



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 Plan

Chronic negative thinking, depression, anxiety, and similar disorders are on the rise all over the world. According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 40 million adults in the U.S. are affected, which is nearly 20 percent of the population. Of that number, many are professing Christians.

Fear seems to be a root cause of many of these problems. It's no wonder people are fearful in a world where it appears nothing is reliable. It can be quite disturbing for a person to realize almost everything in life is ultimately out of his control. But the Christian who confesses the sovereignty of an Almighty God who works all things for his good ([Rom 8:28](#)) has the antidote to negative thinking. When a Christian's thinking is primarily negative, anxious, or doubtful, it's a sign of a serious lack of faith. According to [Prov 29:25](#), fear is a trap but trust in the Lord keeps a man safe. Jesus, when boating with His disciples during a terrible storm, asked them, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" ([Matt 8:26](#)). Those who struggle with negative thinking should do the same thing they would do with any other sin—confess it and make every effort to change the behavior.

[Prayer](#) is a key part of overcoming negativity. Jesus taught that prayer should include praise to the Father and a focus on His holiness ([Matt 6:9](#)). As we pray "with thanksgiving" ([Phil 4:6](#)), we focus on the blessings we have received and leave no room for negative thoughts. The Holy Spirit will be faithful to help the repentant believer overcome negative thinking ([Matt 7:7-11](#)).

Daily Bible reading, particularly studies which focus on the promises of God, are of great help in overcoming negative thinking. It's helpful to remember that, no matter how dismal the present circumstances, Christians have been promised God's love and victory in Christ ([Rom 8:37-39](#)). In addition, the Scriptures include over 350 commands to "fear not.

The struggle against negative thinking is a battle for the mind. The apostle Paul tells believers what to think about: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy ([Phil 4:8](#)). Besides defining what thoughts should fill our minds, this text implicitly teaches that we can control what we think about. When a negative thought comes, the thinker who has the mind of Christ ([1 Cor 2:16](#)) has the ability to push it out of the mind and replace it with godly thoughts. This takes practice, but with persistence, it gets easier. Christians must think about what they're thinking about and not allow their minds to have free reign. In our spiritual warfare, we've been given the helmet of salvation—[spiritual armor](#) for the *mind*.

First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street,

Missionary Update PNG

"Yu gat kek?" (Do you have cake?)

As I have mentioned before, I bake a lot of chocolate banana cakes and share them around with guards who watch the car while we cross the street to go to the produce market, with market ladies who generously give me extra, with an assortment of people who come to our gate, with our guards, and so on. Well I guess the word is out.

Yesterday while I was getting the car filled up with petrol, I decided to give out tracts. After giving out a bunch to passers by, I saw there was a small bus, and I went over and gave the driver and passengers each one. A woman by the door asked me: "Yu gat kek?" Well no, not this time. I guess the word is out about the cake, and it made me laff.

We went to the prison today and had a good visit. Sadly the woman (wife number 3) imprisoned for killing wife number 4 in self defense is still there with her baby waiting to go to court. Not sure why the delay. It has been several weeks, maybe even a couple months.

During hospital outreach Monday, there was a man all bandaged up waiting on a bench for an x ray or something. He said, "You visited me in the prison last week and gave me toothpaste." He said he has decided to turn to the LORD.

This week, a man came to our gate and spent a long time talking with our day guard, Ben Peter. The man said he had been in prison and while there a white lady had brought him a blanket and a Bible I believe. Ben Peter pointed out that I was that woman. I came over to him with some cake and asked him if he had invited Jesus into his life? Well no, not yet. He planned to visit a pastor next Sunday and to pray with him. I urged him not to delay as none of us know how long we will be alive and need to be ready.

In my outreach team are a couple of young boys, Anderson (about 10 or so) and Tiger (6 years.) Anderson is on school holiday. The boys love being part of it. On Monday, at the hospital, we handed out cards made by the Friday kids that come to our apt. Getting kids involved in caring for others is a good thing. The prisoners love seeing the kids. Tiger said I gave him that name. I do not remember. He likes it and uses it all the time. Anyway, sometimes the kids sing with me for the prisoners. They help give out the items we have brought for the prisoners. I have even asked Tiger to pray. His voice is very soft, but it is touching to see him involved.

Thank you all for partnering with us in this venture. God is doing amazing things in the lives of people.

Lois

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

For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Rom 8:6