

## **ATTENTION!!**

### **MeetUp Class**

Monday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.  
28561 Sunnyslope St.  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

### **Looking for Something to Do?**

*‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or as a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for Me, either.’* Matthew 25:44-45

### **Check the Member Directory**

*“So then, while we have opportunity, let’s do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”* Galatians 6:10

### **March Birthdays**

18 Buddy Cashion (would have been 97!)  
28 Sandra Jones      30 Barrett Hoffman

# **Indio Informer**

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## **Consistently Inconsistent**

By Joe Chesser

I have said it many times: “The only thing I am consistent about is being inconsistent!” Being consistent is one of the most difficult things in life. That’s understandable because we are all humans and humans mess up. We make promises we do not keep. We have good intentions that are not fulfilled. We say we’re sorry and will never do it again, but we do. We are hypocritical and don’t always speak the truth or tell how we really feel. We say one thing and do another. We repeatedly miss what we aim at. We are up one day and down the next. That’s why I say we are consistently inconsistent ... but probably not all the time.

One thing that makes Jesus so amazing is that he was never inconsistent. Never! He was constant. He never made a promise he failed to keep. He never pretended to be something he wasn’t. He always spoke the truth. He always lived the truth he spoke. Jesus’ enemies could never find fault with him or trap him in his words. Even at his illegal trial when his false accusers contradicted each other, Jesus consistently spoke only the truth. As one writer said about Jesus, “the messenger and the message were always the same.” The writer of Hebrews put it this way, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Hebrews 13.8). How awesome it is to be able to rely on Jesus’ unchanging ways, to always be with us, to always be our anchor through good times and bad.

Our goal as Christians is to be like Jesus. We are called to leave our human nature behind and work toward the high calling of taking on the nature of Christ. Read Ephesians 4.22-24 and Philippians 3.12-14. Of course, that involves many things: unceasing prayer (1 Thessalonians 5.17), consistent hospitality (Hebrews 13.2), assembling for worship (Hebrews 10.25), always giving thanks (Ephesians 5.20), keeping our head in all situations (2 Timothy 4.5) etc. In other words, be as consistent in word and

#### **Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:**  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher:**  
Jack Critchfield

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deed as possible. *“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Yes, we’re all consistently inconsistent. But we don’t have to remain this way. We should never resign ourselves to be content with our humanness. Instead, as Christians we can grow and develop into becoming more consistently like Jesus every day. Our goal is to attain *“the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13). Hopefully for us, the message and messenger will be the same.

## **Spiritual Casualties**

By Jack Critchfield

Why is it that many of the churches young people leave the church once they are out on their own? What causes our young people to become spiritual casualties? Who is to blame? Unless parents and churches begin to seriously address this problem, this problem will only grow worse.

Perhaps one of the reasons is associated with the home environment. God has given the primary responsibility of raising children to parents (Ephesians 6:4). Yet in this fast-paced world, this often neglected. Often, when a parent sees their child baptized, they give a big sigh of relief and think their job is over. That, brethren, is a very big mistake. There is much more to conversion than just being baptized! The teaching and the training must continue until the child becomes an adult and leaves home, and even then, it's not finished.

Unfortunately, many young people do not receive the teaching and example setting they need while they are at home. Now, let's give some consideration to some of the problem areas some families experience.

One of the things that children see is inconsistency. This is perhaps one of the greatest failings parents often suffer from. They say one thing to their children, and then do something else. Many times, children see their parents lie, cheat others, and use vulgar language. Do we really think such behavior will result in a child wanting to aspire to be a faithful Christian their entire life? And parents wonder why their children don't want to attend services when they themselves use every excuse in the book to miss. The problem is

that children can see right through their parent's hypocrisy. In time, a child usually decides that they want no part in the religious farce of their parents.

Another thing that causes children to turn their back on service to the Lord is the criticism of the congregation they hear constantly. Throughout their childhood they constantly hear their parents rant and rave about what is wrong with the local congregation, always ripping the preacher apart for something, ridiculing the Elders for their decisions and on and on. Rather than constant criticism, children need to hear some positive things about the church. If they are constantly fed a steady diet of negativism, they will never develop into strong mature Christians.

In Colossians 3:21 we can read, *“Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”* Some parents are entirely too critical of their children, always running them down. Nothing the child ever does is good enough. This develops into a low self-image and will result in a lack of confidence in parents. These feelings of negativity tend to carry over in the child's attitude toward God and get in the way of his/her future salvation. God did not intend for children to be the recipient of all the parents’ pent-up emotions and hostilities.

There are occasions when congregations must shoulder some of the responsibility of young people leaving the church. When congregations are always arguing and fighting about some trivial thing, children will often conclude that they want nothing to do with the church as an adult. When children are subjected to 16 years of Bible classes that are boring and dull, children will often conclude that the Bible can do them no good. When children observe Christians in the congregation doing things that are immoral, and nothing is ever said or done, they will conclude that immorality is no big deal.

In too many cases, parents and congregations place all the blame for a spiritual failure on to the young person that has left the church, saying such things as, *“They were never really converted”* or *“They are just too stubborn and willful.”* Sometimes observations such as these may be valid, nevertheless, parents and congregations still need to shoulder some of the responsibility. Accepting responsibility is necessary so that in the future improvement can be made to prevent additional spiritual failures.