

April 2, 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.*

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### *THE SHACK*

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### *just a novel?*

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A woman standing in line outside the theater to see The Shack movie was eager to talk with me about Paul Young's best-selling book. She said she "loved" The Shack and couldn't understand why it had so many critics on the Internet. She was especially perplexed by the number of "negative" comments made by pastors. Obviously confused by all the controversy, she suddenly exclaimed- "But The Shack is just a novel!"

What the woman and so many other Shack readers fail to take into account is that the book is much more than just a novel. It is a carefully crafted presentation of Paul Young's alternative "Christian" universalist theology based on "real" conversations he claims to have had with God. In Young's forward to The Shack Revisited, a book written by his friend C. Baxter Kruger, Young corrects any misunderstanding that The Shack is "just a novel." He writes: Please don't misunderstand me; The Shack is theology. But it is theology wrapped in story.

In Lies We Believe About God, which was released on March 7th, Young states that he believes in "universal salvation" and that "every single human being is in Christ" and "Christ is in them." Thus, Young himself makes it very clear in his own words that The Shack is not "just a novel" but rather a "cunningly devised fable" (2 Peter 1:16) for presenting some of his own heretical universalistic New Age views.

– Reprint from Berean Call - 3-29-2017 - (Warren Smith, "When People Say, 'But The Shack is Just a Novel!'" Lighthouse Trails Blog, March 13, 2017)

### Missionary Highlights

#### Binu John, India

Dear Beloved:

Greetings from India! I hope you remember the second church we started in Pandalam town eight months ago. I am thrilled to report you that by God's grace we have **outgrown** already. In 400 sq ft space we pack 50 chairs, pulpit and some mats for children to sit on the floor. By the time the service gets over, I watch everyone coming out full of sweat. I have been looking for better place.

Here is a new place we found. It is in the **ground floor**, compare to the third floor where we are currently meeting that stopped some people who were unable to climb up steps. Amazing enough, a Hindu landlord has agreed to rent to us for Christian worship! And it is in the heart of the town. I am excited about all the open doors. Here is an urgent need I want to share with you:

Monthly rent is \$175 (the local church is able to raise)

Deposit - \$2300 (**One time**, will be returned upon leaving the building)

Sound proof the room - \$700 (**One time**)

Two AC units - \$500 each (**One time**)

Banners, notices etc - \$200 (**One time**)

Would you please pray and help to meet the **ONE TIME** need, so that we can build His church in this holy town? I have to make an agreement **As Soon As Possible** before someone else occupies this place. Please let me know how you can help. It is a big leap faith. Blessings on you. Love to hear from you.

Binu John

PS: Sacrificial contribution can be made out to Care India Mission and mail to **PO Box 52294, Philadelphia, PA, 19115.**

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721  
 215-389-1985

**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**

*Feb. 17, 2017 | Syria: Pray for the Church in Syria*

Many new house churches have been planted in Syria in the past six years, even in war-torn Aleppo. People from minority groups, fundamentalist Muslim backgrounds and some from Christian backgrounds have encountered Jesus for the first time. "There are beautiful people striving to serve their communities throughout Syria," said a VOM worker who recently returned from Syria. Because of these new believers, there is a great need for mature Christian leaders throughout the country. Pray for those helping develop Christian leaders in Syria and for the faith of the many new believers there.