



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.

Spiritual blindness

To be spiritually blind is not to see Christ, and not to see Christ is not to see God. [2Co 4:6] - Spiritual blindness is a grievous condition experienced by those who do not believe in God, Jesus, or His Word ([Rom 2:8](#)). Those who reject Christ are lost. Being spiritually blind, they are perishing, in the end, God turns them over to spiritual blindness and eternal condemnation ([Rom 1:24-32](#)). They choose not to accept the teachings of Christ and His authority in their lives, and are blind to the manifestations of God as revealed in His Word and in Jesus. ([1 Cor 2:14](#)). Peter spoke of such people as "scorners [who] will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires" ([2 Peter 3:3](#)). Those who reject Christ and His Word are spiritually blind and cannot understand the truth of the Scriptures. The Bible describes those denying God as fools. Because of their blindness and rejection of God and His Word, they are in a perilous, unsaved condition.

Not only can this blindness affect unbelievers, Peter speaks of spiritual blindness that can exist among Christians [2Pe 1:2-10] - He who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness: If we lack the traits expressed in these verses, it shows we have "eye trouble." We are shortsighted, unable to see God, we only see ourselves. In addition, the words barren and unfruitful in these verses characterize the lives of many Christians, who lack these qualities. This occurs because they lack in their knowledge of God, knowing Him relationally in an increasingly fuller and deeper sense. The reason that this condition exists is also stated; such a one *has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins*. We forget the great sacrifice Jesus made for us.

"Without God and left to ourselves, we easily succumb to the devil's schemes. We can become so mired in the affairs of this world and its moral darkness that we lose our spiritual sight. However, as believers, we have the Spirit of God reigning in our lives to ward off the debilitating effects of Satan's power and the world's influence ([1 John 4:13](#)). Satan wars within and without us. His weapons are deceitful and crafty schemes to make us doubt and stumble ([2 Cor 2:11](#); [Eph 4:14](#)). Yet God has provided us with powerful weapons to ward off his flaming arrows ([Eph 6:10-18](#)).

As believers we can overcome the evil one and remain in the Light and never become spiritually blind. Jesus has given us His wonderful promise: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*" ([John 8:12](#)).

Missionary Update

PNG

The prisoners are not getting any food in the prison, water is not regular as the city regularly turns it off, along with power outages. Yesterday I was worried when I went to the prison hoping what I had would make a difference. I thought maybe I could buy some blankets and I had increased the number of yeast rolls I buy so each prisoner could get 2. I had very few tracts and some Scriptures and 3 books.

Well, the Red Cross was there and they distributed individual size blankets and toothpaste and tooth brushes to each prisoner. What a wonderful thing to see. The rep from Red Cross sees their role as that of being an advocate to get the prison to comply with what they should be doing. They have also painted the cells and put in new cage doors so more light gets into the cells. They put wooden boards on the cement floors, which are very cold. Unfortunately, many things remain alarmingly inadequate. One man who had a cut on his hand several weeks ago, for whom I went to the prison chief's office to ask that he receive medical treatment, he never did.

It seems the prison is very short on money as this country is in a money crisis. They have spent close to a billion kina for the upcoming worldwide summit that begins this week in Port Moresby. You can read about it all elsewhere. The "gift of presence" I believe is more important than what we bring. That would be our presence, but more importantly the presence of our caring LORD.

During the Monday visit to the hospital, we found out that the woman who had been in the special care nursery for 5 months with her baby whose heart is on the wrong side had been discharged along with the other baby in the bed next to them. Both had been on oxygen. Plenty of prayer for those ones. Here is it often the custom not to name the babies for a long time so we never found out a name for those two babies.

A very alarming baby situation: A dead baby wrapped in a blanket was found in the field across the street from us. The baby had been killed when the neck was twisted. We found out about it in a store. One of the tellers had a photo of the baby, but we did not look at it. Praying for the mother who must have been very distraught, I am curious why she did not sell the baby as this is common here.

Well, we are encouraged in the LORD to continue. Thank you for praying and sharing in the concerns raised here. 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 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 25th - **Youth Group –Meets tonight**
- Monday December 3rd - Women’s Fellowship
- Water Baptism – Date to be determined – See Pastor Joe for information

Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” [John 9:39](#)