

## **2022 Children's Leader Retreat Information**

The 2022 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 ARE INVITED!** This event will take place on January 19-22, 2022, 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 National BGMC Directors, David & Mary Boyd.**

David has served as the National BGMC Director since 2007. Before serving at the National Office, David & Mary served for 17 years as full-time children's pastors. All the children's ministries programs under their supervision saw incredible growth. They have had as many as 320 volunteer workers under them at one time while staffing over 90 children's classes per week. The Boyds used puppets, characters, skits, gospel illusions, object lessons, ventriloquism, PowerPoint presentations, and more to present the gospel in creative ways.

In 2017 David published the book, ***"Strong Enough to Last"*** which highlights the eight goals of children's ministries for the Assemblies of God. In 2018 David was appointed as the co-director of the National Children's Ministries Department of the A/G along with Mark Entzminger. David & Mary are both graduates of North Central University. David has a B.S. in Pastoral Studies. Mary has a B.S. in Christian Education and an A.A. in Early Childhood Education. Both David & Mary also have their Master of Arts degrees in Theological Studies from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

David & Mary have a deep desire to see kids filled with the Holy Spirit and have a deep walk and ministry with the Lord. The Boyds' desire is to see kids so spiritually strong, that they will live for God their entire lives. Currently, their focus is instilling a heart of compassion for missions in kids. They believe that kids can make a difference in the world through praying, giving, and being willing to go. They have a big heart for missions, training teachers, and touching the lives of kids. David & Mary have been to numerous countries teaching and training others in children's ministries. Each day we will have morning and evening sessions with the Boyds that will refresh and inspire you in your children's ministry.

### **RETREAT SCHEDULE:**

Wednesday evening, we will begin with worship and a word from David Boyd. Thursday morning, Thursday evening, and Friday morning we will have times of worship, communion, prayer, and teaching from David Boyd. **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.

The **Friday night fellowship** is always a highlight of the trip. This year we will enjoy a meal together at the hotel, and then we will go to Ober Gatlinburg to enjoy some fun and fellowship with each other with ice skating, ice bumper cars, the mountain coaster, the rock wall, and more. 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 \$50 per person for Friday Night** (see Friday Activity Package below).

#### **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 (during the sessions only) on a **first come, first serve basis**, for a one-time fee \$25 fee per child, for children ages 10 and under. 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:**

We have changed locations this year to **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 breakfast**, indoor pool, as well as other amenities. We feel this hotel will provide a safe, friendly, and clean environment for all our guests. **This year, you will make your hotel reservation through the AMN office at the registration site. The deadline to register and reserve your hotel room is 1/4/2022. After that date, you may still register for the event, however, we cannot guarantee hotel room availability.**

#### **MEALS:**

As stated above, the hotel offers complimentary breakfast each day. Each evening following the 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 night, we will enjoy a meal together before we head to Ober Gatlinburg. **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:**

**Registration Fee:** \$100.00 per person (includes all sessions, Friday dinner & activities at Ober Gatlinburg.) A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is due at registration. The balance is due upon arrival.

PLUS

**Hotel Fee:** \$389.00 (3-night stay includes tax and complimentary breakfast in a double queen room. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due at registration.)

**ADDITIONAL FEES**

**Child Care:** \$25 per child (three or more children a total of \$75)

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

**REGISTRATION:**

All registration is online, and it opens November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Simply go to the AMN website, [adcag.org](http://adcag.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 **January 4, 2022**.

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 Norris at 334.279.7172 Ext. 4 or [knorris@adcag.org](mailto:knorris@adcag.org), if you have any questions about this event.

Serving Christ...Serving Kids

Vint A. Norris  
AMN CE Director