



# 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.*

## RESURRECTION

It is a well-established fact that Jesus Christ was publicly executed in Judea in the 1st Century A.D., under Pontius Pilate, by means of crucifixion, at the behest of the Jewish Sanhedrin. The non-Christian historical accounts of Flavius Josephus, Cornelius Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Maimonides and even the Jewish Sanhedrin corroborate the early Christian eyewitness accounts of these important historical aspects of the death of Jesus Christ and some even speak of His resurrection.

More importantly, Scripture presents conclusive evidence that Jesus Christ was in fact resurrected from the dead. (Matt 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 and Acts 1). From these passages you can gain several "proofs" of Christ's resurrection. First is the dramatic change in the disciples. They went from a group of frightened hiding men to strong, courageous witnesses sharing the gospel throughout the world. What else could explain this dramatic change other than the risen Christ appearing to them?

Second is the life of the apostle Paul. What changed him from being a persecutor of the church into an apostle for the church? It was when the risen Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9:1-6](#)). A third convincing proof is the empty tomb. If Christ were not raised, then where is His body? The disciples and others saw the tomb where He was buried. When they returned, His body was not there. Fourth, additional evidence of His resurrection is that He appeared to many people ([Matt 28:5, 9, 16-17; 1 Cor 15:5-7](#)).

A key passage on Christ's resurrection is [1 Cor 15](#). The apostle Paul explains why it is crucial to understand and believe in Christ's resurrection. The resurrection is important for the following reasons: 1) If Christ was not raised from the dead, believers will not be either ([vs:12-15](#)). 2) If Christ was not raised from the dead, His sacrifice for sin was not sufficient ([vs:16-19](#)). Jesus' resurrection proved that His death was accepted by God as the atonement for our sins. If He had simply died and stayed dead, that would indicate His sacrifice was not sufficient. As a result, believers would not be forgiven for their sins, and they would remain dead after they die ([vs:16-19](#)). Scripture is clear that all those who believe in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal life just as He was ([vs:20-23](#)). [1 Cor 15](#) goes on to describe how Christ's resurrection provides us the power to live victoriously over sin ([vs:24-34](#)). It describes the glorious nature of the resurrection body we will receive ([vs:15:35-49](#)). It proclaims that, as a result of Christ's resurrection, all who believe in Him have ultimate victory over death ([vs: 15:50-58](#)). **He is risen indeed.**

## Missionary Highlights

### India

As usual the summer is busier and this gives us an opportunity to multiply our impact as well. Therefore I am excited. We are getting ready to host Vacation Bible School (VBS) with the theme – "**Wonder Ride: A trip with Jesus!**" I remember the first VBS four years ago starting with two children, God had increased to 20. The second year it grew to 30, then the following year 40 and the last year it increased to 60.

This year our **target is to reach 150** children. We want to conduct it in two places. The first one is scheduled for next week from April 17 Monday, to 22 Saturday, in a public auditorium in Pandalam, the holy town. I need your help. Apart from the local support I raised, I need another \$5 each per child to cover the cost – providing text book, coloring, crafts, teachers, directors, snacks, soft drinks, rent etc..

Would you please help me to reach 5 children, 10 or 20 each? With \$5 we can reach one child for Jesus this year. These kids will become future leaders – politicians, pastors, doctors, engineers, decision makers etc. **Influencing them with Christ's** teaching will not only shape their lives, we are also shaping the destiny of a country. Therefore I want to make sure we make use of the opportunities God gives us at the moment to shape these next generation leaders.

God bless you as you prayerfully participate in this opportunity to make a positive impact. I appreciate your thoughtful support. With love and prayers:

Binu John

Care India Mission, PO Box 52294,  
Philadelphia, PA, 19115.

**Only one life. T will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last – CT Studd**

(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**

	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
- Paula Grazulis

**If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.**

**--Dr. Vance Havner, Preacher (1901-1986)**