

**Speaker for Today**  
Thank you, Eli Degeneffe

**“Our Influence”**

*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* Matthew 5:13-16

**July Birthdays**

19 Sal Contino

**Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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**Preacher: Vacant**

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# Indio Informer

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*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

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## My Neighborhood

By Al Behel

I liked “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Millions of children around the world sat at his feet and marveled at the simple things. Fred Rogers received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. When he received the award, he wore his usual sweater and tie. Reporters expected him to talk about his infamous television program. Instead, he talked with them about why we are on this earth - not to amass fortunes or to make a big name for ourselves. According to Mister Rogers the important things are the little things, the small acts of kindness that make our world a better place.

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught that a real neighbor is not identified by credentials or religious ideologies, but by the simple acts one does toward those in need. According to Jesus, the world is our neighborhood and everyone in it is our neighbor. Our challenge is to do small acts of kindness to each person we meet. It’s the simple things that make the difference.

How many times each day do we meet a “neighbor”, someone to whom we can show kindness? How many opportunities do we miss because we have other

commitments, or because that neighbor is different from us and we are not moved to action? Scripture tells us that Jesus *“went about doing good.”* Every day He touched lives with simple acts of kindness. He spoke kind words to social and moral outcasts. He held children in his arms, went home with tax collectors and sinners, and encouraged the hearts of the down-trodden. He told the disciples that to see Him was to see God. And that’s how others see God in us.

We are often stalled by our belief that God is looking for big things in us. Sure, there are big challenges we must meet, but most of life is not about big things. It’s the little things we routinely do to others that opens their hearts and shows the beauty of God’s grace in us.



## **We Are Not Invisible**

By Gerald Cowan

Everything a Christian says and does must be designed to lead others to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31-32). There is nothing about the Christian life that is neutral or unimportant. In everything a Christian does he is to be *“the light of the world,”* a light that is not hidden. He is told, *“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:14-16). Notice that Jesus does not beg his

disciples to become lights in the world. He merely states a fact: you are lights in the world (compare also Philippians 2:15-16). We ought to understand these words to mean, *“If you are truly my disciples (John 8:31) you are the light of the world.”* There can be a great difference, you know, between Christians and professed Christians. God used the obedient examples, the piety and good works of the true disciples of Christ to enlighten the world. Christians are living examples of what God can do with a person’s life.

Jesus does not mean that we should try to impress people with our own righteousness and good works. But he reminds us that no one is really invisible. If one lives for God, others will see it. If one lives without God, that will be apparent too. When a person becomes a Christian, he is committed to a new way of life. Changes become obvious in his attitudes – especially toward other people, in his sense of values, and in his use of his time, energy, money and other resources. In many other ways he will be visibly and conspicuously different. Not because he is trying to attract attention to himself, but only because God calls Christians to be obedient to Him in ways that cannot easily be kept hidden from others. You cannot hide a city that is built on a hillside, and you cannot hide the kind of obedience that God requires of all followers of Jesus Christ. So do not try to hide. Just go on and shine!

Others will be impressed by our life. When they know that it is obedience to God that makes the difference they will glorify God for our good example. They may not become Christians themselves, but they will give God credit for our improvement. And no doubt there will be some, encouraged by our faith in God and our trust in His promises, who will place their own lives in God’s hands too.

We are the light of the world, the light the world needs to see, if we are a Christian, because when the world looks at us the world sees God.