

SUMMER *Initiative*

Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and the first step toward loving our neighbors is knowing them. This summer let's join together for an exciting journey of building relationships with our neighbors. Use the following ideas as a guide toward becoming salt and light in your own backyard.

SUMMER *Activities*

These activities are meant to jumpstart your ministry in your own neighborhood. Take time each month to complete the activity, knowing you are joining with hundreds across NWI who are doing the same.

June: PRAYER WALK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Prayer walking is a great way to fall in love with your neighborhood. Challenge yourself to prayer walk your block once a week for the month of June.

PRAYER *Gatherings*

ON THE 2ND MONDAY OF MONTH, 7-8PM

Join with believers from across NWI as we pray for our Region. You will leave encouraged by what God is doing in our midst. At each gathering you will also hear stories of ministries and organizations that God is using to transform our communities. You won't want to miss this!



April 9: Hillside, Crown Point
May 14: New Covenant, Gary
June 11: Peace Baptist, Gary
July 9: Faith, Hammond HAC
August 13: Life Point, Hammond
September 10: Holy Shepherd, St. John

HELPFUL PRAYER WALKING TIPS

- Keep your eyes open
- Your prayer can be informal, more of a natural conversation about your neighborhood with God
- Pray for the things you see. Pray for each family as you pass their house.
- Pray that God would open your eyes to see your neighborhood and its people as he does.
- Bring your spouse, children or friend along.
- Have a conversation with each other and God about your neighborhood.
- Before your walk, read the local newspaper, paying attention to stories which affect your neighborhood.
- Don't wave your arms or pray loud and awkwardly, just take a walk.
- Carry a small rock or other object; let its presence keep you focused on prayer.
- Pray for opportunities to be a Gospel presence in your neighborhood and that God would open up opportunities for you to share the Good News.

July: INVITE A NEIGHBOR OVER FOR DINNER

Dinner is a great way to start or deepen your relationship with a neighbor. Sometime in July have a neighbor and their family over for some good food and fun conversation.

DINNER TIPS:

- Set an end time, this tells your neighbor up front that they don't have to stay forever
- If your families have kids you could have a make your own pizza or taco bar
- Try a fun family movie night after dinner
- Laugh together over some family games after dinner
- Grill out and talk around the fire pit
- Be normal

August: NEIGHBORHOOD BACKYARD BBQ

By this time your heart should be stirred as you prayer walked your block and learned more about your neighbors. Now is the time to step up and host a fun neighborhood get together.

BACKYARD BBQ TIPS:

- This doesn't have to be formal, expensive, elaborate, or perfectly orchestrated. It just has to happen.
- Invite more people than you expect to come
- Invite people more than once
- Fire up the grill, bring out the coolers and set up the bean-bags. If there are lots of kids have games or let neighbors bring theirs.
- If neighbors want to help plan, listen to their ideas and welcome their help



- Be sure that those who are already Christ followers are outnumbered, so that those who are far from Christ don't feel like they are being ganged up on
- Be yourself - HAVE FUN!!
- Pay attention to the people you invite
- You should never find yourself "enjoying" the ways of the world – or participating in them

SALT & LIGHT



KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS – A SALT & LIGHT INITIATIVE –