



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.

Cheerful Giver

We can learn to be a cheerful giver by studying the greatest giver this world has ever known: Jesus Christ. Leaving behind the riches and glory of His heavenly kingdom, He came to Earth and willingly gave His life so that we could keep ours. As God predestined His children to be conformed to the likeness of His Son ([Rom 8:29](#)), there can be no better way to emulate Jesus Christ than by giving selflessly the way He did. Our Savior Himself told us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" ([Acts 20:35](#)). Quite simply, then, our greatest motivation for cheerful and generous giving should be that it pleases the Lord and reflects His gift of salvation to us.

Paul wisely admonished the Corinthians, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" ([2 Cor 9:6](#)). And Christ Himself told us, "Give, and it will be given to you" ([Luke 6:38](#)). Indeed, "Good will come to him who is generous" ([Psa 112:5](#)).

This principle is unfailingly clear—we cannot out-give our gracious Creator. The more we give in service to the Lord, the more we will get in return. In fact, the only place in the Bible where God invites us to test Him is [Mal 3:10](#) where He is talking about our offerings made unto Him: "Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it"

As Paul stated, "God loves a cheerful giver" ([2 Cor 9:7](#)). Cheerful giving, therefore, should be a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God. When we give generously and with a willing heart, God assures us He will watch over us and provide for us ([Isa 58:9](#); [Psa 41:1-3](#); [Prov 22:9](#); [2 Cor 9:8, 11](#)). And we need to remember that it's not just our treasure that we are to cheerfully give back to God. As King David pointed out, everything we have is from God ([1 Chr 29:14](#)), and this includes our talents and our time as well.

We would do well to remember that we are saved because our God so generously gave ([John 3:16](#)). When we trust God and honor Him by generously giving our time, treasure, and talent, we are truly letting our light shine before men, and our goodness will reflect radiantly on our Father in heaven.

Missionary Update PNG

Faith like the grain of a mustard seed....

Every morning I have a time of Bible reading and prayer with the security guards. We came across the passage where Jesus said if you have faith as a mustard seed...., well they did not know what a mustard seed was. I did not have one to show them, but Neal had some yellow mustard so I put a little on a finger of each one so they could taste it. Well, they were not thrilled with the taste. Oh well, one must improvise in a third world country.

Well, last night we were awakened several times with aftershocks from the earthquake. This whole experience is making us very tired and grumpy at times. I remember a while back when I told Neal I was sorry for being grumpy with him, and he told me "Oh, just be yourself." Then I felt really bad. You see we all see our own selves through rose colored glasses. So I have a lot of repenting to do at all times.

The guards told me that 17 men had died during the earthquake in one place and they heard a story, not confirmed yet, that a tall building in Mendi had collapsed and killed some people. MAF will probably be flying over remote places to see if there are any needs. When the earthquake first hit, the power went out due to a landslide. Well, this morning we actually had power, which is wonderful. We had been using backup battery power and a generator since the earthquake. I have never liked camping so living without power here is as close as I like to get to camping. We lived like that when I was a child in Africa. When we got to go to a town with a real bathtub and running water, well that was something wonderful.

On Friday, a man stabbed another man to death at the market. Well, the son of the sergeant who gave us permission to go in the prison, chased him down, getting on a public vehicle behind the one he was escaping on, and getting off where the man got off, tackled him to the ground, wrestling with him till the police came. Maybe we will see the captured man when we go to prison tomorrow for outreach.

I have felt so bad for the prisoners during the earthquake. Their accommodations are like the cages you see in the old style zoos. Terrible, Filthy, cold, they sleep on cement floors, no blankets unless someone brings them one. With all that and no light and no water.. Like the song says, "carry the candle, run to the darkness." Yes, only Jesus can bring light and change into a place like that. So we run - Lois

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Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721

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

“A lack of generosity refuses to acknowledge that your assets are not really yours, but God’s”. –Tim Keller