



# 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.*

## Jesus

Who did Jesus claim to be? Who does the Bible say He is? First, let's look at Jesus' words in [John 10:30](#), "*I and the Father are one.*" At first glance, this might not seem to be a claim to be God. However, look at the Jews' reaction to His statement, "*We are not stoning you for any of these, replied the Jews, but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God*" ([John 10:33](#)). The Jews understood Jesus' statement as a claim to be God. In the following verses, Jesus never corrects the Jews by saying, "I did not claim to be God." [John 8:58](#) is another example: "*I tell you the truth, Jesus answered, before Abraham was born, I am!*" Again, in response, the Jews took up stones in an attempt to stone Jesus ([John 8:59](#)). Jesus' announcing His identity as "*I am*" is a direct application of the Old Testament name for God ([Ex 3:14](#)).

[John 1:1](#) says "*the Word was God.*" [John 1:14](#) says "*the Word became flesh.*" This clearly indicates that Jesus is God in the flesh. Thomas the disciple declared to Jesus, "*My Lord and my God*" ([John 20:28](#)). Jesus does not correct him. The apostle Paul describes Him as, "*...our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*" ([Titus 2:13](#)). The apostle Peter says the same, "*...our God and Savior Jesus Christ*" ([2 Peter 1:1](#)). God the Father is witness of Jesus' full identity as well, "*But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.'*" Old Testament prophecies of Christ announce His deity, "*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*" ([Isaiah 9:6](#)).

Why is the question over Jesus' true identity so important? Why does it matter whether or not Jesus is God? The most important reason that Jesus has to be God is that if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world ([1 John 2:2](#)). Only God could pay such an infinite penalty ([Rom 5:8](#); [2 Cor 5:21](#)). Jesus had to be God so that He could pay our debt. Jesus had to be man so He could die. Salvation is available only through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus' deity is why He is the only way of salvation. Jesus' deity is why He proclaimed, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" ([John 14:6](#)).

## Missionary Update India & PNG

In my down time I was encouraged by Nehemiah building the broken walls of Jerusalem in the midst of obstacles. One day, the local politician called me to inform about the complaint he received against our construction and he asked me to talk to the concerned people and solve before it goes any further. I was alone on my side and there were twelve people against me, each of them were just screaming and shouting and some of them went to the extreme of calling me as low-caste since I am a Christian! To cut short the long story, God was on my side and He helped me to solve the problem in a polite manner. So the work is going on without interruption. The builder, though a strong Hindu, is being very cooperative, sincere and he goes by the agreement. Now is the time to pay the second installment of \$19 thousand as per our contract. Right now we have the money, but I am trusting God for the future payments. We are in need of another \$75 thousand in next eleven months. Please pray and participate in this rewarding project as God enables you. God bless you. Praying for you. You are my joy and greatly appreciate your partnership in the Gospel. Binu John

### PNG

In visiting the prison here in town this week on Wednesday, we found out they are totally out of water. So I asked the missionaries on our compounds if they had empty plastic water bottles; we filled them, and today Kia (security guard at night) and I delivered them. We will be trying to get more bottles so we can do this again. Water given in Jesus' Name. Last Sunday I went to the church I usually attend and a guest preacher was speaking. He was praying as I walked in, and when he opened his eyes he said he was shocked to see a white person in the audience. So he got the audience to clap for me. The audience actually know me and call me Auntie Lois. I have already mentioned that when I walk about town, people, especially children, call out "wait meri" meaning white woman. Well, this is not as bad as the Chinese right before the Communists took over China calling foreigners "foreign devils". Many foreigners, among them missionaries, were killed, deported and what not. People here are very color and tribal conscious. With 860 language groups in PNG, there are many tribal rivalries. I was only punched once a long time ago on the public motor vehicle by a person who was hopping mad at all the foreigners in this country. I just try to spread good will. "Wait Meri" reporting, 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**

	<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>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

**“I have a great need for Christ: I have a great Christ for my need.”**  
**Charles Spurgeon**