

May 21, 2024

Hello All,

*"Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see FJCM."*

-C. S. Lewis

*"Shine*

*Make 'em wonder what you've got*

*Make 'em wish that they were not*

*On the outside, looking bored"*

- Shine by the Newsboys

*"Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy*

*Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light"*

-Shine Jesus Shine by Graham Kendrick

*The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.*

-John 1:5

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

- Matthew 5:16

We all know people who shine. Somehow, he/she has something about him/her that is attractive. Not attractive in the way their face is, or their body or their clothing. No, this attractiveness comes from the inside. And, yet, it is bright because it does not originate from the person him/herself. Because It is my belief that shining people are filled with the love of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

My Mike, my husband, was a huge Billy Graham fan, in one of the books Mike enjoyed Graham wrote about Jesus being called "the true light, which gives light to everyone" (John 1:9) And, since we are extensions of Jesus in this world we are called to be lights in the darkness. We are called to shine. Graham thought this meant that we are to live counter-culturally meaning that this world is filled with confusion and troubles. So rather than live in the issues of the world we must live in a different way that reflects Jesus.

Also, we are to live by literally shining with the love of Jesus to everyone we meet. And we are to always in everything we do allow Jesus to shine through us so that others see Jesus in us. Graham wrote that we need to take care that our light does not shine bright for people to see us and give us attention but so that Jesus' light can be seen in us.

So shine, shine, shine in the love and beauty of Jesus!

Many blessings, Cindy Finn