

Bearing the Christian flag

Voice of Reason

Bryan Koffman
Contributor

I have recently been asked to carry the Christian flag at Commencement this year. Since I am graduating this semester, am seen "as a leader" on campus, and apparently known for my faith in Christ, they thought I was the best candidate. I am honored by the request and thankful for the opportunity to represent Christ, however, I find the concept a little strange.

If it weren't so close the end of the semester, I would consider taking a poll to see how many students actually believe BC is a Christian college. However, for the sake of rhetoric, let me ask you this: How many of you who said you were Christians while touring the college were excitedly informed that BC had FCA, a number of Christian professors, and was Methodist affiliated? How many of you who said you weren't Christians were assured that it wasn't really a Christian college and that there is no chapel and that Methodist-affiliated really meant nothing? Yeah, it wasn't just you.

Though we still bear the Methodist affiliation and therefore receive funds from the United

Methodist Church as well and award scholarships to students who are members of a UMC, what about us is actually Methodist?

We have no chaplain, no chapel, and no oversight of a Church. We have a religious studies program with a Western religious emphasis, however there is no claim to Christian orthodoxy and no Methodist teachings. In fact, none of the professors are Methodists, and only one of them actually claims to be a Christian.

Our housing policies certainly don't accord with Christian chastity, and our religious life center is set aside to be used by all religious and non-religious "faiths." Our science department, as well as many of the liberal arts professors, seem antagonistic towards Christians and the Christian faith, while many attend the local Unitarian congregation that teaches that all religions are good, beneficial, and probably equally valid.


While we still have artifacts of a once Christian school – buildings dedicated to "the Glory of God", an abandoned Wesley House, a cross in the middle of the residential quad – the Christian faith at Brevard seems nothing more than history.

I'm sure we'll still have some neutral, politically correct prayer at commencement –

nothing about Jesus, sin, the cross, eternity, or wrath. During the various speeches we will not be encouraged to steward our educations to the Glory of Christ in light of his gracious, loving salvation. No one will warn us of wasting our lives by serving ourselves at the cost of hell. (If I did hear something like this, I would be delightfully surprised, and would probably remember it to my dying days!)

Unfortunately, much like the other Christian artifacts, the flag seems to be little more than a tradition and formality, something that has lost its significance and meaning over the years. Maybe I am wrong. I would certainly like to be proven so.

Please don't misinterpret this; I am incredibly thankful to Brevard College for my years here, and find it an honor that they would select me to carry the Christian flag (though the LORD is my banner Ex. 17:15). I pray that I have been and will continue to be a genuine and worthy representative of Christ. I will bear the flag, knowing that I am responsible to serve my King – my King who died for me – with all that I have been given, including my education. I am just asking, based on the evidence, if the leaders of our school desire to do the same. If they don't, why do we bear the flag?



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The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712, or send E-mail to clarion@brevard.edu

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