

September 9, 2018



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.

Operation Christmas Child

The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift Begins with You and Results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication

Packing - From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Year-round volunteers support these efforts across the country.

Collecting - Churches and groups of all sizes collect boxes from their communities. Some churches also serve as drop-off locations for shoeboxes the third week of November every year.

Shipping - Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

Worldwide Distribution - Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Outreach Events - Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. In many places, they also offer The Greatest Gift, a Gospel story booklet Samaritan's Purse developed for shoebox recipients.

Discipleship & Multiplication - As a result of what they learn in The Greatest Journey, boys and girls grow in Christ and share with friends and family. The students also invite others to their graduations where the Gospel is shared. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.

It all begins with you. We will be collecting for Operation Christmas beginning this Sunday September 9th until Sunday October 28th. We will gather for a Packing Party on Monday November 12th. Thank you for participating once again in this wonderful outreach that touches many lives around the world.

Pray- Give - Pack

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving in August! Yes for me Thanksgiving has come early!

Thankful, that would be the word to describe how I have been feeling lately.

Thankful that little Omid now only needs oxygen at night and wants to learn to ride a bicycle and wants a bicycle!

Thankful that the guy I have been praying would leave his job and join us, has done that, taking a 50% pay decrease to do so!

Thankful that he has already built one bookshelf for a foreigner, who loved it and we now have orders for more bookshelves, cabinets and picture frames. Finally an income generating source!

Thankful that Qurbon, 24 years a drug addict, graduated New Life last week and decided he wanted to stay on and join us and help other men overcome their drug problems! **Thankful** we finally had someone complete the 1 year program! May it be the beginning of many graduates! **Thankful**

Thankful that J is visiting for a few weeks and has grown in his desire and walk with Jesus and is reading the NT. It has been amazing watching his progress. He longs for truth, sees it and puts it into practice.

Thankful to be teaching in the Institute of Leadership Development classes and getting opportunities to share my story and share about forgiveness and hope.

The new staff and I will travel to Delhi and Lucknow India in two weeks to see two programs; Betel and Teen Challenge. Pray that we glean all God wants us to learn from them.

Thankful for you! For your prayer and financial support!

Thank you for partnering with us!

Continuing in His radical grace! John

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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.

Upcoming Dates

- Sunday September 9th - Operation Christmas Child collection begins
- Sunday September 30th – Lord’s Supper followed by Church Fellowship
- Saturday October 6th – Bake Sale and Outreach
- Monday October 15th – Women’s Fellowship
- Monday November 12th – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

We shared the Gospel with them and distributed Bibles ... Each time we do a distribution, it begins with a testimony that Jesus loves you and died for you ... Operation Christmas Child is one of the best evangelistic tools because it is a gift .. It opens the door to telling about Jesus.” – Ministry partner Victor