



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.

GLORY OF GOD

The glory of God is the beauty of His spirit. It is not an aesthetic beauty or a material beauty, but it is the beauty that emanates from His character, from all that He is. This glory can crown man or fill the earth. It is seen within man and in the earth, but it is not of them; it is of God. The glory of man is the beauty of man's spirit, which is fallible and eventually passes away, and is therefore humiliating. But the glory of God, which is manifested in all His attributes together, never passes away. It is eternal.

Since God is the one from whom glory comes, He will not let stand the assertion that glory comes from man or from the idols of man or from nature. In [Isaiah 42:8](#), we see an example of God's jealousy over His glory. This jealousy for His own glory is what Paul is talking about in [Romans 1:21-25](#) when he speaks of the ways people worship the creature rather than the Creator. In other words, they looked at the object through which God's glory was coming, and, instead of giving God the credit for it, they worshiped that animal or tree or man as if the beauty it possessed originated from within itself. This is the very heart of idolatry and is a very common occurrence. Everyone who has ever lived has committed this error at one time or another. We have all "exchanged" the glory of God in favor of the "glory of man."

This is the mistake many people continue to make: trusting in earthly things, earthly relationships, their own powers or talents or beauty, or the goodness they see in others. But when these things fade and fail as they will inevitably do (being only temporary carriers of the greater glory), these people despair. What we all need to realize is that God's glory is constant, and as we journey through life we will see it manifest here and there, in this person or that forest, or in a story of love or heroism, fiction or non-fiction, or our own personal lives. But it all goes back to God in the end. And the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. We will find the very source of all beauty in Him, in heaven, if we are in Christ. Nothing will be lost to us. All those things that faded in life we will find again in

Missionary Highlights

Papua – Lois and Neal

During prison outreach yesterday, I noticed one cell had prisoners with cuts on their faces; one guy had an eye injury and his eye was swollen almost shut. I asked what had happened. They said the police had done that. In this country, police beat up people, set houses on fire and so on. Police brutality is not protested. Anyway, Lillian and Leti had accompanied me on this visit. We ended our time with 4 women who were held in a sort of storage room, but they could go in and out. All I can say, the situation is desperate, and I am so glad to be able to go in there and share the love of Jesus.

Lillian has had the return of some seizures. I think they are triggered in part by her emotions. Please pray for her. She hopes to return to the Nazarene Teacher's College in June. Leti has started a computer training school. Some of their graduates have gone to work with the mines. As you probably know this country has gold, copper, gas, and on and on. It is super wealthy, but the wealth does not trickle down the line to the common folks.

I have continued to visit Naison (guessed spelling) in the hospital. She is the woman who was selling snacks to the school kids across the street when she was viciously attacked by persons from a different tribe; she is from Enga, and the attackers are from Hagen. She has been hospitalized for 3 weeks, and has recovered quite a bit, but some surgery is ahead on her head. Please pray for this. I am not clear what the doctors will be doing, but any surgery involving the skull and so on is serious.

I am very excited to have been able to share some tracts with the Chinese and Burmese store staff here. Jesus sent them here to learn about His love for them, something they probably never heard in their countries. God is extravagant in reaching out to people. Imagine, I began my life in Swaziland and now am here. Only God could send messengers far and wide to reach the ones He loves.

How good is God! Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080	
Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	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 or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila 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		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 at First Christian (Phila.& NJ) 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

God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him.
 – Hudson Taylor, missionary to China