



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.

Truth will set you Free

Jesus had just finished a speech at the temple where He delineated differences between Himself and His listeners. *"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins"* ([John 8:23–24](#)). The result of Jesus' message was that *"even as he spoke, many believed in him"* (verse 30). Then, in verse 31, Jesus begins to speak just to those who had believed. *"Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples'"* ([John 8:31](#)). True discipleship is more than intellectual assent; those who are "really" followers of Christ will "hold to" His Word. That means they will not only accept His teachings as truth, but they will also obey His teachings. Action is proof of faith (cf. [James 2:17](#)). True disciples of Jesus believe that He speaks the truth about God and the Scriptures. They also know that He is who He claims to be. Verse 32 begins with, *"Then you will know the truth."* "You" refers to those who are true disciples of Jesus. True disciples will know the truth. More than that, their eyes are opened to a greater understanding of the truth ([1 John 5:20](#)). The truth Jesus' disciples receive brings with it freedom. Jesus continues, *"And the truth will set you free"* (verse 32). At that point in history, the Jews were under the rule of the Roman government. Even though Rome gave them an exceptional amount of autonomy, they were keenly aware of the Roman presence around them in the form of soldiers, governors, and empirically appointed kings. When Jesus said the truth would set them free, however, He was not talking about political freedom. Jesus explains, *"Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."* Being a slave to sin is the ultimate bondage.

The freedom Jesus offers is a *spiritual* freedom from the bondage of sin—that is, release from the lifestyle of habitual lawlessness. He continues with an analogy: *"Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever"*. If they were to become disciples of Jesus, they would know the truth of their condition and the truth about Christ, and Jesus would set them free. Believers would be freed from their bondage and brought into the family of God. Jesus is the Truth ([John 14:6](#)). Knowing the Truth will set one at liberty—free from sin, free from condemnation, and free from death ([Romans 6:22; 8:1–2](#)). Jesus came to proclaim liberty to the captives ([Luke 4:18](#)). *"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God"* (1 Peter 2:16).

Missionary Update PNG

"these men who have turned the whole world upside down." Acts 17:6 CJB The above quote was from enemies of the disciples of Jesus. I love it. May this be said of us who passionately spread the Good News. During hospital outreach this week, we visited a pregnant woman who has the malaria that has gone to the brain. She has a month to go on her pregnancy and has I think 6 other children. She was sleeping, but we spoke with her in-laws and prayed with them. During my time in the parking lot of a local supermarket, while waiting for someone, I had the wonderful time of sharing the Gospel with some men -- two in particular, John and Samuel. John is young and chewing beetle nut. He was not ready to accept the gift of salvation. The other man is a father and was deeply challenged with the urgency of accepting Jesus now. One never knows how much longer one's life is going to be here. He is so close. I pray that he will step into the blessing soon. Then Dr. Nimi and I went to the prison on outreach. Nimi is getting more and more comfortable with the language so we separated and targeted different cells. At one cell, after my presentation of the Gospel, I asked if anyone had questions. One man did. He wanted to know how to be reconciled to God. So I led him in a prayer to receive this wonderful gift God has given us of reconciliation through Jesus. Wow God. Last week, we were delayed in getting to the prison due to car trouble, but this was a God ordained delay. A group of prisoners, who I later learned had burned down the Air Nuigini plane in another province, had just come in as they were in town for court. So we had the wonderful chance to share the Gospel with them and to give them portions of Scripture. Wow God. A Divinely ordained delay on our part because you are concerned even for those men. You know like an ice berg, what we do in outreach is made possible by so many who support us and pray for us. I want to mention in particular Neal. He is the one who is always on errands for me to help make all this possible. He does draw the line at my giving away his clothes. In case you wonder why some of my things don't match, well, I give away... One more thing, four of the missionary Mommies and their kids did outreach in the hospital yesterday. We had the dates a bit mixed up, but Nimi accompanied them and I have heard it all went well. Such wonderful opportunities here in PNG, May it be said that we in the Name of Jesus turned Mount Hagen upside for Him. Lois

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Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th 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 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 December 30th - Lord’s Supper followed by Lunch Fellowship

“Jesus Christ Himself is the final exegesis of all truth. He is all that we need to know about God, and He is all that we need to know about man.” – Major Ian Thomas