

Dear Children's Pastor/Leader,

You are cordially invited to our Children's Leaders Retreat in Pigeon Forge, TN. Whether you are a full-time or bi-vocational Children's Pastor or a volunteer leading your church's Children's Ministry, **YOU ARE WELCOME**, and we would love to have you attend. Our Children's Leaders Retreat (CLR) is **Wednesday through Saturday, January 20-23, 2021** in the Smoky Mountains. The main goal for this event 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 District.

I believe not only will you 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. With free time scheduled in, there is plenty of opportunity to see the sights of Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, (please see enclosed information) or just take time to relax.

Our guest speaker for the retreat is National Director of Leadership Development for Children's Ministry, Kelly Presson. Kelly has a long and rich history of involvement in children's ministry birthed in his heart at the age of seven. During a kid's crusade the Holy Spirit met with Kelly and began to open his heart and mind to a lifetime of impacting children while they are young. Since then God has profoundly gifted Kelly in methods of preparing children to be Spirit-filled leaders among their friends, at their schools, and in their communities. Hundreds of children, through this unique course have become "Special Forces" servant leaders in their church body and beyond.

Kelly began his ministry with children and youth as the Student Ministries Pastor at First Assembly of God in Jackson, Missouri. Kelly then accepted a position to oversee the Student Ministries department at Living Water's Assembly of God in Cabot, Arkansas. While there, he was invited to be the Arkansas District Children's Ministry Agency Coordinator with the Assemblies of God. Most recently, since 2007, Kelly and his family have found a home and a center for children's ministries at Christian Celebration Center in Midland, Michigan. Upon arrival at CCC, Kelly immediately filled the role of Executive Director of the Mid-Michigan Royal Family Kids, overseeing two separate camps for the international RFK ministry in the Mid-Michigan area. Up to 80 adult volunteers per camp who, under the direction of Kelly, impact and influence the lives of hundreds of children who have been placed in the foster care system. During his tenure at Christian Celebration Center, Kelly continued to build upon his incredible reputation as a kid's camp evangelist, traveling to camps in the greater USA to minister to thousands of children. He has also created school assemblies on the importance of words, the impact of bullying, and how to handle stress and anxiety and has successfully made this presentation to area elementary schools. While experiencing the phenomenal impact of his ability to reach children through unique giftings, God birthed in Kelly the desire for a greater platform wherein he could help create informed and talented children's leaders throughout the world. Through BGMC, Kelly was invited to become an international instructor for children's pastors and has been involved in children's ministry leadership conferences around the world.

Kelly Presson is intricately prepared and skilled to develop and enrich current and upcoming Children's ministry leaders who will then build a nation of Spirit-filled servant-hearted leaders among our children nation-wide and world-wide. Beside Kelly, supporting his vision and helping him remain grounded, is his equally gifted wife of 29 years, Traci. Together they have a son, Jacob, who is 20 years old and pursuing a career in ministry at Evangel University.

Pastor Matt and Carrie Britt, Lead Pastors at New Life Assembly of God, are 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 are welcome to bring your spouse and or family with you to this retreat. However, if you are bringing small children, we do ask that you provide you own childcare during the CLR Sessions. We have access to a room adjacent to our meeting room that your children can stay in during our meetings, or if you would like, the hotel provides a game room, and a great indoor pool with a slide. **Again, please provide for you own childcare needs** during the CLR Sessions. If you have any questions about this, please let us know.

Friday night we have an activity package planned for you and your family. The Friday night fellowship is always a highlight of the trip just getting together with other children's pastors and fellowshiping with one another. This year we will be going to The Comedy Barn in Pigeon Forge. We will enjoy a meal at the hotel, and then proceed to The Comedy Barn for a fun evening of laughter and fellowship. The Friday Night Activity Package 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 \$45 per person for Friday Night** (see attached information sheet).

Please see the enclosed information sheet included with this letter for details on registration, costs, and hotel information, etc. I hope you are able join us for this event. I believe you will be encouraged, refreshed, and empowered from this get a way. Come ready to have fun, play games, and participate in informal meetings, fellowship, worship, teaching, idea exchange, and networking. Dress is casual.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Serving Christ...Serving Kids

Vint A. Norris

Children's Leader Retreat Information Sheet

Registration:

Online registration for CLR 2021 opens November 1st. Please see the link for registration at our District Website, adcag.org under events. **NOTE: you will need to register each person (spouses, children, care givers, etc.) online at the ADC Website AND you will need to make your own hotel reservation.**

Hotel Accommodations:

We will be staying at the Spirit of the Smokies Condo Lodge (all services and sessions are on site) 2385 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863 (www.smokieslodge.com) Please call 800-843-6686 to make your reservation for Wednesday night check in and for check out Saturday morning. **The Group Code is AAG21** and payment for your accommodations is to be paid directly to the hotel. The Spirit of the Smokies has graciously extended the group rate for those that want to come early for some extra vacation time. Please note, the hotel cost is not included in registration fee. Hotel rates are as follows:

Sunday -Thursday - \$44.85 per night
Friday - Saturday - \$61.68 per night
(These prices **include** tax)

The lodge's water slide, large game room, heated indoor pool, and heated indoor kiddie pool are free and available to all as well! The deadline to register for your hotel room is **January 6, 2021.**

CLR Registration Cost:

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per person (includes the retreat sessions and Friday Activity Package). For guests who are not participating in the CLR Conference, (children or adults) the cost is \$45.00 for the Friday Night Meal and Comedy Barn. Guest fees are non-refundable after 01/08/21. Please register each guest separately online.

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 snacks. 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.

Please contact Kristi Norris at 334.279.7172 Ext. 4 or knorris@adcag.org, if you have any questions or need additional information.