



# 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.*

## Knowing Jesus

Jesus suffered severely throughout His trials, torture, and crucifixion. His suffering was physical: [Isa 52:14](#) declares, "There were many who were appalled at Him—His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness." His suffering was emotional: "All the disciples deserted him and fled" ([Matt 26:56](#)). His suffering was spiritual: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us" ([2 Cor 5:21](#)). Jesus had the weight of the sins of the entire world on Him ([1 John 2:2](#)). It was sin that caused Jesus to cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ([Mat 27:46](#)). Isaiah predicted Jesus' suffering: "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering ([Isa53:3](#)). Verse 5 specifies the reason for Jesus' suffering: "for our transgressions," for our healing, and to bring us peace. Jesus told His disciples that His suffering was certain: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life" ([Luke 9:22](#)). Note the word *must*—He must suffer, and He must be killed. The suffering of Christ was God's plan for the salvation of the world.

Why did Jesus have to suffer so badly? The principle of the innocent dying for the guilty was established in the Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve received garments of animal skin to cover their shame ([Gen 3:21](#))—thus, blood was shed in Eden. Later, this principle was set in the Mosaic Law: "It is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" ([Lev 17:11](#)). Jesus had to suffer because suffering is part of sacrifice, and Jesus was "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ([John 1:29](#)). Jesus' physical torture was part of the payment required for our sins. We are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" ([1 Peter 1:19](#)). Jesus' suffering on the cross showed the devastating nature of sin, the wrath of God, the cruelty of humanity, and the hatred of Satan. At Calvary, mankind was allowed to do his worst to the [Son of Man](#) as He became the Redeemer of mankind. Satan may have thought he had won a great victory, but it was through the cross that the [Son of God](#) triumphed over Satan, sin, and death. Jesus suffered and died in order to secure salvation for all who would believe. The night of His arrest, as Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, He committed His all to the task: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" ([Luke 22:42](#)). The cup of suffering was not taken from Christ; He drank it all for us. There was no other way for us to be saved.

## Missionary Update PNG & India

**PNG** - During the visit to the prison yesterday, we found the prison cell of prisoners from Mendi (the prime minister's area) had been evacuated from their cell, and they were sent to Port Moresby, where there is an underground prison. What breaks my heart is twofold: First of all the prisoners have forfeited their freedom for the consequences of crimes, and secondly the prison where they have been sent, well, I have not heard good things about it. I am grateful that we were able to share the Gospel with them while they were here and were able to help them with some things like blankets, clothes and small things to eat. Port Moresby is a long plane ride from where they come from. Who will visit them?

Today I went to the hospital and visited a woman who had been medically evacuated by MAF from a bush place in Enga Province. Her husband has 2 wives and the other wife had cut off her left hand and cut off some fingers on the other hand. Her Mother was with her in the emergency ward along with her one year old boy, Robin. MAF had given them some care packages when they were flown in, and I was able to run out to a second hand store to get some blankets and a small pillow. I also took them some hot food and chocolate cake and a New Testament. I prayed with them. I told one our security guards who is from Enga about this, and he knows of some persons from that area, so I asked him to ask them to do some follow up visits. Persons from the same tribal line traditionally will help each other out. Yes, this has been a week of these and other heart breaks. Tomorrow we are supposed to get polio shots as there has been an outbreak in this country. Lois

**India** - Today is *Onam*, the harvest festival of the southern state of Kerala. But the celebrations are dampened as over one million people sheltered in relief camps, friends/relatives' homes to escape the devastating flood. One of the towns worst affected was Pandalam, where we live, where hundreds died and hundreds and thousands of people have lost their life-long savings. Our church was completely under water spoiling over thousand dollars worth stuff like PA system, carpet, mat, Inverter, stabilizer etc..There was no electricity for several days for us causing much damage to every home in this town. And I could not update right away, but we rushed to provide immediate help for those who were badly affected. Our prayers and love in action were well accepted by local political leaders and this also gives us an opportunity to make our presence felt. Please continue to pray and helps us as we started the second phase of relief work to rebuild lives after this worst flood in over a century. Thank you so much. I will update more in the next mail. Blessings! Binu John

<b>First Christian Assembly,</b>	1900 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
<b>First Christian So Jersey,</b>	1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	
<b>Philadelphia Access Center,</b>	1832 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> 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](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.

**Youth Group meets tonight – See Jason or Jennifer Kohn for details**

**Upcoming Dates**

- Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> - Operation Christmas Child collection begins
- Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> – Lord’s Supper followed by Church Fellowship
- Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale and Outreach
- Monday October 15<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Fellowship
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

**“Jesus Christ did not suffer so that you would not suffer. He suffered so that when you suffer, you’ll become more like Him. The Gospel does not promise you better life circumstances; it promises you a better life.” – Tim Keller**