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## Bomar's "Serving local schools: Bring Christ's compassion to the core of your community" (Book Review)

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# Book Reviews

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Bomar, C. (2017). *Serving local schools: Bring Christ's compassion to the core of your community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Youth Specialties. 207 pp. \$18.99. ISBN 9780310671077

How do you reach your community for Christ? How do you discover the real needs of people and find meaningful ways to serve the disadvantaged? How do you follow the example of Jesus, reach across socioeconomic and racial boundaries, and teach children to notice the needs of others? Start at your local public school.

Pastor Chuck Bomar's rich experience and success with the public school system in Portland, Oregon, along with his research into other ministries around the country provide the context for this book. The first section addresses pertinent reasons for working through the public school system. The second section shares ideas of particular ways to serve. Bomar's premise is that "we offer ourselves as a resource by volunteering, and over time we gain a reputation as trusted people" (p. 115). A chapter also addresses the church and state balancing act and how a church should work with humility toward and without an adversarial approach to a school. The concluding chapter offers practical advice about analyzing and understanding the community context for schools. Two appendices address exemplary ministry plans: Safe Families and Compassion Clinics.

Though there are other books on the market that address the topic (*The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships* by Jake McGlothlin, Abingdon Press, was also published in 2017, and IVP published *The Jonathan Effect: Helping Kids and Schools Win the Battle Against Poverty*, by Mike Tenbusch, in 2016), readers will find this book inspirational, practical, and easy to read. This book is useful for educators, pastors, youth and family ministers, as well as Christian education directors.

## Reviewer

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