decided to deduct from our rent the expense of painting the outside of the house, the outside walls, as well as repairing the basement walls. Tomorrow new carpet and curtains go into the inside and truly this house will be like new! The owner is thrilled we are taking care of his home. **God wants new life to be reflected in everything we do here in A land!**

About the MoU; due to many revisions, we were not able to present our MoU to the government and then I went to India. Please **pray** we can submit it soon, as we can not take men until we are approved. This process could take some weeks. And **pray** for my health. I was in India for a Y conference which was great until I came down with a rare flu that effected my one ear, eye, throat and chest and wiped me out. Traveling was no fun to say the least! But God was faithful to provide people of favour all along the way who helped me. I am just starting to feel well again. Finally, I will be traveling to the States April 13th for a very short visit. I am sorry that I can not see all of you who so faithfully support what we are doing here but I will try to connect with you by phone.

*Please keep praying! We/I need it!*

*Continuing in His radical grace,*

*John*

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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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

### **WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	<b>FCA</b>	<b>PAC</b>
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service &amp; 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

### **From: Voice of the Martyrs**

*Mar. 03, 2017 | Egypt: Pray for the Family of Kamel, Who Was Killed by Islamic Extremists*

A Christian man in Egypt's North Sinai region was shot to death by Islamic extremists on Feb. 23 in front of his family, making him the seventh Christian to be martyred in the past month. Kamel Raouf Kamel Yousef, 40, was chased by armed men to the roof of his home before being shot to death. The attackers also set fire to the family's home, but Kamel's wife and five children managed to escape. The self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) has killed at least six Christian men since Jan. 31. In a video released on Feb. 19, Islamists threatened to kill all Egyptian Christians living in an area the militants claimed as their own five years ago. Please pray for Kamel's wife and children as well as the other Christians who have lost family members.