



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.

Speaking Truth in Love

Christians often talk about the need to "*speak the truth in love,*" [Eph 4:15](#). Many times what they mean is the need to share difficult truths in a gentle, kind, inoffensive manner. From a practical standpoint, we know that difficult things are best heard when our defenses are not up. In a loving, non-threatening environment, hard truths are more readily received. Looking at the context however, gives us deeper insight on what it means to "*speak the truth in love.*"

In the verses prior to the command to speak the truth in love, Paul writes about unity in the [body of Christ](#). He urges the Ephesians, and all Christians, to "*live a life worthy of the calling you have received*" ([Eph 4:1](#)). He describes this life as one in which we are humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love, and making efforts toward unity. Paul reminds his readers that we all serve the same Lord and are part of the same body. He talks about Christ giving apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers "*to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*" ([Eph 4:12-13](#)). Having reached maturity, we will not be spiritual infants, easily deceived, and tossed to and fro "by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming" ([Eph 4:14](#)).

In this context of church unity and spiritual maturity, Paul writes, "*Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ*" ([Eph 4:15](#)). Rather than be spiritually immature and easily deceived, we are to speak the truth to one another, with love, so that we can all grow in maturity. We are to train one another in truth—the foundational gospel truths, truths about who God is and what He has called us to do, hard truths of correction, etc.—and our motivation to do so is love. The "love" referred to in this verse is [agape love](#), a self-sacrificial love that works for the benefit of the loved one. We speak truth in order to build up. Later Paul writes, "*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen*" ([Eph 4:29](#)). Our words should be beneficial to the hearers of those words. Those who love *must* speak the truth: "*Love . . . rejoices with the truth*" ([1 Cor 13:6](#)). Dishonesty is unloving and abusive. Therefore let us speak not our truth, but the Words of Jesus. We speak God's truth because of His love and in a way that clearly and unapologetically communicates both truth and love ([1 John 4:10-12](#)).

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

It is amazing how many things happen in one month here! So I just got back from a trip to India with my one new staff. We had an amazing time with Betel in the Delhi India area and then with Teen Challenge in Lucknow India.

Both M and I were impacted by the many lives being changed through these two different ministries. Betel started in India 18 years ago and now they have 23Center's all started and staffed by former addicts! We were so challenged by Lucknow's Teen Challenge founder Dr. Varghese's life of prayer and his work ethic. Pray that the things we learned there that are importable to our unique situation we will import and implement. I think M's life was really impacted and he will not be the same.

Before I went to India I had the opportunity to teach in three leadership courses and one of the topics I shared on was forgiveness. It was an amazing time of sharing and discussion.

Please pray that the seeds shared, will grow.

Then a week ago two friends arrived here and have been sharing with our guys their stories of how God changed their lives. It has been an a great time of meaningful interactions!

Again please pray that what we hear, we will implement into our lives! I have been challenged about some things I need to "throw overboard" to lighten my way.

Our new 2019 calendar will be finished in the coming weeks. It will have a Western calendar alongside an Afghan calendar and this time all the pictures front and back, are from Afghanistan. If you would like one for a donation to New Life, you can contact me at mongoljk@gmail.com. Hopefully we will send 50 to the US this week with more to follow.

HELP!!!! Finally, about 6 months ago while I was running on my treadmill, I sensed God challenging me to run a marathon here as a way to raise awareness about the drug problem and to raise money for the project. I had forgotten about this until our social worker, Zee, reminded me that the marathon is next week in Bamyán at 7,500 feet elevation! She will run the 10 k and I will attempt the entire marathon. *I have never run a marathon before, so to say the least, I need your prayers! I have been running all summer but nothing close to a marathon distance and I am as slow as a turtle!* If you would like to sponsor me at so much per mile, please visit www.msdev.org/donate. It may sound crazy but I am hoping to raise \$20,000 from this run and live to tell about it! Haha!

Thank you for partnering with us! Continuing in His radical grace! John

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

Important Dates;

- Operation Christmas Child collection continues
- Sunday October 28th – Child Dedication
- Monday November 12th – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.
Warren Weirsbe