



# 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.*

## Joy

The joy of the Lord is the gladness of heart that comes from knowing God, abiding in Christ, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was born, the angels announced "good tidings of great joy" (Luke 2:10). All who find Jesus know, with the shepherds, the joy He brings. Even *before* His birth, Jesus had brought joy, as attested to in Mary's song and by John's response to hearing Mary's voice as he "leaped for joy" in his mother's womb (Luke 1:44-47). Jesus exemplified joy in His ministry. His enemies accused Him of being too joyful on occasion (Luke 7:34). Jesus described Himself as a bridegroom enjoying a wedding feast (Mark 2:18-20); He "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" (Luke 10:21); He spoke of "my joy" (John 15:11) and promised to give His disciples a lifetime supply of it (John 16:24). Joy is reflected in many of Jesus' parables, including the three stories in Luke 15, which mention "rejoicing in the presence of the angels" (Luke 15:10) and end with a joyful shepherd, a joyful woman, and a joyful father. Nehemiah told the repentant Israelites that the joy of the Lord would be their strength (Neh 8:10). The early church was characterized by the joy of the Lord and "joy in the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:46; 13:52). Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). In fact, it is our Christian duty to rejoice in the Lord (Phil 3:1; 4:4; 1 Thes 5:16). In Christ, the believer is "filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8).

Because of its supernatural origin, joy is present even through the trials of life. We know we are children of God, and no one can snatch us away from Him (John 10:28-29). We see the Author and Finisher of our faith, and, let the enemy rage ever so much, we know who wins in the end (Heb 12:2; Psa 2). Faith is the victory that overcomes the world, and the joy of the Lord is our strength. Adverse circumstances, instead of hindering our faith, can actually enhance our joy. Paul and Silas knew adversity as they sat with their feet in the stocks in a Philippian jail cell. Their legal rights had been violated. They had been arrested without cause and beaten without a trial. At midnight, since they couldn't sleep, they sang—loudly—the praises of the Lord they were serving (Acts 16:25). A miracle soon followed. The apostles in Jerusalem were arrested—twice—and ordered not to preach in Jesus' name. The second time they faced the court, they were beaten. Unfazed, they returned home "rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" and ready to preach some more (Acts 5:41). Of course, the apostles were only following the example of our Lord, who had "for the joy set before him . . . endured the cross, scorning its shame" (Heb 12:2).

## Missionary Update India

Six years ago, God led me to quit America to serve God in my mother land, India. I obeyed. And you have been standing with me in prayer and support to make the vision a reality. Thank you so very much! I rejoice at every testimony impacted by the Gospel through our ministry.

**Latest:** Four more people took baptism and joined the body of Christ just last week. Another one: Mathew quit smoking after sixty years of being addicted to it. 23 more leaders were trained and sent to the mission field this year. Over hundred children were led to Christ through Vacation Bible School. List goes on...

### Two Pressing Needs

**1. Personal Support:-** You never heard me appealing for my personal support, right? That is because \$450 was coming from one devoted family who were sacrificial in supporting me every month. Their last support was in October 2018. Hence I am requesting, if you are led by the Lord to come alongside to help lead this ministry forward, please let me know. We are expecting our third baby anytime now. With increased additional expenses ahead, we badly need your help.

**2. Home for training leaders and Ministry base:-** The construction of our building is going on smooth. So far we made the payments on time. We need miraculous provision to make the next installment of \$20k next month. Here is a 3D view of the project. In US value, this project would cost over \$800 thousand, we are getting it done for less than \$200 thousand. Therefore definitely it is a worthwhile investment and we can achieve a lot more for the Kingdom of God through this infrastructure.

May I ask you to kindly consider your year-end giving towards this project? Thank you so much in advance for your generous help. God bless you. We wish you a blessed Christmas and prosperous new year. Love to hearing from you.

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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;**

- Tuesday Evening Discipleship class resumes on January 8, 2019
- Thursday Evening Bible Study resumes on January 10, 2019
- Youth Group will resume in January dates to follow soon.

**“If you have no joy, there’s a leak in your Christianity somewhere” – Billy Sunday**