



preacher's podium

“Kingsway people are among the most generous and caring of God’s people to be found anywhere.”

Whenever you are the largest church in a community, you become an obvious target for criticism. That criticism is often most vitriolic when it comes from disgruntled former members. Recently someone forwarded me a Facebook post that was as bad as I’ve seen. I don’t usually waste my time responding to such attacks; but I must respond to an idea the writer raised. He took us to task for erecting buildings instead of using that money to “help others.” It was suggested that selfishness is the motivation behind everything we do and that “all the church is interested in is money.” He also chided us for not “going to the people of the world.” All of that caused me to consider the question, “What if Kingsway never existed?”

If Kingsway had not been planted way back in 1973, then many of the thousands who have met Christ here might still be lost. Thousands of kids who have been educated with a Christian worldview at Kingsway Christian School would never have had that opportunity. Scores of men and women would never have been prepared for ministry through Kingsway’s scholarship program, nor would they have been sent into ministry all over the world. There would be no Kingsway Community Care Center where the unemployed, under-employed, and others without insurance could receive quality medical and dental care. There might very well be no Avon Life Center where young women with problem pregnancies can find understanding, compassion and help. There would be no Kingsway food pantry feeding hundreds of people over the course of the year. Neither would there be such programs as “Share the Gift” which provided gifts, food, and money for at least 40 families this Christmas. What about “Coats for Kids” that sent over one thousand winter coats to Afghanistan to be distributed in Jesus’ name this past fall?

If there were no Kingsway then there would be no Kingsway missions program, fully funding 12 missionary families around the world. There most likely would be no Dr. Lewis Foster Hospital in India, nor the boys’ or girls’ homes. The Henkes would not be serving in Japan where they helped birth a brand new church two weeks ago in one of the least evangelized nations on earth. It is very possible that Eastern Bible Institute in Myanmar would have been forced to close its doors. Praise Valley Christian Camp would most likely not exist in Mexico. A training center would not have been built in Haiti last year.

By the way, if you have a particular burden for global evangelism, please consider attending our next Missions Council meeting on Saturday, January 23, at 8 a.m. in Room E102.

As for not “going to the people of the world,” hundreds of Kingsway members well represent Christ in their neighborhoods, workplaces, and social activities every week. Hundreds more have gone on cross-cultural missions trips. Furthermore, Kingsway people provide significant help in supplying manpower for any number of ministries to the homeless, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the hurting each and every week. We’re not interested in “helping others”? Then explain the thousands of hours logged by pastors and elders every year in hospitals, nursing homes, and in visiting shut-ins.

If it sounds like I’m bragging, I’m not. The fact is that our church is simply doing what every Christ-honoring, Bible-believing church ought to be doing. We care about the home and the community, about immorality and lawlessness. And we care for the world, otherwise we at Kingsway wouldn’t have budgeted over \$1 million for missions this year. The person who tells you that “all the church cares about is money” is telling you more about himself than about the church.

I’m glad Kingsway needs money. It means we’re alive, growing, and ministering. It means we’re carrying out our Lord’s Great Commission. Kingsway people are among the most generous and caring of God’s people to be found anywhere. When there is a need, Kingsway people are anxious to meet it. I hope our financial needs ever increase, reflecting an ever-expanding ministry for Christ. Would Avon and central Indiana be better off or worse off if there were no Kingsway? I believe the answer is obvious.

Yours for a soul-winning church,

John

P.S. Kingsway’s heart for taking the love of Jesus to those who need it was further underscored this past weekend during our annual Leadership Retreat. We celebrated God’s leading through the past 36 years at Kingsway and shared some exciting plans for the future. Watch for more details on those plans over the next few weeks.



kingsway

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decisions for Christ

- Rick and Brittany Fischer-Ramsey and Steve McGinn were baptized.
- Andrew Phillips and Chelsey Wagemaker transferred their membership to Kingsway.

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glimpse of growth

Preaching and Praise	2,339	<u>General Offering</u>	
Bible School	638	Weekly Budget	\$98,731
Decisions	5	Given this Week	\$91,406
New Members YTD	6		
Surge	81		
QUEST	70		

To give online, please visit kingswaychurch.org/giving.