

January 14, 2018



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.

Steadfast

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). This verse concludes a chapter that details the future resurrection of our earthly bodies. Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to remain faithful to everything he had taught them.

To be steadfast and unmovable is to be spiritually grounded. A steadfast person knows what he believes and cannot be *"tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching"* ([Ephesians 4:14](#)). An unmovable person can hear false teaching, engage doubters, and defend truth without it shaking his own faith. In his other epistle to Corinth, Paul expresses his concern for this church: *"I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ"* ([2 Corinthians 11:3](#)). Even believers who had been personally taught by the apostle Paul were victims of deception. How much more vulnerable are we?

To remain steadfast and unmovable we have to know the Word of God. [Second Timothy 2:15](#) says, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth"*. To accurately handle the word of truth, we must not only read the Bible, but we must allow it to become part of us. Its truth should so penetrate our minds and hearts that it shapes our thinking and our actions. It should so fill our minds that we can detect error when we hear it. Satan uses Scripture for his own purposes, twisting it to sound as though it says something it doesn't say ([Luke 4:9-11](#)). If we have not been diligent in our study and meditation on truth, we are vulnerable to error.

The false religions of the world can be persuasive when they quote Bible verses to support their error. Even Christians can be duped by smooth-sounding heresy if they do not have a solid grounding in the *"whole counsel of God"* ([Acts 20:27](#)). It is God's desire that we grow daily in our understanding of Him and His Word so that we will remain faithful to the end ([John 8:31](#); [2 Peter 1:2](#); [3:18](#); [1 John 2:24](#)).

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

Well it has been quite a time since I returned from a break in Thailand. We took in four new men and one left three days ago then yesterday the other three left. One problem was that one of them confided in one of my staff about a medical issue that he needed medication for and the staff did not tell any of us. That man felt we did not care about his condition and left and basically took the other two with him. My staff feels bad and really does not know why he did not tell any of us. A difficult lesson learned. But that was a bit discouraging.

I was also planning to send one of my staff to a Y "D" school in Tajikistan from late Jan for 6 months and still may, but in a talk with him today realized his heart is not committed to returning and serving New Life. The person inviting and raising the majority of funds for this and myself were under the assumption that his heart was to go get training and return to assist us. Now this is not clear so I need wisdom as how to proceed. I will talk with the inviting person Tuesday. Please pray for clarity for this.

Also pray for my one staff to get a India visa to go Jan 22-27 for training with a leather craftsman from Singapore. He is in line as I write this at the India Consulate. That would help us greatly with getting the leather business up and going.

Also please pray that as we do another outreach this coming Friday that God will lead us to those who truly want to change.

Please pray that that God will bring a man of peace, a person to invest into to become a future leader of New Life. One of my staff has potential for that but is a part time software teacher and is not sure what God is speaking to his heart.

Finally if any of you would like to be put on my prayer calendar please let me know your requests and your birthday and I will pray for you each month on your birthday. I again encourage you to start your own prayer calendar and encourage others to do so. Let's start a prayer movement!

Thank you for praying!

John

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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 – 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
- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts shipped to Kenya and Ukraine

Though you have changed a thousand times, He has not changed once. Charles Spurgeon