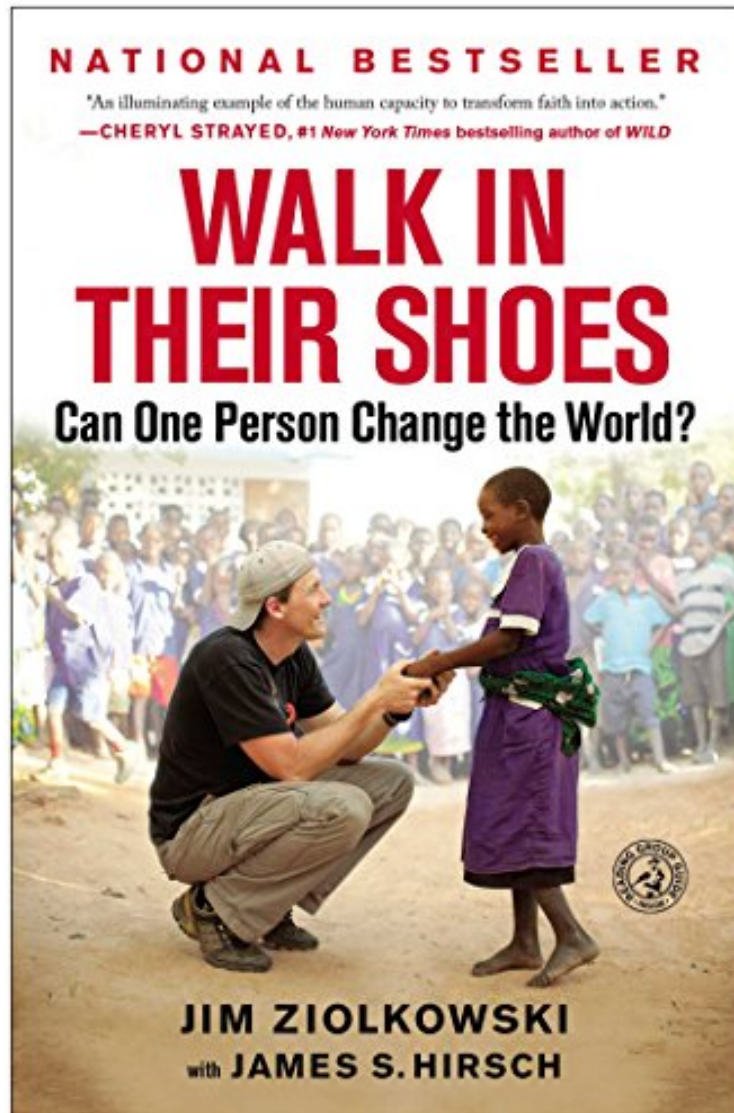


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Walk in Their Shoes: Can One Person Change the World?

Jim Ziolkowski

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Jim Ziolkowski : Walk in Their Shoes: Can One Person Change the World? before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walk in Their Shoes: Can One Person Change the World?:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A truly inspiring and optimistic voice in a world that needs more like him. By Patty M For non-Christian readers I would like to say, don't be put off by some reviewers' references to the author's "deep faith". His Catholic upbringing and beliefs really are not there to preach, convert, or judge, but do provide important personal context to the ways he found meaning through the work he started and continues to do

today. Even though I don't share his faith, I feel that by sharing his beliefs, and the things that challenged his faith, his story becomes more intimate and real for the reader. The values of making one-to-one compassionate connections, of speaking and listening from the heart, and of being of service to others and the community are universal, and sadly lacking in many so-called religious people today. This is someone who didn't have to do what he did (leave a good job and the comforts of his home, friends, and family), but chose to listen to a higher voice guide him toward a life's work. Living your values is a message the most and least "religious" among us should listen to, and act on. By the way, I'm off to Nepal in January to build a new school as a result of being inspired by this organization (buildOn.org). My college alumni book clubs are also reading "Walk In Their Shoes" this spring and I trust some lively discussions will follow.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. moving, inspiring and... you-too-move-your-ass-and-do-something... By Andrea Valerio It's a very beautiful and compelling story. And still ongoing, it's still likely to generate many, many more beautiful stories... I was amazed at the way Jim describes his initial decision, and the struggle to continue fighting for something so worthwhile as to help kids and adults in different parts of the world, in a way that perpetuates for generations to come: the persistence, strength and motivation that is pervasive in this book should be of massive inspiration to everybody. Many other comments come to mind, but I am afraid I'd spoil you some of the surprises in actually reading it. I would tell you: read it and enjoy it, and if you don't find some inspiration to at least do one good deed right afterwards, you should check back on yourself and see if you are actually human or made of stone.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This was an amazing story of how one man went from wanting to ... By Cindy Craig This was an amazing story of how one man went from wanting to experience things in a selfish way to finding a world that could use his help and being drawn into that world. He did amazing things once he felt the love and pain of others and decided that he needed to experience their life. He worked with inner city kids in the US to give them experiences of caring for others by helping to do service and building schools in other countries.

Walk in Their Shoes is the powerful, personal story of Jim Ziolkowski's inspiring mission to change the world one community at a time, hailed by the Dalai Lama as an inspiring tribute to the power of compassion and education: the keys to leading a meaningful life. At age twenty-five, Jim Ziolkowski gave up his career in corporate finance to create a not-for-profit organization that turns inner-city youths into community leaders at home and abroad. Under Jim's leadership, high school students from the South Bronx to San Francisco have contributed more than 1.2 million hours of direct community service, and over the past twenty years, the organization has also constructed more than 550 schools in the world's economically poorest countries, from Haiti to Nepal. Jim's tale of far-flung adventures in the most remote corners of the world and America's toughest inner-cities is a moving testament to the power of faith and teamwork, and shows that when we give, we also help and heal ourselves. Walk in Their Shoes is the story of buildOn's inspirational work with at-risk teens, its indelible influence on communities around the world, and of the man whose vision, faith, and conviction made it all possible. Jim Ziolkowski believed that one person could indeed change the world, and his story may inspire others to do the same (Publishers Weekly).

From Publishers Weekly Twenty-one years ago, Ziolkowski, then a student in the financial management program at GE Capital, was being groomed for a promising career, but after a backpacking trip in Nepal showed him how simple generosity could change the lives of the impoverished, he quit the course and founded the nonprofit buildOn, which brings education to inner-city teens, and transforms them into community service leaders in the U.S. and abroad. After struggling to secure funding and organize volunteers, Ziolkowski begins traveling the globe, documenting injustices in apartheid-era South Africa and among the street children of Brazil, while rallying the community to come together and build schools for their children. Along the way, he meets activists, struggling families, and even Mother Teresa, who provide encouragement and share their stories. Whether discussing female genital mutilation in Mali or the circumstances of volunteer students in Detroit, Ziolkowski balances sobering facts with an approachable writing style. His unflinching determination drove him to establish over 500 schools, turning buildOn from a nascent dream into a multimillion-dollar phenomenon. He believed that one person could indeed change the world, and his story may inspire others to do the same.

Agent: Todd Shuster, Zachary Shuster Harmsworth. (Sept.) From Booklist After watching a two-day celebration for a newly built school in Nepal while backpacking through the region in 1989, Ziolkowski was inspired enough to trade a budding financial management career for helping impoverished children. The organization he formed with his brother, Dave, and a family friend was buildOn, which 21 years later has exceeded all their expectations in motivating inner-city teens to revamp their neighborhoods and build schools around the world. Here Ziolkowski tells the full story behind his dream project and the trials he underwent both in his personal life and in convincing everyone from adolescents to school administrators to lend their time and influence to get buildOn off the ground. His challenges have included run-ins with South African militia, surviving bouts of dysentery, and navigating Harlem ghetto life, and throughout it all, his strong Christian faith has kept him afloat. Written with best-selling author Hirsch (Willie Mays, 2010) in down-to-earth prose that puts readers on the scene, Ziolkowski's compelling story will inspire anyone yearning to help stem the tide of poverty and illiteracy. --Carl Hays Jim Ziolkowski's rare commitment to children living in poverty in the US and abroad is an inspiration to me. Walk in Their Shoes tells his moving and

unique story with heart, humility and even a touch of humor. Perhaps more importantly, Jims tenacity in the face of many hardships and doubts offers an illuminating example of the human capacity to transform faith into action. (Cheryl Strayed #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Wild*) *Walk in Their Shoes* is an inspiring tribute to the power of compassion and education: the keys to leading a meaningful life. (His Holiness the Dalai Lama) Ziolkowski's life and work give testimony that service is the hallway that leads to the ballroom of kinship and exquisite mutuality. This is a heartfelt and brave account of gulfs being bridged, distances erased, and offers the hope that the illusion that we are separate can be obliterated. Both *buildOn* and its founder have helped us inch closer to dismantling the barriers that exclude. (Gregory Boyle author of *Tattoos on the Heart*) The answer is yes. Yes, one person can change the world. This book will challenge you and inspire you and push you to understand that you can (and should) make a difference. (Seth Godin author of *The Icarus Deception*) Ziolkowski balances sobering facts with an approachable writing style. His unflinching determination drove him to establish over 500 schools . . . He believed that one person could indeed change the world, and his story may inspire others to do the same. (Publishers Weekly)