



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.

Damascus Road

The events that happened on the road to Damascus relate not only to the apostle [Paul](#), whose dramatic conversion occurred there, but they also provide a clear picture of the conversion of all people.

Paul, who went by the name of [Saul](#) at that time, was on his way to Damascus with a letter from the high priest of the temple in Jerusalem giving him authority to arrest any who belonged to "the Way," meaning those who followed Christ. In "raging fury," he breathed "threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord." Here was a man who truly hated Christ and all who were associated with Him.

Suddenly a bright light shone on Saul, causing his entire party to fall to the ground. Then Jesus spoke to Saul, asking him, "Why are you persecuting me?" Saul recognized that this was a deity of some sort because he called Him "Lord" and asked who He was. When Jesus identified Himself as the very One Saul had been persecuting, one can only imagine the terror that filled Saul's heart. Saul was speechless, no doubt thinking to himself, "I'm a dead man." Saul's response was to ask what Jesus wanted him to do. Jesus told him to rise and go to Damascus where he would be told what to do.

Even though Saul received his commission from Jesus on the road, he still had to go into Damascus and be told what to do—meet with Ananias who laid hands on him, receive the Holy Spirit, be baptized, and be received by the disciples there. At Damascus, he also went for three days without eating or drinking, and then received his sight, which had been taken from him on the road.

The phrase "Damascus Road experience" is used to describe a conversion which is dramatic and startling. Many people receive Christ in a life-changing, instantaneous experience, although many others describe their conversion as more of a gradual understanding of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But both types of experiences have several things in common. **First**, salvation is of the Lord, by His will and according to His plan and purpose. As He does one way or another to each of us, Jesus made it clear to Saul that he had gone his own way (*kicking against the pricks*) for long enough. Now he was to become an instrument in the hands of the Master to do His will as He had foreordained it.

Second, the response of both Saul and all those who are redeemed by Christ is the same: "What do you want me to do?" Like Saul, we do not bargain, negotiate, question, or come halfway. The response of the redeemed is obedience. When God truly touches our hearts, our only response can be, "Lord, may your will be done and may you use me to do it."

Missionary Update PNG

During prison outreach today, Kia and I had a very interesting discussion with the inmates in one cell. A couple of men asked about human origins. They said their fathers had told them they go back 5 or 6 generations and after that they came from a tree. I said well, if they needed a blood transfusion, would the sap from a tree do the trick? I pointed out that all humans have blood in common with only the different blood types dictating which blood one would receive. I also told them that the Jewish year now is 5,700+, going back to Adam. The Bible has clear records of ancestral backgrounds. And we shared many other things for them to think about, including what being created in God's image means.

One thing that was very interesting to me when we first came to PNG was the word *sanguma* (witchcraft). In Zulu, from South Africa, the word is *sangoma*. So how does one explain this common origin of a word? Perhaps it points to a common origin for humans. Many missionaries in various locations of the world, have found that tribal groups, who have had no previous outside contact, have parts of Biblical accounts in their oral traditions, but not the entire story. It points to common human origins.

The lady who was hospitalized who was reported to have cerebral malaria died. She had meningitis, according to the nurse. She did give birth to a baby boy before she died. I saw him. She had 6 other children.

Last night at midnight, the night guard told me that the police had cleared town as there is a possibility of violence. Different possible explanations for this including the not counting of votes in the last election and this now supposed to be dealt with in court, and the murder of a councilman. So we will see. It is common to sort things out here with fighting.

I finally received the water mattress I had ordered online for the paralyzed young man in the hospital. I was able to give it to his father. He had been hospitalized with serious bed sores.

All we do here has been possible through God's provision and your prayers and support of our work. Thank you so much. Lois

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;

- Sunday November 18th - Youth Group
- Monday December 3rd - Women's Fellowship
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

Conversion is a turning onto the right road. The next thing to do is to walk on it." – Charles Spurgeon