

Victoria Ann Weimer
Administrator
First Baptist Church
Fitjar 4, 260 Reykjanesbaer, Iceland
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To whom it may concern:

My husband and I moved our family to Iceland in 1999 to plant a Baptist church for the Icelandic speaking nationals. As with any pioneer work, my varying positions have evolved as time has progressed. Currently I serve mainly as the children's ministry administrator, though I also serve in music, food preparation, custodial services, teaching, ladies' ministry, and outreach. I am also in the process of starting a private Christian school.

Because we brought William with us when we moved to Iceland when he was only eight months old, he has grown up watching and serving in this pioneer work. As parents of small children, we simply included them in the beginning of our ministry. Then when William became old enough to start making his own choices, he became an accidental leader in the ministry. He was never satisfied to just attend or do the bare minimum. He looked for opportunities to serve and took great pains to keep his service as low key as possible. For example, for years, he took the responsibility to clean the church bathrooms every week. His servant's heart made giving him responsibilities an easy decision. Before he left Iceland to finish college, his responsibilities included cleaning the bathroom (still), visiting the bus children weekly, teaching the third and fourth graders, mentoring young adults and teens, and filling the pulpit at least once a month. He did this all while taking full-time college courses and working to pay his own way through school. He faithfully performed his responsibilities with excellence. Truthfully, though he tried to prepare the church for his leaving, he left a great vacuum in his departure.

William exceeded every responsibility given to him. He never settled for adequate or mediocre. If I pointed out an area needing improvement, he made those improvements and more. His peers at church, his non-Christian friends in the community, and his coworkers speak only kind words of him. Their only criticism is that he left them to move to America. William embodies the verse, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1 KJV).

William's character as a volunteer was impeccable. He was self-motivated, often rising before 5:00 a.m. to make sure that he could start the day prepared with Bible reading and exercise. William was dependable; if he said that he would do it, you could count on it happening. Though he never tried to be a leader, William has natural leadership qualities. He is specifically a servant leader. Because he has volunteered or is currently volunteering for every

job, people naturally ask him how to do things. Additionally, William consistently makes the other person feel important and heard, which makes him a great leader.

If I may offer one area where William needs improvement, he too frequently puts the needs of others before his own needs. Clearly, as Christians, we are commanded to love our neighbors as our own selves, but sometimes William loves his neighbor more than himself, putting his own plans and dreams on hold. Admittedly, that is a difficult balance that many of us in ministry face.

Though I am his mom, I speak truthfully in saying that William has blessed our ministry, our community, and everyone's life he has touched. I can wholeheartedly recommend him for any volunteer (or paid) position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Ann Weimer".

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