



the Community

in Maywood

• ISSUE 5 • August • 2008 •

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Summertime in Maywood, Illinois

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! God continues to work all round us, and we are blessed to have his invitation to join Him!



Backyard Bible Club. Thank you for your faithful prayers. In our opinion, the four-day-long BBC in June was a huge success. As our first major ministry/outreach, it was a kind of coming-out party for us! Respectively, we had 11, 16, 18, and 21 kids come out on each of the days. Not wanting to the BBC to be just an event, we've kept meeting with kids each week and will do so until the school year begins. We're averaging about 10 kids each week with new ones every week! Dozens of Bibles have been distributed this summer and we hope to exhaust our generous supply in short order. At our last meeting we had five children make new decisions for the Lord! Pray for their growth and protection, and that we would be faithful is discipling them.

While ministering to local children, we're also hoping the BBC will be a vehicle for also reaching their families. Early on we had limited success reaching adults in our area except at superficial levels, but new doors seem to open up each week because of our ministry to kids. We've been met with some opposition to the work we were doing in the neighborhood, but the Lord gives us confidence to press through with courage. Please pray that the BBC would prove to be an effective way to make further inroads into our community.

Block Party. In conjunction with the BBC, we also organized and promoted a Block Party which was modestly successful at best. While many had expressed plans to join in, few neighbors did, and we suspect some even quietly boycotted it (at least one, not so quietly). Still, we thank you for your prayer cover because no incidents of trouble occurred during the hours of the party as some dissenter had feared. We are hopeful that this year's Block Party will set a precedent for future neighborhood activities – that family-friendly events can be organized, safe, and enjoyable.

Although many neighbors had insisted on a "closed" party that was limited to block "residents and their invited guests," we expected that living at the corner house would provide opportunities for meeting passer-bys through the day. All told, we handed out over 100 hot dogs with fixings, as well as cotton candy, popcorn, and untold gallons of beverages. Best of all we made some very meaningful new contacts.

In the days and weeks following the BBC and Block Party, we discovered that our neighbors were well aware of our efforts, and some even stopped to express their appreciation.

A Funny Story. With the help of a visiting mission team, we did some trash clean-up while also doing some surveying of local residents. When asked to identify "greatest needs" in the community, "Jay" identified some unusual ones. He wanted to see more street cleaning and tree trimming. Well, we were already doing our version of street cleaning, but trimming 100+ year old trees?

Not one week later, a giant zamboni-looking street cleaning vehicle rolled down our street. Then the Public Works department came through to trim overhanging branches and

mark old trees for removal! The next time I saw "Jay," he said to me, "Pastor, you must have some serious pull at the Village Hall; they didn't waste anytime getting out here!" I told "Jay," I can't accept any credit for it! After all, I actually had nothing to do with it. Praise God for serendipitous moments!

Meetings. We've got kids gathered around us, but now we are on the cusp of having meetings with families in our house. Please pray with us that prayer meetings, Bible studies, and public worship services will soon be a reality in our home. Furthermore, we want to make a strategic thrust onto the Triton College campus to launch a student ministry which we'll probably call "The Community @ Triton." We continue to seek out **persons of peace** in both our neighborhood as well as on the local college campuses.

Please pray that we will also complete village-code-required repairs to our residence. Besides being financially burdensome, cost conscious work is very time consuming!

Finally, we thank God for our advocates and partners who faithfully encourage us in both words and deeds. May the Lord richly bless you for remembering "the least of these."

Prayer & Praises @ theCommunity

Be informed about our needs and current activities by visiting 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!

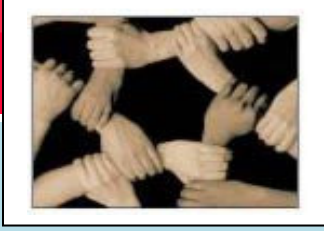
Please send all e-mail to John and Gloria Yi at pastorjohn@radiantbride.org

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

Phone Numbers: (Home-Office) 708-450-5033; (Mobile) 312-608-0349

Also, for those who are sending contributions, please make them payable to "the Community in Maywood."

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



the **Community** is possible by 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 (Rev. 7:12).

Agency Advocacy

Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association
Illinois Baptist State Association
Korean SBC Pastor's Fellowship of Illinois
North American Mission Board
and its Nehemiah Project

Corporate Advocacy

AAC Consulting, Hoffman Estates, IL
Baptist Church of Schaumburg, IL
Binneri Presbyterian Church, Richardson, TX
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wheeling, IL
Chicagoland Community Church, Chicago, IL
First Baptist Church of Anna, IL
First Baptist Church of Metropolis, IL
Immanuel Baptist Church, Chicago, IL

Individual Advocacy

the **Community** enjoys the support of many individuals who advocate for us here in Chicagoland. 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 these brothers and sisters of their full reward in the Kingdom, we will withhold their names. We trust that they each know of whom we speak, but more importantly that the Master knows of their generosity and hospitality towards His servants (Mat. 10:11-16).

THEOLOGICAL MUSINGS

When I attended seminary, one of my favorite theology professors had us write weekly "ditties". Its purpose was to teach students to communicate a response to a rather broad theological question in a brief, yet dense ditty. Since that time, I have continued to periodically write/preach these sermonettes to myself. Well if you will humor me, I'll share them with you.

IS THE TRINITY NECESSARY?

**"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might."
Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (ESV)**

Karl Barth was right when he said that it is the *Trinity* "which fundamentally distinguishes the Christian doctrine of God as Christian." Yet, why does orthodox Christianity insist that the Godhead be described as Trinitarian? After all, *Trinity* is not even a biblical term.

Tertullian (a theologian of the later second and early third centuries) is credited with coining the term, *trinitas*. He and the other earlier Church Fathers all the way back to the Apostles who apprehended the Trinitarian nature of God, were left in a quandary as to how they would speak in regards to it. Even with Tertullian's invaluable contributions to the vocabulary of Christian theology, it took the better part of two centuries to clarify the actual meanings of his terms, and this only as the Cappadocian Fathers appeared on the scene to flesh out the definitions of previous Church Councils. This they did while also battling against persistent heretical uprisings such as *modal monarchianism* which sadly continue to rear their ugly heads even today in aberrant Oneness theologies..

The Scriptures reveal the most convincing testimonies of the divine three-in-oneness. Israel's *Shema* (Deut 6:4) lays the orthodox foundation which necessitates the *oneness* of the Godhead; however, the apprehendable and distinct three-ness of the Godhead – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – can be seen in two theological categories.

First, the Trinity is said to be *economic* in that the "historic self-manifestations" of God (Garrett, 328) are witnessed in the Scripture's record of the three distinct functional roles within the Godhead. These functional roles are manifested in God's movements, his actions, and his works.

Second, the Trinity is said to be *ontological* – who or what is God? The Trinity is used to refer to God who is "eternal, essential, and immanent" (Garrett, 330). The idea of Trinity is also attributed to God due to the relational dynamics which are observed between the three distinct Persons of the Godhead. The synoptic Gospels' (Mt. 3:16-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22) records of Christ's baptism are perhaps the most compelling and graphic snapshots of God's distinct three-ness..

Why is the *Trinity* a necessary theological assertion? The Trinity is in and of itself a conundrum. Although, analogical illustrations are sometimes helpful, when draw out to the logical ends, they often prove to be limited and unsatisfying in their "talk" about God. The notion of the Trinity or three-in-oneness of God is not a necessary assertion because the concept represents the best that humans can do in their feeble attempts to circumscribe the ineffable God. Rather, the orthodox insistence of a trinitarian Godhead is a necessary because the revelation of the authoritative Scriptures is that God is trinitarian.

ADVOCATE for the **Community** and the Church 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. 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 at the outset. 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 and become familiar with our specific prayer requests.
4. **Partner through Advocacy** in your own local church by promoting relevant missionally-minded engagement strategies for domestic Kingdom ministry and new ministry activities which encourage authentic Christians 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. Whether we're loved or hated, may it be for Jesus' sake, and not for our shameful hypocrisy and irrelevance.