

## Jason Swanson

From the beginning, I was well aware that this task was way too heavy for me, and the only way I could be part of this team was to rely on God and be led by His Holy Spirit. I was, and still am excited to see what God has planned for this new season in the life of RBC.

Our first few months together were spent going through a series of team building exercises. Through these we learned the importance of knowing our goal, the process it would take, and the information that we needed to know to arrive at that goal. Through that we built our profile (with input from the elder board) and the process each candidate would go through.

When Jason's application came to us we were well into the interview process with other candidates. There were a few that we were interested in, but using our pastor profile, they were lacking in a couple very important "must have" areas. At that same time, we were starting the interview process with Jason, and those "must have" areas that others were lacking in, we could see were strong characteristics' in Jason.

We had 3 in-depth interviews with Jason. Each one designed to go deeper into who he is. At the end of each interview I grew more interested in him. After the interviews, there were still a couple concerns from the team, but in interviewing his references, these concerns were addressed and dissolved. Our meeting in his home with his family was the final step, and it was better than I expected. In talking with him through the interviews, he came across as a strong family man, but seeing him in that setting was impressive. I could see that pastoring at RBC, or any church, would not be just a job for Jason, but a family ministry, much like they had experienced in PNG. We asked his wife and each of the kids how they felt about RBC and moving to Temecula. They were all excited and on board for where ever the Lord would take them.

Things I saw in Jason:

Red flags: **1-** His experience. He is lacking experience in preaching in an American church.

Positives: **1-** His experience. During his time in PNG, he had to first learn the language of the tribe. Then he took this tribe from a basic belief in Jesus, to a church of solid believers that love Jesus and love the Word, established a group of elders, and sent out missionaries to the surrounding villages. He encountered numerous cultural obstacles and hurdles that had to be dealt with. **2-** His high energy. **3-** His love for the Lord and the Word. **4-** His desire to disciple and mentor others. **5-** His heart for missions. **6-** His desire to preach the Word. **7-** The importance he puts on his wife and kids, and they on him. **8-** His excitement for the Lord is contagious.

He is passionate in his beliefs. He truly desires to help others grow in their relationship with Jesus. I see him bringing contagious energy and excitement to RBC which has been in a "pause" mode too long. I am excited, not only to see how God uses him to work in our church family, but also to see how he works in our staff, discipling, encouraging, setting a vision, etc. I see him as a strong leader in all these areas.

Joni Beckman

