



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.

Be ye filled

You receive Christ by faith. You live by faith. Everything you receive from God, from the moment of your spiritual birth until you die, is by faith. Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? You can be filled right now, by faith. You do not have to beg God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. You do not have to barter with Him by fasting or weeping or begging or pleading. I discovered from the Scriptures that the "just shall live by faith." You do not earn God's fullness. You receive it by faith.

Though you are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith and faith alone, it is important to recognize that several factors contribute to preparing your heart for the filling of the Spirit. **First**, you must desire to live a life that will please the Lord. You have the promise of our Savior, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." **Second**, be willing to surrender your life totally and irrevocably to our Lord Jesus Christ. **Rom 12:1, 2**: "I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Third**, confess every known sin which the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and experience the cleansing and forgiveness which God promises in **1 John 1:9**. If you have wronged a brother or have taken that which is not rightfully yours, the Holy Spirit may lead you to make restitution to right your wrong. If so, obey Him, or you will miss His blessing. The blessings of the fullness of God's Spirit come only to those who willingly obey Him.

I cannot control myself and be controlled by the Holy Spirit at the same time. Christ cannot be in control if I am on the throne. So I must abdicate. The command of **Eph 5:18** is given to all believers to be filled, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, continually, every day of our lives. The Holy Spirit is not given to you that you might have a great emotional experience, but that you might live a holy life and be a fruitful witness for Christ. Have you met God's conditions? Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness? Do you sincerely desire to be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit? If so, I invite you to bow your head and pray right now. Expect God to fill you. Now, if you sincerely prayed, you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You will begin to experience a greater love for God. You will want to spend time with Him in studying His Word and in prayer. You will want to trust and obey God and His Word. You will want to share your love for Christ with others who do not know Him. - **The Steps to Being Filled with the Holy Spirit- by Bill Bright (Excerpts)**

Missionary Update PNG

Today our little outreach group went to the prison in town and were denied access as "too many prisoners have escaped". We had along some blankets, jackets, yeast rolls, a sweet treat, small books with Bible verses topically arranged, New Testaments, reading glasses and so on. The only thing we could do was to give the rolls and sweet treats to the prison employee and ask him to give them to the prisoners. The week before, during our prison visit, one prisoner called for Ellen, the widow lady who accompanies us along with Tiger her 6 year old grandson. The prisoner had heard what we had said and wanted Ellen to pray with him as he was ready to receive Jesus into his life. Joy in Heaven over one sinner that repents.

This week our little group also went to the hospital to the special care nursery with small gifts, some Scripture and prayer. Then we distributed Jesus coloring books and color pencils to the children all over the hospital who were old enough to color. The hospital is huge and it is so sad to see the desperate state of many in there. When we were done, Ellen went to check on a female inlaw who had been stabbed with a knife. This lady does not know the Lord yet, so Ellen shared with her.

A hair-raising experience this week: I was in town on an errand with one of the guards. Suddenly a stampede of people came running past as someone had been "cut with a bush knife." The guard was out of the car and yelled "Lois go!" So I drove away. He ran and hid in the Christian bookstore across the street. He said people were pulling out their bush knives hidden in their clothes and cutting each other. Well, he returned home safely on foot and I in the car.

I was up early at 2am today finishing a birthday cake for one guard's daughter. They live in a bush location and he wanted to take it home. Birthday cakes here are very expensive to buy and taste like gravel at times, so people ask me from time to time to make one for them. I find the more decorations and flash, the better they are liked.

Lillian, who has accompanied me on so many outreach experiences while here in PNG, was planning to return in a few days to the Nazarene school where she is studying to be a teacher. Before returning, she had stopped by for a visit and had a seizure in our apt. Very sad. I asked if she had taken her medication and she said she had. At one point she had believed she had been healed, but it seems that she continues to face this challenge. So many challenges for her and yet she continues to press on. That's enough, don't you think. 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>Free Indeed</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
- Easter Outreach

“Trying to do the Lord’s work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.” – *Corrie Ten Boom*