

Dear Pastors and Churches in Christ,

It is my joy to recommend Byron and Judy Cromwell for the care of your missionaries and church planters. I have been on the receiving end of their compassion and labour. They strengthened and refreshed us, never was there a critical spirit, nor was their stay burdensome to us. They did not use me for their gain, but dedicated themselves to my ministry as if it was their own, and always respected my position as pastor. There was willingness to do visitation, children's ministry, preach, and train the people of the church. I never once felt threatened by them. Byron is skilled in organizing new initiates under the pastor's direction and is intellectually gifted, capable leading most any pursuit's common to church ministries including music, outreach, Bible education, etc. They left us better than when they found us. I want to share them with any preacher or missionary family who needs help, respite, or a furlough. I find myself repeatedly recommending them to hard working preachers who need their love.

God sent Byron and Judy Cromwell to our aide while we were planting our first church in Maine. Leary of the many schisms within church circles, I didn't know what to expect. What we found were cheerful dispositions, always called me "Pastor Filer." They were not carnal, nor critical, but instead with charity cared for us and our ministry. Our 4 daughters benefited as they organized our church's first Christmas play and we felt like were back with our sending church again during that month of December. Several days later, on January 7th my 1st son was born with complications on an early Sunday morning, Brother Cromwell jumped into the pulpit without notice. My father who was visiting at the time, still remembers his message. "He is a diamond in the rough, and is in his prime," my father said when I inquired later how the service went.

I truly wish more churches could see the great need for ministries like the Cromwell's. As I read my Bible, I find their ministry to be quite common in the first century church, though it is sadly missing today. We need Pastors and Missionaries. More importantly we need them to stay and thrive. Though good preparation, financial support, and prayer is vital, they are not enough. They actually need people to visit them and give them a break. Consider just a couple of similar ministries found in the Bible:

Paul could not have endured hardness without the help of others.

"Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus." II Corinthians 7:6.

"Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry." II Tim. 4:11

Paul didn't only need this for himself, but found it necessary to send preachers to stand in the gap, and assist others.

"For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." Philippians 2:20

"I commend unto you Phebe our sister....for she hath been a succorer of many, and of myself also." Romans 16:1-2.

Pastors, domestic and abroad, give their lives to reach and exhort others. All this comes at a cost. Ministry is a constant labour, a long war to be fought, and something to be endured. Missionaries and their families need refreshment by others. Their hands need held up even as Moses needed his. Byron and Judy are those people. Their ministry can bless the mission front while the lead Pastor is on furlough. They can hop in the trenches along side the preacher as well. If you support a church plant or Missionary, please consider loving them more by sending Byron and Judy Cromwell to help as the Lord leads. Consider supporting them directly as they never want to burden those they serve.

"For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." – Philippians 2:20.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Trent Filer

Stone Creek Bible Church

An Independent Fundamental Baptist Church

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