

Surprise: Public Schools Make a Place for Jesus and His Message

Despite the ongoing debate over morals and values in public schools today, one organization is finding a way to bring Jesus to public school kids each and every week.

With all the talk about issues between parents and America's public schools, students across Pennsylvania are learning about Jesus and the Bible, thanks to the unique approach of Bible2School.

Kori Pennypacker, the CEO of Bible2School, told CBN News. "Bible2School is a 40-year-old nonprofit organization and we equip parents, moms, dads, grandparents to teach the Bible to public school kids during their school day—that means typically over lunch and recess."

Kids are bussed to churches or other locations during these periods to learn Bible lessons before heading back to their public school classroom. Remarkably, Pennypacker says this program is where a majority of the students learn about Jesus.

"It's amazing because most of the kids we reach in the public schools have no church at home," she explained. "There's a very high percentage—60% of our kids, over 60% of our kids—have no church home. So, we're teaching them about Jesus for the very first time, many times."

You might wonder how Bible2School can make this happen during the school day.

"There is something called the Release Time Court Rulings, and this was from back in 1914 when the Bible actually used to be a reader in school," Pennypacker said. "Everybody had one.

Think 'Little House on the Prairie.' And then, around that time period, early 18- or 19-hundreds, they took the Bible out of school, but they had these release time rulings that said you can release kids from school, maybe one hour a day; different in different states, at different times. But you can release kids from school. They have to be offsite, they have to have parental permission and it has to cost a taxpayer no money, so no tax dollars."

 That allows Bible2school to make a positive impact in the lives of around 1,800 kids in 35 schools across the state. Volunteer Erica Ringler says the program helped reinforce a biblical worldview for her own children.

"My husband and I just loved the fact that there were other Christian, caring adults that were pouring into our kids," Ringler said. "You know, parenting is really hard, and as they get older, just knowing that there were other adults that were reinforcing the same truths that we were teaching at home and that they were hearing that again at church and at Bible2School."

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