



# 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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## Second death

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The second death is mentioned on multiple occasions in the book of Revelation and is synonymous with the lake of fire. It is a "death" in that it is a separation from God, the Giver of life. It is called the "second" one because it follows physical death.

We find the explanation for the second death in the following verses; The first is [Revelation 2:11](#): "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death." In this verse, Jesus promises that believers will not experience the lake of fire. The second death is exclusively for those who have rejected Christ. It is not a place believers in Christ should fear.

[Revelation 20:6](#) speaks of the second death in relation to a future period called the Millennium: "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." This verse notes three important facts. First, those who die for their faith in Jesus during the Tribulation will later be resurrected to enter the Millennium and live with Him. Second, these martyrs will escape the lake of fire or second death. Third, they will reign with Christ.

The second death is also mentioned in [Revelation 20:14-15](#): "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." At the end of time, even death and the grave (Hades) will be thrown into the lake of fire. In addition, every person not included in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. This condition will be final; the destination is permanent.

In summary, the second death is a reference to the lake of fire where those who are separated from God by their sin will dwell for eternity. This judgment was recorded in Scripture as a warning to unbelievers to seek the salvation that Jesus Christ provides. The coming judgment should also challenge believers to share their faith. There is a vast difference between the final destination of those who know Christ and those who do not.

## Missionary Highlights

### Papua Part 2

Cutts Update July 2017 -Dear faithful family, teammates and friends. . . .**continued from last week**

Easter took on new meaning for these traumatized village communities searching for peace and longing for new beginnings amidst the upheaval. These last several weeks in have been a vivid reminder of the need for peace and healing in this world, but more specifically in Papua.

The woman began crying and as her big tears splashed on the ground, she hobbled over and began hugging me, while pointing to the net hanging from her back. It was Dea, meaning knoll in Moni, and she was the pregnant lady 7 months ago who had been stabbed multiple times by her husband and accused of an affair.

She was going to be left to die, but miraculously there was a change of hearts when I reminded the angry crowd of Jesus' response in a similar situation; challenging someone sinless to hurl the first rock! Dea insisted I see the "chunk of cute" baby in her net as she wiped away her tears. It was miraculous the baby and mother survived the stabs to her back, abdomen and thighs. Those tears of joy were also tears of deep sorrow and uncertainty as she grappled with the stark reality of trying to back to her kids and family with a killer husband seeking revenge. It was truly a life and death decision for her and it seriously impacted me also. The accusing crowd's parting words to me 7 months ago when Dea flew off to the hospital were these: "You John Cutts are completely responsible to bring Dea back to this community, and we will hold you permanently responsible. Having grown up in this Moni society, I knew these were heavy and haunting words and not to be taken lightly. As I boarded the mission plane to her village, I said good bye, knowing she had a staggering weight of options on her shoulders.

I have no doubt Dea's tears would have splashed and mingled with the tears of the woman with the costly alabaster jar, or with the forgiven harlot as they washed Jesus' feet and confessed their unworthiness. Dea is another reminder of the hope we find in the Easter story, those stripes or lashings which heal us physically and emotionally, something Dea urgently needs in order to assimilate back into the tribe.

**(To be continued)**

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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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

**WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	<b>Meets at FCA</b>	<b>Meets at PAC</b>
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 &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		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

**[John 3:3 NKJV] 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**