



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.

Follow your Heart?

There are many calls to "follow your heart". However, rather than trust our hearts, we are to commit our hearts to God: "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight*" (Pro 3:5-6). This passage gives an explicit command *not* to trust ourselves. And it gives the promise of guidance to those who choose to follow the Lord.

The Bible teaches that man is to follow God. God declares, "*Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him*" (Jer 17:7). God has perfect knowledge of everything (1 John 3:20), a trait called omniscience. God's knowledge is not limited in any way. God is aware of all events that have ever transpired, are currently occurring, and will ever happen (Is 46:9-10). God's knowledge goes beyond mere events and extends to thoughts and intentions (John 2:25; Acts 1:24). It is not all this knowledge, however, that makes God a perfectly reliable source of guidance. God is also aware of every possibility, every eventuality, every imaginable outcome of any series of events (Matt 11:21). That ability, combined with God's goodness, enables God to give the best possible direction for people to follow.

God says this about the unregenerate heart: "*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*" (Jer 17:9). This passage makes clear two reasons why no one should bind himself to following his heart when making decisions. First, there is nothing more deceitful in all of creation than the heart of man because of his inherited sin nature. If we follow our heart, we follow an untrustworthy guide.

Second, Jer 17:9 teaches that the heart is desperately sick. There is no way to fix the heart. Rather, man needs a new heart. That is why, when a person comes to faith in Christ, he is made a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus does not *fix* the heart; instead, He *replaces* it with a new one.

However, that does not mean that we can rely on our hearts after we come to faith in Christ. Even as believers, we are encouraged to follow God's will over our own desires. The Bible teaches that "*the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want*" (Gal 5:17).

Missionary Highlights

Afganistan

Dear Friends,

Well it has been a while since I sent out an update. The trip to the USA was an amazing time to reconnect with old friends and to make some new friends. Thank you for all of your support of me and the project.

I am sure many of you have heard of the events of the past few weeks here in A land. It has been a tragic few weeks of kidnappings, terrorist explosions and protests. If ever this nation needed your prayers it is now. Having said that, I am so glad to be back! I have a total peace being here and so sense God's presence here. I honestly can not imagine being anywhere else!

While I was gone the New Life volunteers did an amazing job. This past Friday we had 19 men come to the Friday 12 step group. Two of them walked, which is quite a walk in the heat of Kabul (35 C). There are now two men that have been coming faithfully for about five weeks and next week they will take responsibility to organize the other bridge men to be ready when we come with a van to pick them up. I went under the bridge this past Friday and there are now more men there than ever before!

But while there, I sensed God's broken heart for these men and His determination to do something amazing there, maybe one of the least likely places one would expect to encounter God, or maybe it is, as God inhabits places of brokenness (Psa 34:18).

So please pray for God to move in power, with miracles of healing and revelations of His love.

Please pray for the Finnish woman who was kidnapped and her family. Also for my one volunteer's 19 year old sister, Samira, who was also kidnapped over a month ago (the family needs another \$30,000 to meet the ransom demand). Unfortunately, this is an every day nightmare for many A land families here!

Please pray for government approval of the project. Please lift up our 12 step group every Friday from 2-3 pm.

Thank you so much for partnering with us by prayer and giving. We cannot do this without you!

Continuing in His radical grace, John

If you'd like to support me: Send gifts to YWAM, PO Box 3000, Garden Valley, TX 75771. Make the check out to YWAM and attach a note saying this is for John Koehler. Please do not write my name anywhere on the check.

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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 or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location 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.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Outreach - Bake sale and Open House - Saturday June 24th – 10:00AM -2:00 PM
 This semi- annual outreach is a great opportunity to meet and engage our neighbors with love and the Gospel of Jesus. Volunteer opportunities; Bakers, Set up, Tear down, Clean up, Flyer distribution, Children’s crafts, Intercessory prayer, Evangelism.
 Please see Gloria Felicione or Mikki Dispensa to sign up.

“[Mat 9:37–38] 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the labourers [are] few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. – Jesus