



If you ever have the chance to stop by the TPCBC Media Ministry office on a Sunday morning, you will likely notice a tall, handsome young man masterfully managing sanctuary cameras and other media equipment with the authority of an adult three times his age. That's 15 year-old Jalen Geason and he is a media expert. He began giving his time to the Media Ministry when he was just 12 years-old and has since learned the technical skills of editing (Jalen edits the church's, video announcements), directing church worship services and mixing streaming sound, among other tasks. Media Ministry Director Stacey Ward is thrilled to have Jalen on the team because he works with a servant's heart and has a willingness to learn. Says Stacey, "He brings me such joy and allows me to exhale whenever he walks in to serve on a Sunday, because I know that he can handle and manage any (and I mean *any*) phase of our Sunday media operations."

Recently, Jalen's technical skills and creativity found a place on the national stage. In July, Jalen participated in the 2019 National Leadership Conference of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in San Antonio, Texas. FBLA is the largest career student business organization in the world, supporting more than 230,000 students as they prepare for careers in business, and inspiring students to become "community-minded business leaders in a global society." Each year, FBLA sponsors more than 70 competitive events for high school students, recognizing and rewarding excellence in multiple business and career areas. Last spring, Jalen entered the Digital Video Production Event, submitting his 2-minute digital video, which showcased his technical knowledge and skills. The objective of the video is to solicit donations to FBLA on Giving Tuesday (December 3). Jalen's submission also required that he prepare a 7-minute presentation. Both the video and presentation were scored throughout all phases of the Competition.

Jalen's video handily won 1st place in the Maryland State Competition, which automatically secured him a spot in the National Competition in San Antonio. There, Jalen placed in the top 14 submissions, which sent him to the Competition's final round. Then, at the awards ceremony, in the presence of nearly 10,000 peers and adults, Jalen was awarded a 6th place finish, beating out hundreds of his peers nationwide!



Jalen views his award as encouragement, as he is considering a future career in communications. He believes that he was rewarded for his use of his God-given gifts and is grateful for it. Jalen extends his gratitude to the entire TPCBC family for supporting him and thanks all who prayed for him as he prepared for his San Antonio trip.

(You can view Jalen's video here: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=op9wM_rjzkU. You can see Jalen at the awards ceremony here (at 1:07:17): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ln8VA8-Mvss>.)

Amazingly, Jalen's talents, skills and interests are not limited to just technology. He has been an active member of TPCBC since he was...well...born. Jalen is a member of the Music and Worship Arts Ministry. He plays piano, an instrument he began studying at five years-old, first learning from his aunt, Dara Rahming, then under the tutelage of TPCBC Music Ministry Director Jonathan Davis. Three years ago and barely a teenager, Jalen performed a piano solo of George Gershwin's famous *Rhapsody in Blue*, amazing the audience with his depth of musical technical skills. Jalen also plays the French horn in the TPCBC Instruments of Praise orchestra. Jalen has also served as a youth minister, and last spring, he graduated from the Men's Rights of Passage after three years in the program.

Following in the steps of his mother, Japera Rahming, who has served extensively on the mission field and recently dedicated her life to full-time missionary service, Jalen has a passion for missions. He traveled on his first short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic when he was just eight years-old, and has since ministered on the mission field in South Africa, Kenya, Israel, the Bahamas, and in the US in Houston. Jalen says that these experiences have not only taught him about missions and his Kingdom advancing role, but they have also developed him as a person. Acknowledging that he likes being able to do God's work and inspire others, Jalen declares that he is indeed "so blessed."

Jalen is in his junior year at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Maryland. A straight-A student since the third grade, he made the Principal's Honor Roll last year. He serves as 1st Chair of the French Horn section in his school's band, and also plays in the Howard County Honor Band. Jalen is an active participant in the Alpha Achievers Program for young men of color.

If Jalen's many church and school activities aren't enough, he also has his own business. "J-Cuts" is Jalen's video editing and production company, a business he leads with excellence. He welcomes new clients and can be reached at j.geason@yahoo.com or 240-620-5582.

Although Jalen is still deciding on his professional goals, he is fairly certain that communications and media will likely play a role. He is drawn to the idea of using technology and media to impact others, including in missions. Once in college, Jalen expects to major in communications and minor in music. An avid tennis player, Jalen also hopes to play competitively on the collegiate level.

Jalen and his mother, Japera, are members of the Reuben Family. His aunt, Dara, and his grandmother, Virginia Rahming, are members of the Judah Family.

When thinking about Jalen Geason, Media Ministry Director Stacey Ward references Proverbs 22:29, which says, *“Do you see a person skilled in his work? He will stand in the presence of kings. He will not stand in the presence of the unknown.”* Stacey envisions Jalen one day working with greats, such as film directors Ryan Coogler (*Black Panther*) and Ava Duvernay (*When They See Us*). And perhaps he will indeed. But who knows? Maybe one day Coogler and Duvernay will hope to work with Jalen Geason!