



# 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.*

## Freedom

The Bible tells us that, spiritually speaking, no one is free. In [Rom 6](#), Paul explains that we are all slaves. We are either slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness. Although it seems like a contradiction, the only true freedom in Christ comes to those who are His slaves. Far from being oppressed, the slave of Christ is truly free. We have been set free from sin by the Son of God who said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" ([John 8:36](#)). Now the Christian can truly say, along with Paul, "Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" ([Rom 8:2](#)). Why, then, do so many Christians live as though they are still in bondage? For one thing, we often rebel against our Master, refusing to obey Him and clinging to our old lives. We hold on to the sins that once bound us to Satan as our master. Because our new nature still lives in the old fleshly nature, we are still drawn to sin. Paul tells the Ephesians to "put off" the old self with its deceit and corruption and "put on" the new self with its righteousness. Put off lying, and put on truthfulness. Put off stealing, and put on usefulness and work. Put off bitterness, rage, and anger, and put on kindness, compassion, and forgiveness ([Eph 4:22-32](#)). We have been set free from the bondage of sin, but we often put the chains back on because part of us loves the old life.

Furthermore, often we don't realize that we have been crucified with Christ ([Gal 2:20](#)) and that we have been reborn as completely new creatures ([2 Cor 5:17](#)). The Christian life is one of death to self and rising to "walk in the newness of life" ([Romans 6:4](#)). When we are continually thinking about ourselves and indulging the flesh in sins we have been freed from, we are essentially carrying around a corpse, full of rotteness and death. The only way to bury it fully is by the power of the Spirit who is the only source of strength. We strengthen the new nature by continually feeding on the Word of God, and through prayer we obtain the power we need to escape the desire to return to the old life of sin. Then we will realize that our new status as slaves to Christ is the only true freedom, and we will call upon His power to "not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" ([Rom 6:12](#)).

## Missionary Highlights

### PNG

August 28 is a national holiday, the National Day of Repentance. Do you think only one day is long enough for the politicians to repent about their corruption?

The post election violence continues. I believe we have been spared here in Mount Hagen as the man who lost to the the winner told his followers not to do any violence. He had also refused the winner's offer of millions to drop out of the race. Still 28 boxes of votes from his area were never counted. Then there is Enga Province. Don P, who had been the opposition leader in Parliament lost. I think 7 boxes of ballots from his area were never counted. Some of you may have seen the BBC picture of a man chewing the ballots that had his name on them. While in Parliament, he had been in charge of finances, and sihe had spoken out about the problems there, so this position was taken from him. He continued to speak out so of course the prime minister did not want him back. So in Enga there has been violence and fires which have shut down the town of Wabaq.

Now how this has affected here, is this: Our 2 guards are from Enga Province. Ben Peter had rushed home as his son had been punched in the abdomen by a larger boy who tried to seize the fire wood Ralson had gathered. The kid had passed out and had not eaten for 3 days due to the pain . With no hospitals open in the area, Ben Peter brought him here so he could get xrayed at the hospital here. He is little, maybe 6 years old. I gave him some banana cake and milk, which he seemed to be able to tolerate. Then he went to sleep.

Leti, the young lady who is studying computers in Enga has not been able to return.

I visited the prison twice this week. God had provided money for Tok Pisin New Testaments and a friend with the Bible Society in the US had some English Bibles sent to me, so I was able to share these. There was only one woman. She had been for 2 weeks and is pregnant. One young boy was sick. He said the police had beaten him up. I was able to take him a blanket. You see they sleep on the cement floor and there is a hole in the floor for toilet. The place is filthy. As I have become more aware of needs, I will try to expand what I take to them. My prayer is that this will be a place of lives turning around through redemption. Jesus can do it.

For such a time as this, we are here to carry the light of Jesus. Praise God.

Lois

<b>First Christian Assembly,</b>	1900 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
<b>First Christian So Jersey,</b>	123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080	
<b>Philadelphia Access Center,</b>	1832 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://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 &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
- Those experiencing hardship due to Hurricane Harvey

**"If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you are free."  
– Dwight L. Moody**