



# 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.*

## *Priorities*

The Bible does not lay out a step-by-step order for family relationship priorities. However, we can look to the Scriptures and find general principles for prioritizing our family relationships. God obviously comes first: Deut 6:5, "*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*" All of one's heart, soul, and strength are to be committed to loving God, making Him the first priority. Regular church attendance will be one way a family shows that God is first in their lives (Heb 10:25).

If you are married, your spouse comes next. A married man is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph 5:25), God first, then his wife. In the same way, the principle is that a woman's husband is second only to God in her priorities (Eph 5:22). If husbands and wives are second only to God in our priorities, it stands to reason that the result of the marriage relationship, children, should be the next priority. Parents are to raise godly children who will be the next generation who love the Lord with all their hearts (Prov 22:6), showing once again that God comes first. All other family relationships should reflect that.

Deuteronomy 5:16 tells us to honor our parents so that we may live long and so things will go well with us. No age limit is specified, which leads us to believe that as long as our parents are alive, we should honor them. Of course, once a child reaches adulthood, he is no longer obligated to obey them, but there is no age limit to honoring them. After parents comes the rest of one's family (1 Tim 5:8).

Following one's extended family in the list of priorities are fellow believers. Romans 14:10 tells us not to judge or look down upon our brothers or do anything to cause a fellow Christian to "stumble" or fall spiritually. In 1 Corinthians we find Paul's instructions on how the church should live together in harmony, loving one another. In addition we should "*serve one another in love*" (Gal 5:13); "*be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,*" (Eph 4:32); "*encourage one another and build each other up*" (1 Thes 5:11); and "*consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds*" (Heb 10:24). Finally comes the rest of the world (Matt 28:19), to whom we should bring the gospel, making Disciples of Christ.

In conclusion, the scriptural order of priorities is God, spouse, children, parents, extended family, brothers and sisters in Christ, and then the rest of the world. While sometimes decisions must be made to focus on one person over another, the goal is to not neglect any of our relationships. The biblical balance is allowing God to empower us to meet all of our relationship priorities.

## Missionary Update PNG

Dear Friends and family,

I'm nearer to the end of my goal. I just finished 20 modules of the 25 that are contained in the Turbine Engines Course. I was planning on finishing them by the end of the year and then begin teaching in January 2019. Two out of the three engineers want to take the Turbine exam in December just to see what is on it. I am not optimistic that they will pass the exam but two good things might come out of it.

First we will see if they can confirm how hard I think the exam will be. If they pass well then praise the Lord.

Second if they don't pass, hopefully they will be able to give me an overview of what specifics I will need to cover in class. I have been able to give them each a binder with the 20 modules I have completed for them to study. Each module has notes, diagrams and sample questions and answers which I have prepared. This will be good, because they will hopefully familiarize themselves with the materials before I teach the class.

Preparing these materials has not been easy for me because I am more familiar with reciprocating engines. The hardest part has been being steadfast and not giving into the temptation to just give up. Visions of retirement keep dancing in my head. How sweet. God has been faithful and I claim His promises that he will neither leave me nor forsake me.

We also have had to contend with the kingdom of darkness that attacks us with different aches and pains, along with cold and stomach viruses. We don't recover as quickly as we used to, and some of you know what that is like. Through it all I can say that God has sustained us so far, and I praise His name.

In December we plan to take our 2 week Christmas break in Cairns to see a couple of doctors for checkups and to just relax.

### PRAYER POINTS –

Please pray that I can finish the last five modules of the Turbine Engine curriculum quickly.

Pray that the two engineers taking the CASA exam early will have a good experience and not be defeated.

Please continue to pray for good health for Lois and I.

Rebuke the attacks of evil in the blood of Jesus

May God's spirit of peace and joy fill your house this Christmas and New Year.

Blessings - Neal Semanision

<b>First Christian Assembly,</b>	1900 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
<b>First Christian So Jersey,</b>	1960 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	
<b>Philadelphia Access Center,</b>	1832 S. 11 <sup>th</sup> 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](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;**

- Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> - Water Baptism
- Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> - Skating Party with FCSJ @ SK847 Franklinville NJ
- Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup> - Lord’s Supper followed by Lunch Fellowship

**Each day is God’s gift of a fresh unspoiled chance to live according to His priorities – Elizabeth George**