



the Community

in Maywood

• Special Edition • Christmas • 2010 •

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

Luke 2:14

Merry Christmas from Us to You



***"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God."
(Mat 5:9)***

Merry Christmas to you – our friends, our spiritual family, our advocates, and our co-laborers in the ministry of reconciliation! Let us be *sons* who worship and manifest the presence of *the Son* who makes peace possible between God and sinners!

What an awesome year it has been at theCommunity! The year began with no shortage of celebratory gunfire to welcome in the New Year new additions to our family as John's parents moved in. With all the bullets flying toward space, there's no need to wonder how many successfully and safely broke free of the earth's gravitational pull. "What goes up must come down." INCOMING! John's parents felt neither welcomed nor amused.

In our neighborhood Backyard Bible Clubs, we can now say that the majority of the children that we have ministered to and loved in the first three years have relocated; they no longer live in Maywood. We never get used to how folks around us can be so transient. While much of this could be due to an especially high foreclosure rate in our town, the instability and dysfunction of so many family units likely plays an even more significant role.

Through 2010, we and our co-laborers were able to share the "words of eternal life" with countless people, and we saw the power of the Holy Spirit leading

almost 80 people (that we actually know about) to make professions of faith in Jesus! And who knows how many decisions for rededication?

Of all the memorable evangelism opportunities, two really stick out. The first occurred one day when John was sitting at a picnic table in a local park sharing the gospel with Reuben and his fellow addicts. Engrossed in conversation, John didn't even notice when the lady beside him lit up her crack pipe and started off on her trek to La-la land. What a sight!

The Second: While taking in Chicago's sights and sounds, one of our visiting missionaries toured a local mosque. Apparently, the Lord intended a wee bit more excitement for him than just an afternoon of sight-seeing! Right there in the shadow of the mosque, God used Garrett to lead a Muslim man to Jesus! Upon his confession of faith in Christ, the new believer threw down his *kufi* (or *taqiya*, a prayer cap), and exclaimed, "I guess I won't be needing this anymore!"

In June, Maywood celebrated one whole year without a single murder (the first time since anyone can seem to remember) only to have a shooting right as several local news reporters were covering the story. John even made the evening news when he was interviewed by an NBC reporter about it. Unfortunately, the village has seen a dramatic increase in shootings and several murders since then.

This Thanksgiving Day, we opened our home and invited family and friends, neighbors and acquaintances, international students, and our local police department to stop by for food and fellowship. While we had a special and memorable time with new people at our table, the greatest disappointment was the over-abundance of leftover turkey, ham, and everything else that goes with it!

Of the many things for which we're thankful this year, we're especially grateful for the opportunities to make new friendships within our neighborhood and also to strengthen the ones we've already been enjoying.

Our Co-laborers in Christ. In 2010, we saw over 300 missionaries come to our side to bring the Gospel and its benefits to both the lost and the found. 70 students for four colleges descended upon several local campuses (Harper, Morton, Northeastern Illinois, Solex-Chicago, Solex-Wheeling, and Truman). They also made it out to Maywood where they attracted quite a few second looks as they helped us clean-up parks and the neighborhoods that surround them. Through

the year, we also saw hundreds of young people helping us to bring the love of Jesus through 18 VBSs in 7 parks, Backyard Bible Clubs, community service, door-to-door evangelism, block parties, construction projects, neighborhood cookouts, sports camps, disaster relief and more! Each of these activities provided solid platforms for clear presentations of the Good News! And people actually stuck around to give the Gospel a fair hearing!



God presented us with excellent gifts this year when he gave us Jeanna, Ashlee, Myeong, Katie, and Kristina (left to right, above) who served as our summer missionaries. Also, Adam and Jane (below) served as our student ministers at Solex College. There is NO exaggeration when we say that without them, we could not have accomplished all that we did this year! Thank you God! With pleasure, we've adopted each of them into our ministry family!



Speaking of Adoption... More than two years ago, we began the process of adopting a child. Due to some pressing family matters, it was necessary to put the process on hold for almost a year. Very recently, we were able to pick up where we had left off, but only to discover that our license was about to expire. This unexpected news will mean that we will need to resubmit our application for licensing and be reevaluated for our fitfulness as parents. Eventually, this will all come together, and once again there will be a little girl sleeping in the "pink" bedroom!

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



The ministry of **theCommunity** is possible through the advocacy of conscientious Kingdom-minded Christians brought together under Jesus our Bridegroom who is the Christ, God, the Son, and the Savior. To Him belongs all blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and might.

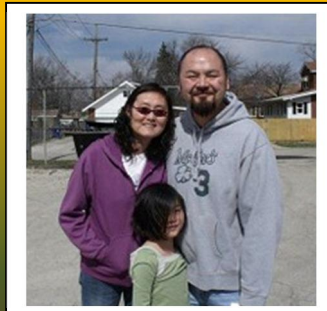
We are blessed to have numerous partners from 2008 and 2009 who have decided even in the midst their own challenging and often uncertain circumstances to lean upon the certainty of Christ's faithfulness as they remain standing with us as our precious Advocates. It is no small thing to us that along with the great cloud of witnesses from ages past, present, and certainly future, these dear saints have stood faithfully and sacrificially behind us, beside us, and before us with a foremost concern for the Kingdom. We are proud to count these Advocates among our partners in the Gospel. Also, we gratefully acknowledge those who newly joined the ranks in 2010.

Each has manifested *at least* one of the four expressions of advocacy (go to www.RadiantBride.org/opportunities.html to learn more). Through incarnational missionaries, God has generously administered the benefits of the Good News of Jesus. The Lord has employed others to financially underwrite his work. Still others have championed meaningful missional strategies wherever are and wherever they go. All of them have lovingly taken us before the throne of grace in prayer. We thank God for continuing to demonstrate his love and care for us through his radiant Bride.

Have you considered joining our advocacy team? **First**, if you are interested in learning more about what we're up to, please visit our website at www.RadiantBride.org. **Second**, please pray. The work of the Kingdom is a spiritual endeavor that impacts the material world around us. It's spiritual warfare that is fought on the battlefield of people's lives. Pray to the Author and Perfecter of faith. **Third**, while we rejoice over the many advocates whose partnerships will endure through 2011, we will see several *major* partners who will be unable to continue, or those whose involvement is yet uncertain. Still, we trust that God will bring together every piece necessary for his work in theCommunity to press forward. Would you prayerfully consider how the Lord may be calling on you to participate?

Personal Updates

Abigail is a too-quickly-growing, healthy, and active, 2nd grader. Homeschooling continues to agree with her. She is taking piano lessons and is involved in tumbling, ballet, and all kinds of girl's stuff. She enjoys reading, singing, dancing, drawing, and ice skating. This year, **Abigail** began attending AWANA at a nearby church and has made some wonderful friends.



As Abi's teacher, **Gloria** embraces the opportunity to personally be involved in the development of her daughter's heart, soul, and mind. Recently, she has fostered a wonderful friendship with a neighbor. Please pray that this and other relationships will blossom and deepen. Please also pray for **Gloria's** continued good health and for the physical safety of the family and all who labor with us for the Kingdom.

Those who know **John** know that he is a religious fisherman – at least he used to be. This year, he got out twice (not including a trip with his brother). As strange as this may sound, pray that he learns to take his leisure time alone and with family more seriously. Also, as if he wasn't short enough on time already, **John** began to explore the possibility of returning to school to further his theological studies. Pray for good counsel, a clear prompting from God, and all the resources necessary.

Agency Advocacy in 2010 (since)

Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association and its New Work Team	(2007)
Illinois Baptist State Association & its Church Planting & Next Gen Team	(2007)
The Nehemiah Project of the North American Mission Board	(2007)
PowerPlant of the North American Mission Board	(2008)
The Southern Baptist Convention & its Cooperative Partners	(2007)

Corporate Advocacy in 2010 (since)

AAC Consulting, Hoffman Estates, IL	(2008)
Baptist Collegiate Ministries @ Clemson University, SC	(2010)
Baptist Collegiate Ministries @ Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS	(2010)
Baptist Collegiate Ministries @ Tulsa Community College, OK	(2009)
Baptist Collegiate Ministries @ the University of Tulsa, OK	(2009)
Belden Baptist Church, MS	(2010)
Binnerri Presbyterian Church, Richardson, TX	(2008)
Broadview Missionary Baptist Church, IL	(2010)
Chicagoland Community Church, Chicago, IL	(2008)
Citi-Law LLC, Wheeling, IL	(2010)
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington, KY	(2009)
The Cross Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX	(2010)
First Baptist Church of Anna, IL	(2008)
First Baptist Church of Claremore, OK	(2010)
First Baptist Church of Gainesville, TX	(2010)
First Baptist Church of Prattville, AL	(2010)
First Baptist Church of New Castle, OK	(2010)
First Baptist Church, Sanger, TX	(2010)
F.U.E.L. from the First Baptist Church of St. Charles, MO	(2009)
The Greater Exodus Baptist Church, Chicago, IL	(2010)
Chicagoland Community Church, Chicago, IL	(2008)
Grove Level Baptist Church of Dalton, GA	(2010)
Harbor Church, Oologah, OK	(2010)
Immanuel Baptist Church, Chicago, IL	(2008)
Korean Baptist Church of Schaumburg, IL	(2001)
Korean Christian Reformed Church, Wheeling, IL	(2009)
Peniel Baptist Church, Glenmore, LA	(2010)
Tyrannus Korean Baptist Church, Glenview, IL	(2008)

Individual Advocacy in 2010

theCommunity enjoys the support of many individuals who advocate for us. While most of our individual supporters are local, we are also blessed by the precious partnership of other individuals throughout North America.

For each and every one of these precious advocates, we thank and praise God. Not wanting to be one who jeopardizes the full reward coming to these brothers and sisters in the Kingdom, we will withhold their names. We trust that each knows of whom we speak, but more importantly that the Master knows of their generosity and hospitality towards His servants in Maywood (Mat. 10:11-16).



Please send all e-mail to John and Gloria Yi at pastorjohn@radiantbride.org. Phone Numbers: (Home-Office) 708-450-5033; (Mobile) 312-608-0349.

Send all mail to our new address: **The Community in Maywood, 157 South 17th Avenue, Maywood, IL 60153.**

Please make contributions payable to "the Community in Maywood."