



# 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.*

## *Birthright*

The birthright is emphasized in the Bible because it honored the rights or privileges of the family's firstborn son. After the father died, or in the father's absence, the firstborn son assumed the father's authority and responsibilities. However, the Bible also shows that the father could rescind the birthright and pass it on to a younger son. A good example of this is the case of Jacob and his twelve sons. Reuben was the eldest, but the birthright was given to Joseph's sons. Even then, Jacob blessed the younger son, Ephraim, above the elder, Manasseh ([Gen 37:19-22](#); [Gen 49:1-4](#); [Gen 49:22-26](#)).

In addition to assuming the leadership role in the family, the recipient of the birthright inherited twice that received by the other sons. In cases where a husband might have more than one wife, the birthright always went to the firstborn son of the father and could not be awarded to the son of a favorite wife without proper justification ([Deut 21:15-17](#)) or if the firstborn son's mother was a concubine or a slave ([Gen 21:9-13](#); [Jud 11:1-2](#)).

The birthright of a king's firstborn son included his succession to the throne ([2 Chronicles 21:1-3](#)). King Rehoboam of Judah violated this tradition by passing the birthright to Abijah, his favorite son. However, to avoid trouble with the older sons, the king paid them off ([2 Chronicles 11:18-23](#)).

As New Testament Christians, we have an inherited "birthright" status through Jesus Christ as the firstborn Son of God ([Romans 8:29](#); [Colossians 1:15](#); [Revelation 1:5](#)). As God's only begotten Son, Jesus received the kingdom from His Father and is Lord of all ([Acts 2:36](#); [Philippians 2:9-11](#); [Revelation 19:16](#)). Christ promises to share with us His kingdom and inheritance ([Romans 4:13](#); [Galatians 3:29](#); [Ephesians 1:18](#); [Hebrews 11:16](#)).

Christians are warned not to imitate Esau who, on impulse, gave away his birthright for a bowl of stew ([Hebrews 12:16-17](#); [Genesis 25:19-34](#)). Because of his foolishness, Esau lost his birthright and the blessings of his father ([Genesis 27](#)). The lesson for us is to respect what is holy. We should never throw away what is important, godly, or honorable for the sake of temporary pleasure.

Our focus is to remain on Jesus, the appointed heir of all things ([Hebrews 1:2](#); [Psalm 2:7-8](#); [Matthew 28:18](#)). And we, through His grace and our faith in Him, are counted as joint heirs ([Romans 8:17](#); [Galatians 3:29](#); [Titus 3:7](#)).

## Missionary Update India

Greetings, My beloved! I trust you are well. So much was going on with us physically that I could not keep in touch with you. Sorry!

1. My wife had collapsed, she was admitted in hospital.
2. My daughter had seizure fourth time last month, was in hospital
3. I had flu was on bed for a week etc
4. My first daughter had flu etc..

I had to catch up with ministry demands too... Some of the works are pending...failed to send updates too..

Meanwhile, I have a happy news - we were able to buy a small piece of land. This property was on sale for more than eight years. No one will buy because it is located right in front of a Hindu temple. People are scared to buy thinking it is a curse land...And the basic assumption is that those who buy and live there will be under curse. Sickness, financial problems, relationship issues, even death will follow...So people are scared to death to buy this land!

I too did not like first, but then prayed and made an offer... Very low offer compared to the current land value... But the owner agreed and we bought it. Praise God!!

The land is strategically located, very close to town, market, bus terminals and close to schools. 250 feet from where we are worshipping at the moment on rented property. This is going to be a huge blessing... Long time dream will be coming true... Now we need to move fast to construct a building suitable for our purposes.

Need lot of prayers as we move on. Need more funds to finish the project, probably another \$60 thousand more. Need the favor of God and the favor of neighbors to run our ministry without problems...It is a challenge to obtain permission, to obtain electricity, need to dig our own well, need to put compound wall etc... Therefore we really need your constant prayers and support.

Together we can bring glory to God in this heathen land. Praying for you. Thanks again for your faithful partnership in expanding His Kingdom in India. Blessings. With lots of love:  
Binu John - Care India Mission

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<b>Philadelphia Access Center,</b>	1832 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

### **WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

	<b>Meets at FCA</b>	<b>Meets at PAC</b>
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 &amp; 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

**For believers in Christ, the lost birthright has been recovered in the New Testament Jubilee – Unknown**