



# 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.*

## *Doubt*

In the midst of a series of laws regulating the treatment of others, we find *"Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD"* ([Lev 19:14](#)). Obviously, putting a rock or brick in front of a blind person is cruel, but the New Testament takes the practical adage and turns it into a spiritual metaphor.

After Peter rebuked Jesus, denying the crucifixion would take place, Jesus said, *"Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's"* ([Mat 16:23](#)). Peter, under the influence of Satan, tried to distract Jesus from what He had come to do. He tried to make Jesus "stumble" in His path to the crucifixion. But most of the time, a "stumbling block" refers to something or someone who keeps another from a relationship with God. In [Mat 18:5-7](#), Jesus says, *"And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!"* In the Kingdom perspective, it would be better to drown than lead a child into sin.

Stumbling blocks also arise when the path is a little more ambiguous. The mature Christian life allows some freedoms that seem contrary to an obedient, disciplined faith. The Corinthians were concerned about eating meat sacrificed to idols. Modern issues may be different but the emphasis is still the same. *"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak"* ([1 Cor 8:9](#)). Our liberty is not worth another's walk with God. If something God allows would lead another to sin, we need to avoid it. We are given great freedom as Christians, but the greatest is the freedom to consider others' welfare over our own.

Refraining from being a stumbling block means not leading another into sin. How we accomplish this depends on the situation and the hearts of those around us. The security we have in God's love and provision, both now and eternally, allows us to show concern to those who are weaker—those who need specific encouragement to understand who God is. In some situations, that means living in those freedoms to exemplify that God is a God of grace. In others, it means disciplining ourselves to building up weaker believers and not pushing them into a liberty they're not ready for. But, always, it means not encouraging another to act in a way the Bibl identifies as sin.

## Missionary Update PNG

After the prison outreach today, I came back to our apt and spent some time with Diane and Leti, part of our outreach team, and then when they had left, I have been enjoying wonderful time with Jesus. I so treasure some time of solitude after outreach experiences, when I can replenish and praise. I have the Christian radio on and the first song that came on was "He Came Down To My Level." All I can say is "Thank You Jesus for coming down to my level and the level of those lost ones.." That song had me dancing in praise to the LORD. God is so good. He knew just what I needed.

Today the new dentist from India, who is working at Kompiam Hospital in Enga Province, accompanied us to the cell to give out toothbrushes and toothpaste and a lesson on dental care. How good is that.

Today we wrote down all the names of those in the cells so we can pray for them by name. Respecting their privacy, we do not ask questions about their cases. Yesterday, two women from New Zealand, who are here for the MAF women's conference, accompanied us during hospital outreach. They had many opportunities to pray with people. One child in the ICU ward had been in a car accident. His eye was black and swollen. His bed was surrounded by many men. We prayed together for this little boy. It really is heartbreaking to run across so many car accident victims. People here do not wear seatbelts and drivers here are at times dare devils.

Praying that our next shipment of New Testaments/Psalms in Tok Pisin will arrive soon as we are short.

Looking forward to the kids group Friday and to the outreach lunch at church on Saturday. Persons hanging out in the street are invited. Isn't that just like Jesus to invite the lost ones into His precious presence.

I was so excited this week to have the chance for the first time to give a tract in the Philippine language to a worker in a store. His coworkers were Chinese and I had some tracts for them as well. I have ordered some in the Nepali language, as I met a man from there who is new to a store I frequent. God is sending people from all over the world here. Wow God. 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**

	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.

**Important Dates;**

- **Evangelism class continues on Tuesday, 7:00 PM**
- **Sunday morning Bible Study begins a new series in Genesis**
- **Thursday Bible Study continues our Study in the Gospels**
- **Youth Group Meets Tonight**

"Many a professing Christian is a stumbling–block because his worship is divided. On Sunday he worships God; on weekdays God has little or no place in his thoughts." ~ Dwight L. Moody