



# 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.*

## Temptation of Jesus

The three temptations by Satan in the wilderness were not the only temptations our Lord ever suffered on Earth. We read in [Luke 4:2](#) that He was tempted by the devil for forty days, but He was undoubtedly tempted at other times, and yet in all this He was without sin or compromise. It is important to realize that even though He is fully God, our Lord deals with temptation in His humanity.

It is because He also took on humanity, made like us in every way, that He could do three vital things: 1) destroy the devil's power and free those who were held in slavery by their fear of death ([Heb 2:15](#)); 2) become a merciful and faithful High Priest in service to God and atone for our sins ([Heb 2:17](#)); and 3) be the One who is able to sympathize with us in all our weaknesses and infirmities ([Heb 4:15](#)). Our Lord's human nature enables Him to sympathize with our own weaknesses, because He was subjected to weakness, too. More importantly, we have a High Priest who is able to intercede on our behalf and provide the grace of forgiveness.

Jesus' temptations follow three patterns that are common to all men. The first temptation concerns the lust of the flesh ([Matt 4:3-4](#)). Our Lord is hungry, and the devil tempts Him to convert stones into bread, but He replies with Scripture, quoting [Deut 8:3](#). The second temptation concerns the pride of life ([Matt 4:5-7](#)), and here the devil uses a verse of Scripture ([Ps 91:11-12](#)), but the Lord replies again with Scripture to the contrary ([Deut 6:16](#)), stating that it is wrong for Him to abuse His own powers. The third temptation concerns the lust of the eyes ([Matt 4:8-10](#)), and if any quick route to the Messiahship could be attained, bypassing the passion and crucifixion for which He had originally come, this was the way. The devil already had control over the kingdoms of the world ([Eph 2:2](#)) but was now ready to give everything to Christ in return for His allegiance. Jesus replies sharply, "You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only" ([Deut 6:13](#)).

There are many temptations that we sadly fall into because our flesh is naturally weak, but we have a God who will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear; He will provide a way out ([1 Cor 10:13](#)). Jesus overcame by being filled with the Holy Spirit and by using the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Since these also are available to us, we too can be victorious, finding deliverance from temptation. Thank you Jesus!

## Missionary Update PNG

Three security guards and I have devotions in the morning, reading the Bible together and praying. They shared with me that when they were kids, they thought all these places mentioned in the Bible, like Israel, Lebanon, the River Jordan, and so on were not real places, but places up in the sky. So as we read, I have incorporated maps, accounts of personal visits to certain places, to help make it more real for them. Right now we are in Acts. We just finished Nehemiah. I remember the thrill Neal and I had when we found the remaining portion of Nehemiah's wall in Jerusalem. A real place. A real Biblical account.

As you may already know, the disciple of Jesus, named Thomas, had been a missionary to India, the place where after winning many to Christ, he was martyred. The mountain where this took place is still known. Well, someone in India has been providing money for us to buy Tok Pisin Bibles (New Testament and Psalms) here for distribution in the hospital and prison. How good God is. Those blessed in times past with the Good News are now sending the blessing here.

During hospital outreach, we have come across persons who have needed crutches, canes, and wheelchairs. With help from others, including someone in Germany, we have been able to provide some crutches and canes. Today, Dr. Nirmala and I plan to visit a second hand store to see what is available in the wheelchair line. We have 2 persons paralyzed from the waist down who need them.

You know, in this country so many do not even have one Bible, including pastors. People need to be able to read for themselves the God given record so they can evaluate teaching they have been given.

Last week, we found the prison here in town was again cooking rice for the prisoners. They each get one ball of rice a day. It is something after weeks of no food. Tomorrow we plan to go back to the prison. I continue to meet men outside the prison who said I had visited them when they were in. I ask them if they have been reconciled to God. Some have, some not yet. We sow seeds and God continues to reach out to them in His wonderful way. 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.

### **Upcoming Dates**

- Operation Christmas Child collection continues until October 28<sup>th</sup>
- 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
- Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

**"We have no sufficient strength of our own. All our sufficiency is of God. We should stir up ourselves to resist temptations in a reliance upon God's all-sufficiency and the omnipotence of his might." – Matthew Henry**