



# 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.*

## Surrender

This world is a battleground. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, the world God created has been in conflict with Him ([Rom 8:20-22](#)). Satan is called the "god of this world" ([2 Cor 4:4](#)), and due to Adam's sin, we are born on his team ([Rom 5:12](#)).

When we reach the age when we can make moral choices, we must choose whether to follow our own sinful inclinations or to seek God. God promises that when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him ([Jer 29:13](#)). When we find Him, we have a choice to make: do we continue following our own inclinations, or do we surrender to His will?

*Surrender* is a battle term. It implies giving up all rights to the conqueror. When an opposing army surrenders, they lay down their arms, and the winners take control from then on. Surrendering to God works the same way. God has a plan for our lives, and surrendering to Him means we set aside our own plans and eagerly seek His. The good news is that God's plan for us is always in our best interest ([Jer 29:11](#)), unlike our own plans that often lead to destruction ([Pro 14:12](#)). Our Lord is a wise and beneficent victor; He conquers us to bless us.

There are different levels of surrender, all of which affect our relationship with God. Initial surrender to the drawing of the Holy Spirit leads to salvation ([Acts 2:21](#)). When we let go of our own attempts to earn God's favor and rely upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, we become a child of God ([John 1:12](#); [2 Cor 5:21](#)). But there are times of greater surrender during a Christian's life that brings a deeper intimacy with God and greater power in service. The more areas of our lives we surrender to Him, the more room there is for the filling of the Holy Spirit ([Eph 5:18](#)). When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we exhibit traits of His character ([Gal 5:22](#)). The more we surrender to God, the more our old self-worshiping nature is replaced with one that resembles Christ ([2 Cor 5:17](#)).

[Romans 6:13](#) says that God demands that we surrender the totality of our selves; He wants the whole, not a part. The goal of the Christian life can be summed up by [Gal 2:20](#): "I have been *crucified with Christ*. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Such a life of surrender is pleasing to God, results in the greatest human fulfillment, and will reap ultimate rewards in heaven ([Lu 6:22-23](#)).

## Missionary Update PNG

### Opportunities Abound

Yesterday I went to the market with Kia, the security guard. A young boy, named Paul, who has had a history of pestering us to help us, appeared, so I asked him to come along. My market purchases are large and heavy as I feed a lot of people. When I was done, Paul and I waited back at the car, Kia returned to the market to get some things for his family, so I talked to Paul and asked him if Jesus was in his life. No. He also cannot read. I have a beautifully illustrated tract that I carry in the car that shows 2 roads, one leading to Heaven and the other to Hell. It is easy to understand for someone who cannot read. He said he had never heard the Gospel before.

I explained the Gospel (Good News) message to him, and he prayed with me to invite Jesus into his life. After Kia returned to us, he told me that the lady we usually buy broccoli from had warned Kia that we should not use Paul as he is involved with others who size people up to decide how best to steal from them. Well, I guess that is why Paul needed a new heart, which only Jesus can give. I had urged Paul to find a church so he could learn more about walking the path of Jesus. Paul is maybe 12. There are many market boys. Many sleep on the street and so on. So I am holding up Paul before God's throne.

Ben Peter, our day guard, has a ministry talking to people at our front gate. He tells them about Jesus and sometimes even helps them think through domestic and other problems. When there is fighting, he finds out what is going on so we can be briefed. Well, last night and this morning, he had been talking to 4 men from Enga Province. Ben told me they are fighters. The older man had killed many men with a gun and so on, but he has become a believer. We gave them each a copy of the New Testament/Psalms in their language and of course some chocolate banana cake. I prayed with the first two who had come by this morning. I told the older man that God has a new work for him to do, sharing his testimony with others so they can find Jesus as he has. I gave him some of those tracts that I mentioned above so he can share them with others. The recent tribal fight here has not been settled yet. The police from Enga and here are supposed to have a big meeting at which the compensation is ironed out. So we are praying for a peaceful settlement.

We went to the hospital Monday and plan on the prison tomorrow. The opportunities abound. Thank You LORD that we can be here for such a time as this. Lois

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*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**

	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 &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>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</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.

**A Look Ahead**

- **Water Baptism – June 3rd – See Pastor Joe for details**

**The man or woman who is wholly or joyously surrendered to Christ can’t make a wrong choice – any choice will be the right one. – A.W. Tozer**