

February 21, 2011

Jason DeZurik connects. With kids. With seekers. With listeners – all who have ears to hear. For more than a decade, I have known Jason as my children's youth pastor, as a fervent co-worker in the fields of the Lord, as a friend.

For years, Jason served faithfully as a youth leader at a large church in our small town. Our family's church didn't quite have enough youth to form any kind of group. But Jason's impassioned youth outreach drew children from most every church in town – not just for games, but for the Gospel. He preached it straight, no compromises. And kids – mine among them – responded, because Jason had the courage to speak Truth to them – even when it was hard to hear, even harder to obey.

I came to know Jason better as we worked together to restore legal, weekday Bible classes to the public schoolchildren of our community. He scoured the internet for resources that would help us make the case to our board of education. Jason and his senior pastor prayed with me when politics got nasty. He rejoiced with our dedicated group of 100 or more, when the board reversed its position and brought back Bible classes to our town. Since then, the program has grown to serve two new neighboring communities; each year, over 300 children in our county, grades 3-5, learn of God's love for them, and the power of His Word.

Jason took an incomprehensibly huge step of faith to start Worldview Warriors. His decision to rely utterly on God to support their family of eight, in order to obey the call to a new ministry, inspired me. Within a year, I answered my call to start WeCARE for Students to help other communities around the state start or keep legal weekday Bible programs for their public schoolchildren. Jason and I meet periodically with a third parachurch ministry leader and friend to pray, seek the Lord and His wisdom and counsel. Through his life and witness, Jason has helped me keep straight that our first commitment is to the Lord, who has called us to be spouses and parents first, then ministry leaders. I am honored to call him friend.

Jason DeZurik connects because he is connected to the One who makes all things possible. Because Jason listens for his Master's voice, he is able to give voice to Truth in so many ways. To kids who are hurting, to seekers who cry out for understanding, to friends who want to serve the Lord – but need nudges from one who's been there and done that. I thank God that Jason and his family have enriched my own family's walk of faith. And we're just one family, among the hundreds and thousands who already have been touched by God's grace, through this Godly man. May his tent be enlarged.

In His service,

Jennifer Bacon Miller, Director WeCARE for Students, Inc.

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