



# 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.*

## TRUE or FALSE

False christs have come and gone since the first century (Mark 13:22; 2 Peter 2:1). They arise when someone claims to be the Messiah or when a branch of Christianity veers from the clear teaching of God's Word and tries to define Jesus as other than He is. The apostles dealt with false doctrine in many of their letters to the churches, warning believers about the false christs and false prophets in their midst (2 Cor 11:13). John gave a clear definition of accurate Christology: "*By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God*" (1 John 4:2-3).

False christs have continued to make their appearance. They often started with the Bible but then seized one verse or idea and built their own theology around it, turning their group into a self-affirming cult. Cult leaders often attract their victims by presenting themselves as Bible-believing Christians, but they all deny the deity and work of Jesus, the Son of God, as our only path to forgiveness and eternal life (see John 14:6).

A proliferation of false christs have arisen in unexpected places: Christian church pulpits. When a teaching reinvents Jesus as someone other than He is or intentionally minimizes the more difficult truths of His gospel, it presents a false christ. With the surge of hyper-grace teaching and *Your Best Life Now* theology, the glory of Jesus Christ has been minimized in favor of self-worship. Jesus, when mentioned at all, is often presented as merely the ticket to receiving God's blessings. In this generation of biblical illiteracy, many hearers eagerly swallow this man-made version of Christ, never challenging the twisted doctrine that conceived it. Even when people are given an opportunity to "make a decision" for Jesus, one must wonder: to what Christ are they committing themselves?

2 Timothy 4:3-4 warns us that a time was coming when people would not tolerate sound doctrine. As the days grow darker and sin escalates, a more palatable christ becomes attractive to those who "*loved the darkness rather than the light*" (John 3:19). 2 Thes 2:11-12 explains why so many are attracted to false christs. Verse 10 says, "*They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*" When people refuse to love the truth, the real Jesus, or God's holy Word, God gives them over to their own ideas and their false christs, none of which have any power to save (Rom 1:21-23).

### Missionary Highlights

#### Neal/Lois: Papua, New Guinea

Yesterday, Lillian and I went to the local hospital to visit the women in the special care nursery. We had 12 care packages and that was the exact number we needed. We shared Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." I like the way it is translated in Tok Pisin, which is what we read. Precious.

Lillian and I then went out and gave out tracts to many persons and spoke with one girl who was lying outside on the grass. She is feeling really sick and they think something is wrong with her blood. The skin on her arms was all dry and scaly. We prayed with her. Then there was an elderly woman sitting alone on the grass and we went to her. She only speaks Melpa, the language of Mount Hagen. Well that is one of the 4 languages that Lillian speaks. The lady asked for prayer and Lillian was able to do that in her language. From them we went up to a ramp where there were 2 young men, one in a portable bed and the other sitting on the ramp. The first one had been all cut up in some sort of attack. We could see he had lost some of his fingers and his knee was wrapped and he had some serious scars on his feet and legs. The second one had been in a car accident. I tried to encourage them that God has given them a second chance. They both could have died. God has a plan for their lives should they choose to surrender their lives to Him. I also talked about forgiveness of those who have wronged them. We prayed with them.

Lillian has been such a blessing as a ministry partner in the hospital and in the prison. She is the person who had to quit the Nazarene Bible School due to illness. I had written before of the Lord's healing in her life. She had been having seizures 3 times a day although on strong medication. She went to a ministry meeting.... They prayed with her. She has experienced healing. She has had only one seizure since then and it has been several weeks. God is so good...Lillian used to go to Polga with me when we taught Bible classes in a bush prep school.

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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**

	FCA	PAC
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**

*Feb. 10, 2017 | Nepal: Pray for Durga and Dinesh, New Christians in a Himalayan Village*

In early 2016, two front-line workers stayed with a local couple, "Durga" and her husband, "Dinesh," while serving in a remote Himalayan village. When Durga became ill, the workers prayed and cared for her until she recovered. Both Durga and Dinesh subsequently came to faith in Christ and began sharing the gospel with others, listening to an audio Bible and allowing low-caste villagers into their home for the first time. Pray for Durga and Dinesh as well as for the front-line workers as they continue to share the gospel in Nepal.