

Getting Fired for the Glory of God

By Mike Yaconelli Reviewed by Peter Wintermote

Mike Yaconelli is considered a founder and expert on youth ministry. This book is filled with wonderful advice for those thinking about going into youth ministry or those already in it. This book is priceless and has many good tips, advice and guidelines for working with youth and maintaining a healthy relationship with God. Although Yaconelli has passed on, his children have produced this book to share Mike's writings and speeches given to Youthworker Journal.

The first couple of sections in this book go over challenges today in youth ministry and the ways that youth really need devoted, reliable ministers to support them and help them on their spiritual journey. Yaconelli goes into how youth ministers today are in danger as they are exhausted, worn out and do not know how to last in youth ministry. One of the very unique and interesting parts of this book is the section on "What Would Jesus Say?", where Jesus and a youth minister have a conversation. In this dialogue Jesus explains that he calls youth ministers to ministry and does not force them into this. As youth ministers, we need to work one-on-one with youth, challenging them and getting them out of their comfort zone.

As this book challenges and encourages all youth ministers, it definitely has many strengths and can be related to very well. Mike is not easy-going in this book but gets down deep in what should be happening in youth ministry in every church. We can't just sit back and listen to our church telling us to be game directors—we have to work down deep within lives, even if it may cost us our job. (Thus the name of the book, *Getting Fired for the Glory of God*). Jesus did not make youth ministry easy but if we are called, we have to step up and work for God's kingdom in the youth world.