

# the Community in Maywood

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Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-27

## “spring”-ing forward with the Son’s glory in view

*I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Php. 1:20-21*

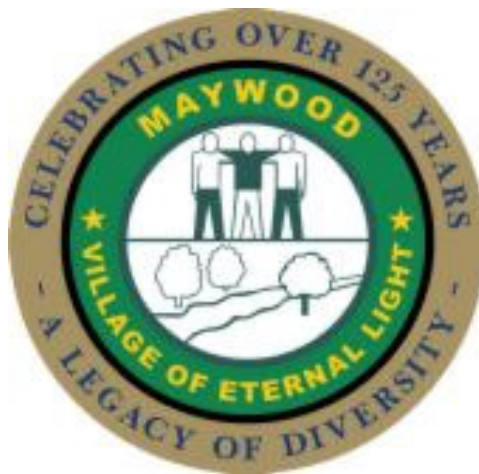
Yikes! For Paul, suffering for Jesus seemed to be normative to his pursuit of Jesus. Still, fear – whether of men, the elements, or of circumstances – did not determine his course, nor was it a factor that disqualified some pretty treacherous paths. We admire the saints that have gone before us and their courageous lives – not because they were inherently great people, but because they glimpsed the greatness and worth of Jesus and determined that He is worthy of nothing less than everything. It causes us to ask, “What do they see that we don’t see, that we should be so lackluster, so fearful and so ashamed?”

The New Year started with a bang. Literally! We had multiple gunshots ringing out within a hundred yards of our home as 2009 came strolling in. Since then, it seems like every time we’ve had a little bit of unseasonably warm weather, gunfire has erupted. Our neighbor’s car windows were shot out by wayward bullets on one such occasion. In early March four young people were victims of shootings in a span of 6 days! Recently, someone was kind enough to leave us a greeting in the form of profane graffiti on our garage door. We sanded it off only to have the same message reappear three days later on the other door - only this time, bigger. Since our neighbors are not experiencing this problem, we can only assume that we have become the object of someone’s fancy. Pray for our boldness and courage as we hit the streets this Spring.

### Prayer & Praises @ theCommunity

Be informed about our needs and current activities by visiting [www.radiantbride.org](http://www.radiantbride.org). Click on “community prayer,” and present our requests before to God. What we’re attempting is impossible by the power and will of man. The state of the existing community has already proven that! We require the supernatural power of God to be manifest all around us! Also, please drop us a note and tell us that you’re praying for us, and we’ll keep telling you how God is answering!

**Winter in Maywood.** As we’ve mentioned before, the cold weather magnified the challenge of meeting regularly with people we already know (let alone new people). We’ve tried to develop the relationships that we already enjoy, but we’ve also sought creative ways to keep rubbing shoulders with Maywoodians. Although we’ve spread a bit thin, we’ve become quite active within our community, and have found a welcome mat waiting. For example, John sits on the board of the Maywood Community Organization. He was recently asked to be the president of our local block club (he’s attempting to evade the appointment). Also, we’ve been asked to be charter members of a PTA-esque leadership team at our local public school. We mention these things not to seek accolades, but to point out the



ease in which Christ-followers can gain access to platforms where they can be “salt and light” in their communities. It seems to us (and this is purely anecdotal, but still true) that Evangelicals generally do a lousy job of being “in the world” without being “of the world.” We’re going to give it a go, and with the Father’s help, may we be shrewd for the sake of the Kingdom and the fame of Jesus.

Other things have kept us busy during these slow months. We’ve been making strides to establish new work on at least three college campuses: Northeastern Il. University in Chicago, Solex College in Wheeling, and Triton College in River Grove. God has given us what appears to be our “person-of-peace”, one at each campus. Thanks so much for praying for these critical

pieces, but please don’t stop. We’re going to pursue new work on every Chicagoland campus where God provides a “key” – the P.O.P. It’s an exciting time! We feel like expectant parents waiting for triplets! Still, as parents know, due diligence is required in order for a birth to be successful. Even still, God alone is the giver of life, isn’t he? Throughout the spring and summer we hope to finish laying the groundwork for a full scale launch (hopefully in the Fall) of these prospective college ministries as well as any others that God places in our path.

**Coming Up in Spring and Summer.** Speaking of “expecting”, we have begun the arduous paperwork and have completed the State of Illinois mandated training required of potential adoptive parents. Pray for us. We will be interviewed, background checked, home inspected, etc. Also, as many may be aware, adoption is an expensive undertaking, and frankly, we don’t have the money. We walk in faith, trusting that if our Father will favor us with the blessing of a new child in our home, then he’ll certainly provide all the necessities.

We’re lining up mission teams for the spring and summer which are coming from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and southern Illinois. They will graciously help us with outreaches and special events. We’re grateful to those who advocate for work in Maywood through relevant participation!

Also, we’re still praying for God to send us a mission team (10-15 people) to come in to help us with a 3-5 day Spring Break outreach sometime between April 10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. If your church or even a group of your friends are available and willing, contact us A.S.A.P! You may be the answer to our prayers!

**Something exciting.** Understanding that ministry needs in Chicago are so vast, we (along with so many others) have continued to pray that God would send more workers to Chicago. It is thrilling to see God answering. More and more harvesters are being released into the fields, and more are on the way, so please keep praying for more to come.

With these glaring shortages ever before us, we’ve put in our requests for up to 6 missionaries/interns who will come to Chicagoland for the entire summer

(“springing forward,” continued on page 2)

Please send all e-mail to John and Gloria Yi at [pastorjohn@radiantbride.org](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Maywood, IL 60153.**

Please make contributions payable to “the Community in Maywood.”

("springing forward," continued from p. 1)

and help us with our work. At least two of them will live with us in our home and work among Maywoodians, and up to four will spread out to at least three college campuses to continue tilling the fallow ground for a fall planting. We'll seek to get all of them appointed as NAMB missionaries. Pray that God would send us hardworking, teachable, and death-defyingly courageous student missionaries. The word is that a good number of candidates are often missing some if not all of these qualities. We only want the best – those called by God, and those who have answered because God's grace has arrested them with a vision for His glory and the splendor of his Bride!

**Special Requests.** If you have not already done so, would you please do a couple things for us?

First, please pray intelligently for us. We are frequently asked, "What can I do to help?" or "How can I get involved?" We cannot stress enough how important it is that you are praying for us! Please don't pray, "Dear God, I pray for John and Gloria. Amen." Don't stop there! Please pray *something* more specific. Have you ever asked yourself why people who serve God – who knows everything and does what He wills – need to pray to Him for help? There are plenty of answers, but can I pose **just one**? It's not so that we can make God aware of something to which he was previously ignorant. He's omniscient! It's not even so that we can twist his arm to do what he has no desire to do. He's sovereign! We pray because it improves *our* vision of Him. Hasn't something amazingly good (maybe even miraculous) ever happened to you? You were stunned, and wondered, "Was that God?" But that faith-stomping thought crept into your head. "Maybe it was luck, fortune, fate, or coincidence..." When we pray specifically, and God specifically answers, all doubt is removed! Our eyes suddenly open, and we see the gracious and mighty hand of God in action! We want to see God working around us, but we also want you to see him working, too! Pray for us with specificity! This requires you to become informed. [RadiantBride.org](http://RadiantBride.org) is our website and contains the most current updates.

Second, when you visit our website, please view our "Baby Shower" page. Yeah, it's a corny concept,

but like any good gift registry, it takes the guesswork out of finding the perfect gift! Have you seen some of the stuff that's on the list? Some of the items on the registry is literally your trash – yours and your church's! Don't get me wrong. God deserves nothing but the best and is outraged by people who think they've done him a huge favor when they keep the best for themselves and unload their old (even broken) junk at his alter. We are but humble slaves, and with gratitude, we will gladly receive whatever the Lord provides to meet our needs for his work.

**Thank you, Advocates.** In the dead of winter, John received a precious gift from a brother in Texas. He'd heard how unusually cold it's been in Chicagoland, so he sent John a pair of gloves. Advocates faithfully send support although common sense and their tightening finances tell them that they can't afford it. Twice in nine days, we received unexpected gifts which made us gasp – not because of their significant material worth, but because of the Father's timeliness, and the preciousness of his saints. They were *specific* answers to prayer! A couple reminded us that they pray regularly for us! Corporate partners renewed and in some cases even increased their unsolicited commitment to be on mission with us through 2009 although their budgets are further being pinched. In less than 48 hours, we were contacted by 4 different groups who were seeking to be on mission in Maywood this summer. Individual advocates have told us that they have taken the spirit of our work back to their churches and raised the banner for authentic Christianity and relevant engagement strategies for ministry and outreach. When our healthy discontent about the radiance of the *Bride* had turned into hatred of the ugly *Whore*, a couple of saints reminded us of the real reason we love her – because the Bridegroom is crazy in love with her and died for her! Through this bitter winter, we have been loved, affirmed, nurtured, supported, and equipped by our local, state, and national affiliates. These are but a few of the ways in which God has encouraged us.

It makes us marvel! "Wow! As if Jesus was not enough, we get all these other benefits, too!" God has shown his face and extended his favor toward us. "Thank you, for being God's answers which intersect with our prayers!"

## ADVOCATE for the Community and the Bride in Chicagoland

1. **Partner in Missional Service in Maywood** by prayerfully and courageously considering how God may be calling you to join Him in the work that He is already doing in Maywood and places like it. Move to Maywood? Make Maywood the place for your next short-term mission trip?
2. **Partner through Financial Support of the Community** which seeks Kingdom-minded Christians who understand that the missional strategy of **the Community** coupled with her depressed context makes self-sustainable ministry nearly impossible. Only through the generous support of advocates like you can the initial financial hurdles be overcome.
3. **Partner in Faithful Prayer** by asking God to enable us and **the Community** to leave the indelible mark of Christ's Kingdom in Maywood and raise up more authentic disciples and congregations who will authentically love God and relevantly love people. Please visit us at [RadiantBride.org](http://RadiantBride.org) and become familiar with our specific prayer requests.
4. **Partner through Advocacy** in your own local church by championing authentic discipleship and by promoting relevant missionally-minded engagement strategies for domestic Kingdom ministry. Challenge your congregation(s) to incarnationally penetrate the immediate and broader community of lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do stuff that invites the world's **appropriate** regard for the Bride and her Bridegroom.

## COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



The ministry of **theCommunity** is possible through the advocacy of conscientious Kingdom-minded Christians brought together under Jesus, the Christ, God, Head, and Bridegroom. To Him belongs all blessing, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and might. We are blessed to have numerous partners from 2008 who have decided to continue in their advocacy of us in 2009. If you are interested in learning more about advocacy, please go to our website at [RadiantBride.org](http://RadiantBride.org) and click "opportunities."

### Agency Advocacy in 2009

Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association  
and its New Work Team  
Illinois Baptist State Association  
and its Church Planting & Next Gen Team  
Korean Southern Baptist Pastor's Assoc. of Illinois  
North American Mission Board  
and its Nehemiah Project

### Corporate Advocacy in 2009 (so far)

AAC Consulting, Hoffman Estates, IL  
Baptist Campus Ministries@ Tulsa Community  
College, OK  
Baptist Campus Ministries@ the University of  
Tulsa, OK  
Baptist Church of Schaumburg, IL  
Binneri Presbyterian Church of Richardson, TX  
Chicagoland Community Church of Chicago, IL  
First Baptist Church of Anna, IL  
Immanuel Baptist Church of Chicago, IL  
Tyranus Korean Baptist Church of Glenview, IL

### Individual Advocacy in 2009

**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).

