

# The Rock-Star Janitor

Think back to your school days. Who were the A-listers you wanted to sign your yearbook?

The captain of the football team? The homecoming queen or king? The student-body president? The school janitor?

Wait, Beecher! What did you just ask? The school janitor?

Steve Weidner, a custodian at Alan Shepard Elementary School in Bourbonnais, Illinois, said it made him feel great to see that each and every second-grade student lined up near the playground in hopes to have him autograph their yearbooks.

So he did. Weidner signed all 104 of the second-graders' yearbooks after lunch – in addition to 200 more from other classes.

Cameras flashed to capture the fan frenzy, with pictures being posted in the school district news. One caption read: "Shepard custodian Steve 'Mr. Steve' Weidner has reached rock-star status as he autographs yearbooks for his fans."

So what has Mr. Steve done to endear himself to the kids of Shepard Elementary?

For 15 years, day in and day out, he's just loved them, and made himself accessible to them whenever they've needed help or encouragement. He laughs with them and cries with them. He takes care of their needs.



The next time you think you need to be in full-time vocational ministry as a pastor or missionary, or be some great and powerful mover and shaker to make a rock-star impact for the Kingdom of God, just think of rock-star Steve Weidner.

To turn a famous phrase, "If God calls you to be a janitor, don't stop to be a king."

Think about the formula this janitor used to so positively influence those children: (1) establish a relationship with them, (2) meet their needs, and (3) just love them.

Isn't that our prescription for our customers in Life Care and Century Park? I certainly hope so.

*Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant* (Matthew 20:26 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter