



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.

Witness

A "witness" is someone who attests to a fact, so in order to be an effective witness for Christ, one must have firsthand knowledge of Him. John the Apostle speaks of this in [1 John 1:1-3](#), when he says, "That . . . which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life." Today, we who have experienced new life in Christ give an account of His love and forgiveness, both verbally and in the way we live our lives. This is witnessing. To be effective in our witness, we should remember several basic things:

The **THEME** of our witness is Jesus Christ. Paul defined the gospel as the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ ([1 Cor 15:1-4](#)). If we aren't explaining the sacrifice of Christ, then we're not really sharing the gospel. An important part of this theme is the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, not just one of many ways. "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" ([John 14:6](#)).

The **POWER** of our witness is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who transforms a life ([Titus 3:5](#)), and a transformed life is evident to all. As we witness, we should spend much time in prayer, appropriating the Spirit's power so that we are enabled to let our light shine in such a way that others will recognize the power of God in us ([Matt 5:16](#)).

The **VALIDITY** of our witness will be shown in how we live our lives. [Phil 2:15](#) sets this goal for us: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." The effective Christian witness will live his/her life above reproach in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fruit we exhibit when we remain in Christ ([John 15:1-8](#); [Gal 5:22-23](#)).

Perhaps most importantly, we must be familiar enough with the Scriptures to be able to accurately and coherently present the gospel to others. "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" ([1 Peter 3:15](#)). Always being prepared means having a desire to be a witness, diligent Bible study and praying for God-given opportunities to share with those whose hearts have been prepared by the Lord to hear His message of salvation.

Missionary Update PNG

This week we had front row seats so to speak as twice in one day we saw men running past our gate with their bush knives (machetes) drawn heading for a fight with another tribe. (Men hide their bush knives in their pants.) Later when the coast was clear, our little outreach group went to the hospital to do outreach. On our way out of the hospital, we saw a man leaving the emergency room. His face and head had been cut up during the fight. It seems that there was going to be a group talk in the community to try to settle the problems that caused the fight.

We never know what we will run into during our hospital or prison outreach. It was amazing that so many in the prison are open to their need for repentance and salvation. Wednesday some prayed with us to receive God's forgiveness and reconciliation through faith in His provision of Jesus. (Jesus means God has become our Salvation.)

Some prisoners have already been sentenced and are heading for the big prison, called Baisu. One prisoner in particular has the desire to form groups of men who are dealing with similar offenses. I gave him a book that may help him with this.

One woman is wife number 3 and she killed wife number 4 in what sounds like self defense. She grabbed the knife intended for her and killed wife number 4. She was in the cell with her 7 month old child. Who knows what the court will do with this. Persons sentenced and sent to Baisu, can keep their child with them until age 2. Imagine the heartbreak.

The widow lady (Ellen) and her grandson (Tiger), who do outreach with us, yesterday shared with me that the night before our outreach, she and her grandson had gone to bed hungry. Well of course I fed them. They have many needs. The house that she owns, having won a fight in court, is all broken down. No electric, no water, no toilet. The toilet was washed away in the last big storm. Here a toilet is usually a hole in the round. Also, someone robbed everything out of their house while she was away. Yet, with all these troubles, she loves to do outreach with us and to bring the hope she has in Jesus to others.

In the hospital we visited a person who is the connected to someone in her church. According to Ellen, this young woman was a "heathen" before she was involved in a serious accident with multiple injuries. Someone in the car had died. The car had rolled over 3 times. How precious to hear Ellen pray with the woman and the woman pray in agreement with her, saying "yes Mama" throughout the prayer.

I was given some blankets to use in outreach. They were left over from the earthquake relief. How wonderful to be able to give these to those in need.

Blessings always, Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	1960 Delsea Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096	
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.
- *Free Indeed*: Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *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 - follow up

"God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ to them." – George Whitefield