



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.

Promises

There are literally hundreds of God's promises in the Bible. How can we know which promises apply to us, which promises we can claim?

A **general promise** is one that is given by the Holy Spirit to every believer in every age. When the author penned the promise, he set no limitations on time period or recipient. An example of a general promise is 1 John 1:9, "***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***" This promise is based on the forgiving nature of God and is available to all believers everywhere.

Another example of a general promise is Philippians 4:7, "***And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***" This promise is made to all believers who, refusing to worry, bring their requests to God (v. 8).

A **specific promise** is one that is made to specific individuals on specific occasions. The context of the promise will usually make clear who the recipient is. For example, 1 Kings 9:5 is very specific: "***I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever.***" The preceding and following verses make it clear that God is speaking only to King Solomon.

While a specific promise is not made to all believers generally, the Holy Spirit can still use a specific promise to guide or encourage any of His children. For example, the promise of Isaiah 54:10 was written with Israel in mind, but the Holy Spirit has used these words to comfort many Christians today: "***my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed.***"

As he was led to take the gospel to the Gentiles, the apostle Paul claimed the promise of Isaiah: "***I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth***" (Acts 13:47). Isaiah's promise was originally meant for the Messiah, but in it Paul found guidance from the Lord for his own life.

When claiming one of God's promises from Scripture, we should keep the following principles in mind:

- 1) God's promises are often conditional. Look for the word "if" in the context.
- 2) God gives us promises to help us better submit to His will and trust Him. A promise does not make God bend to our will.
- 3) Do not assume to know precisely when, where, or how God's promises will be fulfilled in your life.

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

I just returned about 2 weeks ago from a much needed break in Thailand. But during that time and after my return many things happened here at New Life. Suffice to say, the Honey Moon is officially over!

A few days after arriving in Thailand two of the three men left the program. That was disheartening as we had poured three months into them. Then our staff did an outreach while I was in Thailand and after my return we interviewed six men and choose four to come into the program. One man left after one day and the other three left two days later. There were some unfortunate circumstances involved in their departure. Finally we were going to send one of our team to Tajikistan for a Y "D school". He asked me was he expected to return to help us? We had talked about this previously and that was expected. Long story short, he had a serious misunderstanding with some of the team and decided this was not for him. I encouraged him to go to the "D school" anyways but as of this newsletter he has decided to just leave us.

So yes we need your prayer! I was really discouraged, though in a strange way this has opened a door with the government. They like what we are trying to do and want to send us de-toxed men from their forty five day programs to work with. We will interview ten men the beginning of Feb. and choose five.

In the meantime, I feel like this gives us a chance to make some needed changes in how we do things and interact as a team. The one addicted man who stayed has really been changing and is wanting to be a part of us long term. Also one of the staff will go to learn leather from a leather professional who is coming to Delhi specifically to pour into him for one week in the end of January. And finally one of the staff has been praying about the possibility of leaving his computer career to possibly come long term under me and possibly be the future leader. So in the midst of the chaos there are good things happening. You can pray that I keep this perspective.

Other good news: Samira was released from her captors right before I left for break! She is currently seeing a Christian trauma counselor. Continue to pray for her healing and her family as they now are faced with a massive debt to repay.

I meet with a young man who has been sharing with many here. Recently one of his professors decided to become a follower. The professor wants to share with his wife. This seems simple to us, but here that can have enormous good ramifications or terrible ramifications. Please pray for her to be open and receptive. - John

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
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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
- Ongoing collection for Tel A Village

“God never made a promise that was too good to be true.”
— Dwight L. Moody