



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.

Generational sin

The Bible mentions "generational curses" in several places ([Ex 20:5](#); [34:7](#); [Nu 14:18](#); [Deut 5:9](#)). God warns that He is "a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me."

It sounds unfair for God to punish children for the sins of their fathers. However, there is more to it than that. The effects of sin are naturally passed down from one generation to the next. When a father has a sinful lifestyle, his children are likely to practice the same sinful lifestyle. Implied in the warning of [Ex 20:5](#) is the fact that the children will choose to repeat the sins of their fathers. There is a trend in the church today to try to blame every sin and problem on some sort of generational curse. This is not biblical. God's warning to visit iniquity on future generations is part of the Old Testament Law. A generational curse was a consequence for a specific nation (Israel) for a specific sin (idolatry). The history books of the Old Testament (especially Judges) contain the record of this divine punishment meted out.

The cure for a generational curse has always been repentance. When Israel turned from idols to serve the living God, the "curse" was broken and God saved them ([Jud 3:9, 15](#); [1 Sam 12:10-11](#)). Yes, God promised to visit Israel's sin upon the third and fourth generations, but in the very next verse He promised that He would show "love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments" ([Ex 20:6](#)). In other words, God's grace lasts a thousand times longer than His wrath.

For the Christian who is worried about a generational curse, the answer is salvation through Jesus Christ. A Christian is a new creation ([2 Cor 5:17](#)). How can a child of God still be under God's curse ([Rom 8:1](#))? The cure for a "generational curse" is repentance of the sin in question, faith in Christ, and a life consecrated to the Lord ([Rom 12:1-2](#)).

Missionary Update PNG

Dear Friends and Family,

The change in the CASA PNG rules from the old requirements for licensing engineers under Part 31 to the new rules under Part 66 has made my job much harder. The old Part 31 courses were in smaller blocks and on a high school or trade school level. These Part 61 courses based on the New Zealand regulations are more comprehensive and at a college level or University level. I believe it will be even more challenging for our senior engineers to pass their exams for Turbine Engines than before.

We really need to get these three engineers their turbine rating. That is what keeps me motivated and plugging away. Sometimes the evil one will attack me and ask, what is the point of working so hard? You know they will never pass this exam. I would like to share a verse that has encouraged me. I Peter 5:10 "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast", God is calling me to be steadfast and finish my work the best I can. I am sure God will bless my efforts and use my lesson plans to help the engineers pass.

A 7.5 earthquake hit PNG in February and shook our whole house and a few books and glass jars crashed on the ground. We were far from the epicentre where landslides covered villages and blocked rivers which later flooded. I was very impressed to see how PNG, Australia, and New Zealand came to depend on MAF to help coordinate their relief efforts, and to fly the supplies out to the villages in the bush. Lois was able to help minister to the evacuees to Mt Hagen Hospital and I was later able to help coordinate efforts to return them to their villages when they were stable enough to go. We just had another small tremor last night, and even the small ones still freak me out. In April two tribes in Mt, Hagen had a fight and news reports said that there were seven killed which set off a cycle of pay backs and demands for compensation. It got so bad we had to evacuate our compound in Hagen and move out by the airport. Fortunately, it was only for one night. It was still kind of stressful and annoying for me, but everything worked out and the fighting seems to have stopped.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for peace between the two fighting tribes in Hagen and that MAF will have opportunities to share the Gospel Pray for my endurance that I can be steadfast in completing the curriculum for Turbine Engines Pray for our engineers as they study for their exams and that they will pass.

Blessings, Neal Semanison

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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 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>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.

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

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17