



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.

God's Voice

How can I recognize the voice of God? This question has been asked by countless people throughout the ages. Samuel heard the voice of God, but did not recognize it until he was instructed by Eli ([1 Sam 3:1-10](#)). Gideon had a physical revelation from God, and he still doubted what he had heard to the point of asking for a sign, not once, but three times ([Judges 6:17-22, 36-40](#)). When we are listening for God's voice, how can we know that He is the one speaking? First of all, we have something that Gideon and Samuel did not. We have the complete Bible, the inspired Word of God, to read, study, and meditate on. "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). When we have a question about a certain topic or decision in our lives, we should see what the Bible has to say about it. God will never lead us contrary to what He has taught in His Word ([Titus 1:2](#)).

To hear God's voice we must belong to God. Jesus said, "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me*" ([John 10:27](#)). Those who hear God's voice are those who belong to Him—those who have been saved by His grace through faith in the Lord Jesus. These are the sheep who hear and recognize His voice, because they know Him as their Shepherd. If we are to recognize God's voice, we must belong to Him.

We hear His voice when we spend time in Bible study and quiet contemplation of His Word. The more time we spend intimately with God and His Word, the easier it is to recognize His voice and His leading in our lives. Employees at a bank are trained to recognize counterfeits by studying genuine money so closely that it is easy to spot a fake. We should be so familiar with God's Word that when someone speaks error to us, it is clear that it is not of God.

While God *could* speak audibly to people today, He speaks primarily through His written Word. Sometimes God's leading can come through the Holy Spirit, through our consciences, through circumstances, and through the exhortations of other people. By comparing what we hear to the truth of Scripture, we can learn to recognize God's voice.

Missionary Update PNG

Various updates;

In addition to the Red Cross painting the cells in the prison that we visit each week, there is a bigger praise! Sgt Kolo, who initially gave me the go ahead to visit the prison, is now the boss of that prison. He is a wonderful Christian who has been encouraging us all along. He has compassion for the prisoners. Before he came into this role, I used to tell him how the police beat the prisoners. He now has a chance to do something about it.

He had asked me for an English Bible, which I was able to give him yesterday. These are very expensive here. Neal and I had bought some in a second hand store the last time we were in Australia. I have one left. Sgt Kolo was so glad to get the Bible. He told me he loves the Bible. I'm right there with him on that count.

The wife of the pastor (who also works for MAF) has been joining us in the prison outreach. She is wonderfully prepared for this by the LORD.

Sgt Kolo asked that we pray for him. We will do just that, starting with praise for his being there.

One never knows whom we will meet.

Today during hospital outreach, Janet and I met a couple whose baby was born 2 weeks early in a bush location where there is no hospital. The baby girl is having difficulty breathing and is on oxygen. The father asked for prayer. This is their first child. They are Jason and Roselyn Matthews.

We also met an army person who had been shot in the calf in Enga Province during the recent fighting over there. He is from Manus Island, and this has been his first experience in the Highlands. (Manus Island is where the illegal boat people heading for Australia seeking refugee status were sent here in PNG.)

We talked to him about his relationship to the LORD and prayed with him. We also thanked him for serving as we all definitely needed military assistance during the fighting here in Mount Hagen and also in Enga Province.]

One never knows whom we will meet. Divine appointments. Thanks for praying. Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	
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>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

Most Christians don't hear God's voice because we've already decided we aren't going to do what He says. – A.W. Tozer