



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.

Works of the flesh

[Galatians 5:19](#)–21 speaks of the works of the flesh, saying they are *"evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these."*

Paul then warns *"that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* The works of the flesh are the things human beings naturally tend toward that are contrary to God's design for us ([Rom 1:28](#)–29). Those who pursue lifestyles characterized by these traits, are giving evidence that they are not saved ([Matt 7:20](#)).

When the Bible speaks of the *"flesh,"* it is often referring to our natural sin tendencies. We are all born with a sin nature ([Rom 5:12](#)). Our natural predilection is to please ourselves any way we see fit. We can be trained to behave in more socially acceptable ways and even find enjoyment in being kind to others. However, without the power of God, we remain self-centered. We do what we do, even good things, because we receive some selfish payoff. Anything not done from faith or love for God—any deed not empowered by the Holy Spirit—is a "work of the flesh" ([Rom 8:8](#); [14:23](#)).

At salvation, the Holy Spirit moves into the repentant heart, making it possible for us to make choices that are of the Spirit, rather than the flesh ([Gal 5:16](#); [Ez 36:27](#); [Col 3:5](#)–8). We are to consider ourselves *"crucified with Christ"* ([Gal 2:20](#)) and our old sin nature dead ([Rom 6:2, 11](#)), but the flesh does not die easily. A battle still rages within even the most dedicated follower of Christ. The apostle Paul wrote eloquently of this battle in [Rom 7](#). Works of the flesh are not always obvious. They can even be found within Christian ministry, as people try to gain popularity or self-worth under the guise of serving Christ. Diotrophes was rebuked for this in [3 John 1:9](#). Trying to please God from selfish motivation leads to unhealthy competition, slander, bitterness, and burnout ([Gal 1:10](#)).

The works of the flesh are in total contrast with the [fruit of the Spirit](#), detailed in [Gal 5:22](#)–23. What pleases the Lord in our lives is not a "work" but a "fruit" that the Spirit alone can produce. We can avoid works of the flesh by staying continually submitted to the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to direct every aspect of our lives ([Eph 5:18](#); [Gal 5:25](#)).

Missionary Highlights

Papua

Cutts Update July 2017 -Dear faithful family, teammates and friends. . . .

This past Easter in Papua I was struck by ongoing events that are more easily understood in the context of Easter. Without internet and electricity in the villages, I am very late in sharing these thoughts with you all.

Easter took on new meaning for these traumatized village communities searching for peace and longing for new beginnings amidst the upheaval. The tribal system of "a head for a head" to bring peace in settling a tribal war stood in stark contrast to the Easter message guaranteeing the price for peace has been paid in full and our debt settled.

These last several weeks in Papua have been a vivid reminder of the need for peace and healing in this world, but more specifically in Papua. The traumatic and devastating tribal war in our area between the Moni, Dani and Wolani was instigated by unscrupulous government leaders and the daily impact of this sad story is seen on the big screen of village life. It has left many huts and buildings burned down, and reportedly has also inflicted arrow, spear and bullet wounds on over 600 victims, of which 6 have died. More than 50 villages are gripped with fear of an attack and consequently doctor's visits, pastor's seminars and training for new teachers all were canceled. The Moni even warned me not to come to the villages at the height of the fighting for fear of retaliation by one of the opposing tribes.

At this very moment negotiations are still going on to bring lasting peace to these isolated villages. I walked through villages and witnessed the tension and disunity. The lively village market which was the melting pot for the tribes was dead and instead of the communities busily interacting and selling their produce, they were hunkered down in their home villages sharpening arrows and making new bow strings in preparation for possible attacks. The knowledge that the death of any one of the hundreds of wounded would launch the two groups into more revenge killings only heightened the levels of uneasiness and reminded them of how far away peace was.

These are hurting communities desperately needing the message of hope that Easter brings, that a heavy price has been paid on our behalf and we can live in expectation of new beginnings and new life. – **(To be continued)**

July 9, 2017

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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.



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

Someone asked "Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?" It is more a question with me whether we – who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not – can be saved.

– Charles H. Spurgeon