



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.

Fear vs. Faith

Faith is described in [Heb 11:1](#) as being "*certain of what we do not see.*" It is an absolute belief that God is constantly working behind the scenes in every area of our lives, even when there is no tangible evidence to support that fact. On the other hand, fear, simply stated, is unbelief or weak belief. As unbelief gains the upper hand in our thoughts, fear takes hold of our emotions. Our deliverance from fear and worry is based on faith, which is the very opposite of unbelief. The Christian's faith is a confident assurance in a God who loves us, who knows our thoughts and cares about our deepest needs.

A growing faith is what we desire to have and what God desires to produce in us. But how, in day-to-day life, can we develop a faith that conquers our fears? The Bible says, "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*" ([Rom 10:17](#)). The careful study of God's Word is of primary importance in developing a strong faith. God wants us to know Him and completely rely on His direction in our lives. It's through the hearing, reading and meditation in the Scriptures that we begin to experience a strong, confident faith that excludes worry and fear. Spending time in prayer and quiet worship develops a relationship with our heavenly Father that sees us through even the darkest of nights. In the Psalms we see a picture of David, who, like us, experienced times of fear. [Psalm 56:3](#) reveals his faith with these words: "*When I am afraid, I will trust in you.*"

God is kind and understanding toward our weaknesses, but He requires us to go forward in faith, and the Bible is clear that faith does not mature and strengthen without trials. Adversity is God's most effective tool to develop a strong faith.

The Word of God is rich with promises for us to take hold of and claim for ourselves. When we face financial trouble, [Phil 4:19](#) tells us, "*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*" If we are anxious about a future decision, [Psalm 32:8](#) reminds us that God will "*instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*" In sickness we can remember that [Rom 5:3](#) says, "*Tribulation works patience.*" If someone turns against us, we can be comforted by the words in [Rom 8:31](#), "*If God is for us who can be against us!*" Throughout life we will continue to face various trials that would cause us fear, but God assures us that we can know a calm peace through every situation, "*the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*" ([Phil 4:7](#)).

Missionary Update PNG

Sometimes I feel like things are moving along in slow motion. For a long time I have been praying for a way to get back to Baisu, the big prison out of town. This would be my third time. The road to there is a roller coaster ride and a strong car is needed. Different persons had kindly given me clothes for babies and children and other things for the women. I had checked around with different ride options, but the answer came in an unexpected way! A widowed lady, Ellen, who at times accompanies me along with her daughter and grandson (Tiger, aged 5) to the prison and hospital for outreach, had contacted the pastor/evangelist (Pastor Paul) from her church, and today was the day they all accompanied me along with 2 security guards who wanted to be part of the outreach.

Since it is the rainy season, we left in the morning. Upon arrival, we were told the day to come is Wednesday as this Tuesday is the work day for the women. However, they kindly made it possible for us to visit the women (there are 39 now and one baby) for a short visit. We shared the Bible story of the woman in Luke 7 who washed and anointed the feet of Jesus and Jesus said that unlike those who have not been forgiven much, she who had been forgiven much loved much. Pastor Paul prayed and we shared the gifts we had brought and gave other items to the staff to distribute as needed. It was a long trip and a long wait, but how we rejoiced in this wonderful opportunity. I was told by those in our group that many of the women were crying. Precious. God loves them so much. Some there had been in the cell in town during our outreach there. Well, tomorrow morning we plan to go to the cell (prison) in town. Praise God for the opportunity!

Sanguma (witchcraft) incident here in town behind the International School: From what I have gathered, a small child died and upon opening her up, the doctors discovered some heart malformation. So the family of the child decided someone had performed witchcraft on the child, stealing her heart, and had seized the son of a store owner and tortured him. A police woman told me she had been involved in the case. There are probably more details, but it is always a shock when it happens right where live.

'Shine Jesus, shine', as the song says. Jesus is the Light of the World and our prayer is that He shines into these dark places. What a privilege to be Light bearers. Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080	
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

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, In a believer’s ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear. ~ John Newton