

2023 Children's Leader Retreat Information

The 2023 Children's Leader Retreat (CLR) is for all Children's Pastors and Children's Ministry Leaders from across the state. Whether you are a full-time or bi-vocational Children's Pastor, or a volunteer leading your church's children's ministry, **YOU & YOUR TEAM ARE INVITED!** This event will take place on January 18-21, 2023, at **The Edgewater Hotel and Convention Center** in Gatlinburg, TN. The main goal for CLR is to equip, empower, and encourage you, as well as provide opportunities to connect and build relationships with fellow children's pastors throughout the Alabama Ministry Network. I believe you will not only come away from this retreat refreshed, but also you will make new friends, receive fresh ideas, and gain information that will assist you in your current children's ministry.

Our guest speakers for the retreat are Children's Pastor, and Author Brian & Cherith Dollar.

Brian began in Ministry in 1992. He has served at two churches, The Oaks Fellowship (Dallas, TX 1992-1999) and First NLR (North Little Rock, AR 1999 – Present). He loves kids, Kidmin Leaders, and everything that involves leading children in their spiritual journey!

Brian founded High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources in 1998, which creates and provides Kids Church Curriculum, Music, Games, Videos, and more to churches around the world.

Brian has had the privilege of speaking at many Kidmin Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, etc. He has a passion for passing on what God has enabled him to learn from his years of ministry and learning from other Kidmin Leaders! He is the author of "I Blew It!", a Kidmin Leadership book that helps others avoid the biggest mistakes in Kids Ministry.

Brian and his wife of 17 years, Cherith, have two amazing children – Ashton (daughter – age 15) and Jordan (son – age 13).

RETREAT SCHEDULE:

Wednesday evening, we will begin with worship and a word from Brian Dollar. Thursday morning Thursday evening, and Friday morning we will have times of worship, communion, prayer, and teaching from Brian. **Pastor Matt and Carrie Britt, Lead Pastors at New Life Assembly of God**, will be leading worship for us again this year. Last year they did an awesome job leading us into the Lord's presence with anointed worship that led into some great times of prayer for one another and teaching.

You can enjoy free time for you and your family and friends both Thursday and Friday afternoons where you can visit Cades Cove, drive through the mountains, visit the Biltmore Mansion, visit the shops, restaurants, and rides at The Island or downtown Gatlinburg or, you can just take some time to relax. A booklet will be provided to each of you with many attractions and places to see while in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

Friday's Schedule will look a little different this year. Friday morning, we will hear more from Brian Dollar, and then we will enjoy a catered lunch at the hotel. We have the privilege of hosting Life Publishers at this year's CLR. David Boyd will be speaking at our Friday luncheon about Fire Bibles and how you can get involved in this BGMC project (for more information on this see Life Publishers paragraph).

Friday night we will be heading to Ober Gatlinburg to enjoy some fun with ice skating, ice bumper cars, the mountain coaster, the rock wall, a meal and more. Both lunch and the Friday Night event is included in the retreat registration fee. **If you are bringing children, or additional**

adults to assist with childcare who are not participating in the Retreat, you will need to register them separately and pay an additional fee of \$50 per person for Friday Night.

LIFE PUBLISHERS

We are honored to host Life Publishers this year at CLR. During lunch on Friday, they will be sharing information about Fire Bibles and how you can get involved through giving to BGMCC. The **FireBible** is a full-featured study Bible with an emphasis on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. **Now available in 63 languages, it is the World's #1 Pentecostal Study Bible.** The project will provide Bibles for the Tiddim Chin people of Myanmar.

Life Publishers has so graciously agreed to pay for your **3-night hotel stay, Ober Gatlinburg tickets and Friday lunch** for everyone who will commits to a **minimum pledge of \$2500** (This offer is per room). Payment for this pledge will need to be paid within 11 months.

CHILDCARE:

For all that would like to bring their children, we will have a small meeting room reserved as a children's activity room for your kids. We will provide childcare for children ages 10 and under (during the sessions only) on a **first come, first serve basis**, for a one-time fee of \$40 per child. If you are using the childcare option, we ask that you please bring toys and snacks for your own children. Some in the past have brought their own babysitter for their children during the sessions. Whichever works best for you is great with us. We find it works best for everyone if your children are taken care of during all sessions. **Again, childcare is on a first come, first serve basis, and space is limited.**

HOTEL:

Our hotel accommodations are at **The Edgewater Hotel & Convention Center** (edgewater-hotel.com). You can go to their website and see the facilities and all the amenities that they offer. The hotel is located at 402 River Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. It is in downtown Gatlinburg, walking distance to most of Gatlinburg's attractions, restaurants, and stores. All services and sessions are on site. As a guest, you can enjoy the hotel's **complimentary continental breakfast**, indoor pool, as well as other amenities. We feel this hotel will provide a safe, friendly, and clean environment for all our guests. **You will make your hotel reservation through the AMN office at the registration site. The deadline to register and reserve your hotel room is December 26, 2022.** After that date, you may still register for the event, however, we cannot guarantee hotel room availability. **Note:** If are arriving early for the event, or staying afterward, you will need to make your own hotel accommodations for the nights that are not included in the event.

MEALS:

As stated above, the hotel offers **complimentary continental breakfast each day**. Both Wednesday and Thursday following the evening sessions, we will provide some refreshments for you. If you are able, we ask that each person bring some refreshments to share with the group. These can be homemade, or store bought. Friday lunch will be sponsored by Life Publishers and Friday night's meal is a part of the Ober Gatlinburg package. **All other meals you will be responsible for.**

WHAT TO BRING:

- Casual clothing (come prepared for cold and snow)
- Swimsuit & Towel (the hotel pool is heated)
- Snacks/Desserts to share for the evening refreshments. We will provide some main dishes, and we ask that you bring something homemade, or store bought to add to the table.
- Board Games, Cards, Etc.

EVENT FEES:

OPTION A: **\$2500 BGMC church pledge** per hotel room (to be paid by the end of Nov 2023)
Adults - \$80 Registration Fee per person (includes hotel for 3 nights, all CLR sessions, Friday lunch and dinner, and activities at Ober Gatlinburg.
Kids 5-17 - \$40 Registration Fee (includes all sessions, Friday lunch and dinner, and activities at Ober Gatlinburg.
Kids under 5 are free
A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is due at registration. The balance is due upon arrival.

OPTION B: **Hotel Accommodations \$335.00** per room for three nights
Adults - \$100 Registration Fee per person (includes all sessions, Friday lunch and dinner, and activities at Ober Gatlinburg.
Kids 5-17 - \$50 Registration Fee (includes all sessions, Friday lunch and dinner, and activities at Ober Gatlinburg.
Kids under 5 are free
A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is due at registration. The balance is due upon arrival.

ADDITIONAL FEES

Child Care: \$40 per child (three or more children a total of \$100)

Friday Activity Package Fee: \$50 per person (for those attending the Friday lunch and activities at Ober Gatlinburg ONLY).

REGISTRATION:

All registration is online, and it opens October 1st, 2022. Simply go to the AMN website, amnag.org, under events, then Children's Leaders Retreat for the link to register. **Everyone attending must register** including all children, and anyone you are bringing with you (i.e., spouses, childcare workers, etc.). The deadline to register is **December 26, 2022**. After that date, you may still register for the event, however, we cannot guarantee hotel room availability.

I hope you are able join us for this event. I believe you will be encouraged, refreshed, and empowered from this get a way. If you would like to attend, and the only reason that would prevent you from coming to this retreat is financial, please contact my office and we will do everything we can to assist you. Come ready for fun, games, informal meetings, refreshing fellowship, worship, teaching, resource previews, idea exchange, and networking. Dress is casual. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Kristi or me at 334.279.7172 Ext. 4, or knorris@amnag.org, if you have any questions about this event.

Serving Christ...Serving Kids

Vint A. Norris
AMN CE Director