

“A BROKEN TRINITY”

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A broken connection between the church, the home, and the school might be the reason for some of the problems found in the inner city communities. The problems such as the high crime rate among juveniles, the sell and usage of illegal drugs, teen pregnancy, high unemployment, and dysfunctional families. The church and the community must work together to help solve some of the problems of the inner city.

One morning before Sunday worship, the Holy Spirit prompted the author to observe the area around the church property, and the observation revealed an elementary school less than fifty yards north of the church property. The school seemed to be well maintained. The school grounds are neat and free from trash; there's a reasonably new playground in an area behind the school. The school campus appears to be a great atmosphere for the children in the community to receive a productive and quality education.

The church is not involved with the activities of that neighborhood school. The knowledge that the church has

concerning the activities of the school is what church members have observed on the surface.

The children will benefit if the church becomes involved with the educational process of the children living in the community. What efforts can the church make to become more involved with the school?

The church should also be concerned about the atmosphere within the classrooms, and the environment surrounding the school. The church should initiate its involvement with the school by asking some important questions.

Does the school provide an atmosphere conducive for learning? Is there a discipline problem, to which volunteers from the church could assist the administrators in finding an amicable solution?

Perhaps there is not a problem with discipline, but there are children who possibly need positive feedback concerning their accomplishments. The church could provide awards and recognition programs for the children that are achieving their goals in their development as future leaders.

The answer to these and other questions remain an enigma. The school is in walking distance from the church, yet, in terms of the church's involvement the distance

between them is great.

A community center is less than twenty-five yards northeast of the church property. The community center's campus is an area surrounded by large trees and shrubs.

The main activities for the center are: assistance to senior citizens, children, and different organizations within the community. Each of these groups has access to banquet and meeting rooms when they are available.

The church isn't involved in the activities of the center. The senior citizens and children of this church are not taking advantage of the programs at the center that could be beneficial.

Are there activities that the church can get involved in that can assist the children and the senior citizens of both the church and the center? The church is once again not sure of the correct answer because of the lack of participation and knowledge of this institution within our community. A sincere effort has to be made in order to connect the activities and the people involved in this center with members of the church.

Finally, there are homes surrounding the perimeter of the church property, some are well maintained, others are in need of repair. The homes reveal the diverse character of the community. It is evident that some people take pride in

maintaining their homes while others allow their homes to decay.

The reason some residents allow their homes to decay, perhaps, is because they are in financial need. Another reason some of the homes have not been maintained is due to the lack of responsibility by absentee landlords.

The people living in the homes surrounding the church are strangers to this church campus. The majority of the church membership commute from the suburban communities and relationship has not been established with people of the immediate church community. The members that are commuting from the suburbs have grown up in the church and continue their membership regardless of the distance traveled from their homes.

Children can be seen walking up and down the streets around the church, yet they are strangers to the church because there's no relationship with them.

In the community there are many children, and adults and yet, the church has no fellowship with them because the connection is broken.

A question has been presented to the church, what relationship does the church have with the community in which it exists? The church is reluctant in responding to this question because it has lost contact with the

community. The functions of the community center could not be articulated. In the homes surrounding the church property, a few of the names of the occupants were known only because they were past or present members of the church.

The silent response by the church to these questions should make the church realize why there might be such a state of despair in the inner city. The infrastructure has been shattered, and the hopes for a brighter future have dried up because there is a broken connection, a dysfunctional network between the church, the home, and the school. The negative response to the question reveals what might be one of the causes of the problems of a dysfunctional inner city community.

The relationship between these three entities, the church, the home, and the school must be revised to resemble the mutual respect that existed between them prior to the civil rights legislation, when working together in the black community was necessary for survival.

In the pre-civil rights era, boundaries were established for the black community by society, but within those boundaries there was a system of accountability and responsibility established. The system of accountability and responsibility was established as a means of survival

for the black community. The strength of the community was dependent upon the cohesiveness of the institutions existing within it. The basic spiritual principles, the basic fundamentals of life, and the concepts of knowledge, are the functions of the church, the home, and the school.

This relationship that should exist between the church, the home, and the school in the terminology of the author is a trinity. The survival of the trinity depends on relationship, fellowship and support within it. The network of this trinity has been broken. It is the responsibility of the church to make the necessary adjustments to reconnect the trinity of the church, the home, and the school.

A healthy relationship between the church and the community will establish a network to assist the entities within the community. In order for the networking between the church and the community to be effective, it must be organized. The participants of this endeavor must have mutual respect for one another, and a personal commitment must be made to ensure the success of the program.

The doctrines of Christianity teach the church that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit function as One with all power. The church, the home, and the school must reconnect as one with power to reestablish the potential that exists within the inner city communities.

In the following chapters the author will focus on the parameters within the community that the church should use to reconnect the trinity of the home, the church, and the school. The second chapter will focus on the church as a viable Christ centered entity in the rebuilding of the inner city community. The third chapter will focus on the lives of senior citizens in the inner city community and their quality of life. The fourth chapter will examine the benefit of having a functioning relationship with the schools, to assist in the nurturing of the children attending schools in the inner city community.

Finally, the conclusion will introduce a reading program that the author believes will solidify the entities of the network of the trinity. The objective of this program is a process in which fellowship, relationship, and mentoring of children in the community can be manifested.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

The church, the home, and the school are the pillars of the communities in which they exist. These entities must work together to enrich the lives of the citizens that live in the community. This trinity must recognize the strength it commands when working together in the community as one. The influence of these institutions will determine the atmosphere of the community and work together to rectify differences of philosophies.

The church has God's word to lead it. The direction, in which it should go, should be based upon sound doctrine.

The teachings that are emphasized within the walls of the church must be practiced in the community. The relationships that Christians have with one another must be shared with the people in the community. This will enable the church to establish relationships that broaden the scope of influence of the Christian lifestyle.

The church must prepare the members to evangelize in the community through teaching the sound principles of the Holy Scriptures. The members must also be admonished of the importance of studying their Bible. This will enable the

participants to be prepared to face the challenges of evangelizing in the inner city communities.

The success of the evangelistic mission will be contingent upon the spirit that the church members possess when communicating with others in the community. The members must be committed to spreading the good news of the gospel to share the blessings of God with others.

The home has a powerful role in the community. The home is the place where nurturing should take place. The proper behavior of children should be taught and a standard for right and wrong should be emphasized daily. The home is the place where a standard should be established for conduct outside the home.

The parents should be cognizant of the fact that God has placed a very important blessing in their hands when He places children in their care. The parents must develop the best parental skills possible to raise the children properly. When the parents lack the proper skills to raise the children the parents should seek assistance from neighbors or allow the church to offer assistance.

The children learn more from the behavior of the parents than from the verbal instructions that the children are given. The parents should work hard not to expose the children to negative behavior as much as possible. The

parents and the children make up the fabric of the inner city communities.

The schools are the centers of knowledge for the children of the inner city communities. The atmosphere must be acceptable for learning and the environment of the school campus must be safe. Children are capable of learning unless the children have mental handicaps. The children should be held responsible for the negative behavior that is displayed in the classroom.

Teachers must be held to a high standard also. The schools should have a system of accountability and responsibility to ensure that children receive the best education. The teachers should teach the children as if they were teaching their own children. Teachers also need to stress to the parents the importance of meeting together when the child is observed to be lacking when the subject matter is not grasped.

It is the opinion of the author that the church, the home, and the school must establish lines of communications to work together. The trinity must establish a network to exchange information and resources. The community will benefit when the trinity works together for common causes and the solving of mutual problems. The mutual respect necessary when working together will evolve into a powerful,

lasting, and working relationships. The network of the trinity must establish a bond in the community that is based upon the truth of God's word and mutual respect within the community.

The author's idea to establish strong positive relationships in the trinity of the home, the church, and the school is in the form of a practical outreach program. "Get wisdom, get understanding, forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth" (Proverbs, 4:5). The outreach program is designed as a means to bring adults and children together to support one another. The outreach program will encourage reading as a means to establish a network to improve positive relationships in the community. The fellowship of working together will benefit everyone that participates. The reading program can be found in the appendix.