



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.

I Resolve

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make? Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, [1 Tim 4:8](#) instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "*For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*" The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity.

[Phil 4:13](#) tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." [John 15:5](#) declares, *...apart from me you can do nothing.* If God is the center of your resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring and/or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution. So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom ([Jas 1:5](#)) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory. [Psa 37:5](#) "*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:*

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear praying friends, 2018 is closing on a very good note. Thank you for your faithful prayers this past year!

Praises:

The Christmas party with our guys went very well. We now have 7 guys and are building another set of bunk beds to accommodate more.

I am doing a yearend report for an agency and it has really been good to look back and see where we have come from. God has truly blessed the past year.

The knife making has really been a blessing to the men and I hope within the next two weeks to have a salable knife. Please pray for sales.

Two men have become followers and two others are open. We have connected the two followers with two local followers for follow up and book studies. J continues to grow and now meets weekly with another follower in his city.

Prayer:

I would appreciate your prayers. Since two nights before the marathon, I have not had many good night sleep. I am not worried but just do not sleep. I also have a condition called H pyro. It is some kind of bacterial stomach thing that is very common in most people here. I am on my second dose of medicine for this and it could be contributing to my sleeplessness. But it is not pleasant not to have slept well for over 2 months.

For continued blessings on our efforts with the men here. We truly need wisdom everyday to navigate the mine field of Afghanistan.

For a place to dunk J when he comes down here, hopefully this month.

For M, a new follower whose brother was recently killed in a car accident leaving 3 children and another on the way and two aged parents he was taking care of. This has all fallen on M and he left his job as a teacher at a University here to move to his brother's home and assume the responsibilities of his family.

Pray he can find a teaching position there and continue to grow. J has followed him up as they live in the same city.

For my Dari teacher, L. Please pray she opens her heart to the truth as I share with her.

So please pray for more laborers to come here, maybe you! I feel that a new time is about to happen here, I am sure with persecution, but that we are on verge of God moving in a new way here...but we need laborers.

Blessings! – John

January 6, 2019

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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;

- Tuesday Evening Discipleship class resumes on January 8, 2019
- Thursday Evening Bible Study resumes on January 10, 2019
- Youth Group meets on January 13, 2019

**Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution -- Mary Fairchild**