

What I See in the Brownsburg Christians

I've been here two weeks and already I'm convinced it is a blessing for my family and me to be here. I'm extremely excited about the opportunity you have granted me to work with you and I just want to say thank you. I'd like to share with you what I have already seen in these two short weeks that excite me about the future of God's work in Brownsburg.

Compassionate Christians

Before I even arrived in Brownsburg, I heard we were going to receive a pounding. That worried me a little bit, until I found out what it meant. When we arrived at the Ward's farmhouse, the pantry was already full of goods to help us in our transition. This is the first time I've ever been thankful for a pounding. Let me add my special thanks to everyone who participated, it has been a big help. Then there was Earl Cornwell taking time out of his workday to help load up my office boxes and carry them to the office. Not to mention folks like Keith Ward that offered but had already been beaten to the punch.

But I haven't just seen compassion toward the new preacher. I've seen the concern for folks like Ernie Taylor, in the hospital this past week; Katie and Nathan Awwad, who had their first child this week; and the Harstock and Dorn Families who recently lost dear loved ones. **Colossians 3:12** says we must put on compassion and I have already seen that among the Brownsburg Christians.

Committed Christians

I arrived on Tuesday, preached on Sunday, and VBS started on Monday. There were volunteers galore. Some Christians wrote the material. Some helped prepare rooms. Some taught. Many attended. I don't know all their names yet, but you know who you are. I know the elders are meeting between two and four times a month to discuss their work as shepherds and how to help guide the congregation. I've seen deacons working hard to get printing done, the building organized, the PowerPoint working properly. I've seen Craig Maners cleaning the building, Tony Saathoff cutting the grass, Jim Dorn spraying and pulling weeds, Mark Pepper changing the sign, Alayne Hunt working on the bulletin and Powerpoint presentations. I've seen Christians volunteer to teach classes of all ages. I saw Christians jump at the opportunity to help set up the classrooms and then take them down surrounding the VBS in what seemed to me to be record time because of all the help. All of that takes commitment to God's work and the work of this congregation.

In **I Corinthians 16:15**, Paul commended the household of Stephanas because it was committed to the service of the saints. **Titus 3:4** says we Christians should be committed to good works. I can already commend the Brownsburg Christians for your commitment to God's work and God's people.

Convicted Christians

Jim Dorn was at the building when I arrived one morning and told me about a conversation he had with a couple of ladies at the gym. They are part of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and said they might be willing to have a Bible study. When I visited Ernie Taylor in the hospital, just about all he would talk about was the desire to work with the church and stick with the Bible. He sang the praises of his church family for feeling the same way. I can see in the selection of Bible class topics a conviction in God's word as purely textual studies are the backbone of the class curriculum. Topics such as the nature of the church also demonstrate a conviction for God's word. Wanting to look at topics like stewardship and money management from a biblical perspective demonstrates a conviction to let the Word of God direct every part of our lives. I had already heard the reputation of Christians in this area for being convicted by the word and determined to simply follow God's pattern in the face of the numerous sad dissensions through the past century. I'm glad to be part of that tradition and conviction.

I Corinthians 15:58 encourages us to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. I can already see the Brownsburg Christians have this kind of conviction.

Connected Christians

Already in two weeks, I've seen or heard about more Christians getting together outside of the assemblies than I've heard about in some churches in months. The Fennells had the teen get together following the VBS. Katrina Trimble invited people over to see the Pittsboro parade and watch the fireworks. The Boones also invited some folks over for the parade. Several Christians met at Dairy Queen one night of the VBS. Several others met at McDonalds another. I heard of other Christians getting together. The Mizells have invited us all over on July 2nd for a cookout and fireworks show. I'm sure there are others that I'm forgetting at the moment. I've already been introduced to several members here and heard about the friendships and relationships that are already strong.

In **Acts 2:42-48**, one of the first things God revealed about those early Christians was their connection with each other. I see a similar connection right here among the Brownsburg Christians and I'm convinced it will continue to grow.

Having seen all of that, I just want to thank you once again for letting me be part of this fellowship. I can't wait to see what God will do through us in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Edwin L. Crozier