

GOOD NEWS

From Beulah (Englewood)—the city God loves (Isaiah 62:4)

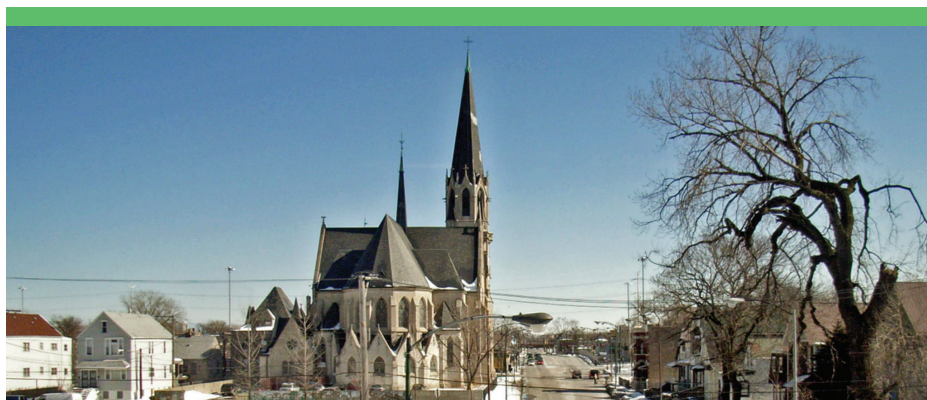
Issue 1

Who Is the King of Englewood?

Once upon a time there was a great King who ruled a vast and mighty kingdom. He was rich beyond counting and lived in a splendid palace with gilded towers. Gold-paved streets threaded through his capitol city. Priceless jewels sparkled from His crown and robes and even on His furniture. His mighty armies won every battle, and the citizens lived in peace and comfort. Not only did they have peace from foreign enemies, but the cities had no crime—no murders, no robberies, no kidnappings, no bribery, no cheating. The kind Ruler ran the country so well that everyone had enough to eat, clothes to wear, homes to live in, and useful work to do. Everything was just about perfect there—except for one thing.

Just beyond the border of this kingdom lay another country, and not far down the road into that country was a town. Now this town was just the opposite of the beautiful cities in the great King's land. In this town boarded-up houses dotted the streets, some crumbling and falling apart. Bottles, cans, newspapers, and food wrappers littered the streets. Drug dealers did deals from houses and storefronts. Gangs fought over turf, kids dying before they even got a chance at life. Many people who lived here were poor. Some didn't have enough to eat or decent clothes to wear. In many families the father was missing, perhaps in jail or running from the law or maybe just had something else he'd rather do.

Every time the great King heard about the wretched town on his border, he felt sad. The happiness of His own people contrasted sharply with the misery of those who lived in the town. His heart went out to the townspeople, and He longed to share His kingdom's beauty and peace and riches and joy with



them. So one day He began to speak of a plan. He called some of His faithful subjects to the palace and asked for their help. He asked them to travel to the town and tell the people there about the beautiful kingdom and help them choose a better way to live.

"Tell the people," said the king, "that I will give them everything they need to change their lives and their town and make it into a lovely, peaceful place. I will replace violence with kindness, dead ends with opportunities, hatred with love, abuse with respect, and lack with abundance."

So the messengers set off to obey the King's command.

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This is not a fairy tale; the story is TRUE, and it's happening here in Englewood. A great King has sent messengers to this community to tell of His plans to remake it into a place of beauty and peace. He said that He does not see ugliness here. He sees the beautiful town that it can become by His power. This King is a change-maker. He changes things, places, and people. And sometimes He changes names when people decide to follow Him. Simon became the Apostle Peter. Saul became the Apostle Paul. The King also has a new

name for Englewood. Guess what. Beulah. What? Yes, Beulah. It means, "My delight is in her" (Isaiah 62:4). It means "married"—God dearly loves this town like a wife, His beloved.

Already the King has begun to put into action His plan to remake Englewood. The messengers first began to pray, and many others joined with them in prayer, people in other parts of the nation, even in other nations, especially Africa. Prayer is the main way the King works, showing what He wants to do and how to work with Him to do it. Prayer answers began to come: people arrived from far and near to help. In the last few months students by the dozens in the high schools have decided to follow King Jesus—including a gang leader. Christian clubs have started in several high schools. Ongoing prayer for this community has begun in a business, a police station, and a home. Four crack houses near one school have closed down. From January 25 to February 25, 2014, crime decreased 40 percent from the same period last year (<http://crime.chicagotribune.com/chicago/community/englewood>). The King is on the move!

But the changes have only begun. The King is calling for many more workers to join Him in transforming this city. Englewood has a national reputation as a failed community, a showcase of what poverty, crime, drugs, unemployment, and family breakdown do to people. The King wants to make it a showcase of how the power of His love can change the people and the place. He wants a national testimony of Englewood transformed into Beulah—a city of love, peace, righteousness, and beauty. Will you be a co-worker with Him in this great task? +++

AWAKENING CHICAGOLAND

Awakening the Church to See Citywide Revival
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Harper High School Students Hold Outreach Week

On several cold days last winter students at Harper High School flocked to hear NFL star William Green and other speakers at after-school rallies. Part of the first Outreach Week at Harper, these rallies took place with the help of the California School Project and the mentoring of students from Moody Bible Institute and Trinity International University. Many high school students attended, and some discovered it a life-changing experience. One of these students was Kynasia Hughlett.

During her first two years of high school, friends would have described her as an angry person. Kynasia had a short fuse and not much patience. A lot of things in her life seemed unfair. "I thought a lot of people were supposed to do things for me instead of me going out and doing it on my own," she explains. Kynasia describes herself at that time as "selfish," thinking "about nobody but myself."

Then Outreach Week came, and students noticed visitors in the room adjoining the lunchroom. Newly formed Christian clubs had invited a local pastor, Louis Reeves, and his wife, Johnetta, to talk with students about Jesus and how to get to know Him. Kynasia was curious and came to check it out. As she



William Green challenged students to pursue life dreams that include Jesus as guide and friend.

listened, something in her heart responded. To her God had seemed a distant, vague idea, not a real person who cared about her. But in her words, "The way [the Reeves] talked about God made me feel that He was real and someone to believe in."

She attended the outreach rallies. At one gathering, former drug dealer and Latin King member Anthony Acevedo told how he had met Christ while in prison for attempted murder. The story deeply impressed Kynasia. Anthony "is another person who let me know that Jesus is real," she says, "because in the kind of life he was living, there aren't many people who turn to God." If Jesus could change a drug dealer, He certainly could change her.

Soon afterward she woke up one Sunday morn-

ing and thought: *I feel like going to church.* She started attending Pastor Reeves's church, reading the Bible, rethinking her life, and talking to God. In the weeks that followed, her whole way of looking at things began to change. Anger did not rise as quickly; she became more considerate of others. Jesus became to her like a brother, a father, someone she looks up to. Though she doesn't see Him with her physical eyes, she says she "feels Him in her spirit."

As a follower of Jesus, Kynasia wants to make a difference in her world. She wants to leave a legacy—less poverty, less violence, a world in which, she says, "everybody will try to help each other." Her advice: "Even if you have questions about Jesus or who He is, I encourage you to find your own relationship with the Man because I'm pretty sure He is better than anybody you ever met on earth."

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Kynasia Hughlett



Anthony Acevedo tells his story to Harper High School students.



Please visit Englewood's newest gathering space created for and by the people!

Monday-Saturday, 7 am-7 pm
825 W. 69th St. (69th & Green)

Hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, soups and a variety of baked goods.

Bring this ad to receive a \$1 cup of coffee to enjoy while at the café.

Call 773-675-4758 with questions about our menu, catering options or to reserve space for a community gathering.

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Circulation Manager—maintain mailing/emailing lists, send email blasts, handle USPS mailings. Must know how to update and merge lists and have equipment to work from home.

Advertising/Sponsor Contact Manager—Sell ads to Englewood businesses and organizations; invite individuals, businesses, organizations, and churches anywhere that care about people living in physical and spiritual poverty to help underwrite this newsletter.

Must be led of the Lord to apply for these positions and have a desire to serve Him and His people, especially people living in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Call 630-393-4662, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for an interview. Family Focus Christian Center, 1858 West 69th St., Chicago IL 60636 / (773) 298-1224 / familyfocuscc@gmail.com

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