

BETTER & BRIGHTER

APRIL 2026 ISSUE



Make It Better. Make It Brighter.



Turning Children to Jesus — One Classroom at a Time

Edited by Bro Moe

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Bro Moe

Dear children's ministry leaders, volunteers, and friends,

Welcome to the April 2026 issue of **Better & Brighter**! As spring unfolds around us, I'm reminded that God is always doing something new. The trees are budding, the days are growing longer, and there's a fresh energy in the air — and I believe that same fresh energy is alive in children's ministry right now. April is a month of resurrection power, of new beginnings, and of growth. Wherever you are in your ministry journey, I want to encourage you: this is your season to plant new seeds, try new ideas, and watch God do something beautiful through your faithfulness. Every Sunday school lesson, every midweek program, every prayer whispered over a child's life — it all matters more than you know.

This issue is packed with powerful voices from the children's ministry field, and I'm thrilled to share them with you. **Lloyd Squires** leads us into a deep reflection on the transformative power of prayer in his article, "*Prayer Wheel*." And **Nathan Roberts** delivers not one, not two, but *three* outstanding articles that will challenge, encourage, and equip you — from embracing the beautiful chaos of KidMin, to involving children as active participants in the life of the church, to reframing the sacrifices we make as eternal investments. These are voices of experience, conviction, and heart. I encourage you to read every article, share this issue with a fellow children's ministry worker, and put these insights into practice in your own local ministry setting.

As we continue building the **Better & Brighter** community through Kid Challenge World-Wide, I want to remind you of our heartbeat: *every child deserves to hear the gospel in a way they can understand, in a place where they feel loved*. You are making that happen. Keep showing up. Keep preparing. Keep praying. Keep making children's ministry **Better** and **Brighter** every single day. This is holy work, and you are not doing it alone.

With love and excitement for what God is doing,

Bro Moe

Editor, Better & Brighter

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Each article is written by dedicated children's ministry leaders committed to making KidMin better and brighter.

ARTICLE 1

PRAYER WHEEL

By Lloyd Squires

"Prayer is the wheel that turns the engine of children's ministry."

Prayer Wheel

EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS A DAILY PRAYER WHEEL.

As soon as you receive the

Holy Ghost, you build a prayer closet. Mine is beside my bed.

Google "Prayer Wheel" if you need ideas. Then custom build your own daily prayer wheel. Then modify it as things change and different prayer requests come in.

EVERY ONE!!! EVERY AGE!

This would be a great project for your Children's Church or Sunday School or V. B. S. Or home project with family.

Prayer Wheel

Every child should have a prayer wheel. You can personalize it, or the children can.

Add Journaling.

[The article explores the transformative power of prayer as the driving force behind effective children's ministry — how consistent, intentional prayer undergirds every lesson taught, every child reached, and every volunteer empowered.]

Reflection: How is prayer currently driving your children's ministry? What would change if you made prayer the center of everything you do?

ARTICLE 2

THIS CRAZY THING CALLED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Nathan Roberts

"It's messy, it's loud, it's unpredictable — and it's exactly where God wants us."

This crazy thing called *children's ministry!*

As there are different folds in the five fold ministry, children's ministry has a few different wrinkles of its own. Where do you fit in in your kids department? Teacher, Super Church worker, children's evangelist, crafts, puppeteer, children's worship leader,

(*action songs*) or maybe you're comfortable being a helper or assistant.

The children's evangelist. The children's evangelist job is to come in to a church, hold a children's revival or crusade and try to help pray as many children through to the Holy Ghost as possible. The children's evangelist I know are as diverse as the six year olds in the 1st grade class. There are clowns, puppeteers, magicians, storytellers, ventriloquist, and combinations of the aforementioned. These guys are evangelist and normally minister between 30 minutes to an hour and then an altar call. These guys and girls are very evangelical and set on your children receiving the Holy Ghost.

Super Church Worker. Many churches have Super Church or Children's church in conjunction with their Sunday School, some have Super Church as their main children's ministry. I consider this department as between the children's evangelist and the Sunday School teacher. There are almost always more than one person in the SC department. These folks cover everything from action songs to puppets, from games to ministry. I have witnessed some great altar services in Children's Church and witnessed little ones getting closer to their savior. In most cases, Super Church or Children's Church, whatever you decide to call, is a precursor or a closer to Sunday School. Great names for this department includes Kidz Jam, Kidz on the Move, Rock Kids, and many more. Utilize this ministry in your church and watch your children's ministry grow.

Sunday School. In my humble opinion, this is the most important ministry for children, as well as the most difficult. Each classroom normally consist of a teacher and a helper. It is up to these folks to help teach the Bible to youngsters. You have to be more entertaining than Sponge Bob, as patient as Job, and as loving as a mother or father. When children come into these class rooms, they should be like sponges, we should be giving them something to soak up. Good Sunday School teachers love their children.

They laugh with them, are strong to them, cry with them, and pray with them.

I credit my Sunday School teacher with me being in church. When I think about my childhood, it's not the pastor or the evangelist that I remember telling me that I need the Holy Ghost, but Sister Betty Armstrong, my Sunday School teacher.

Whatever part of children's ministry you are in, take it to heart, kids can spot a fake. Whether you're an evangelist, Sunday School teacher, action song leader, puppeteer, or an assistant, minister to those children with all your might. They are our next pastors, teachers, choir members, Sunday School teachers.

[The article celebrates the beautifully chaotic nature of children's ministry — the unexpected moments, the holy interruptions, and why the "craziness" is actually evidence of God at work in the lives of children and leaders alike.]

Reflection: What "crazy" moment in your children's ministry turned out to be a God moment?
How do you embrace the beautiful chaos?

ARTICLE 3

INVOLVE THE CHILDREN

By Nathan Roberts

"Children are not just the church of tomorrow — they are the church of today."

Involve The Children

So many times, throughout scripture, Jesus wanted to be near the children. He blessed them, prayed for them, compared them to the Kingdom, fed them, and healed them. With such love from the Messiah for the little ones, do we also need to care for them as much? I know we have Sunday School, Children's Church, and other activities, but what about the main service? What about Sunday morning worship or Sunday night? Sure, Mom and Dad take this time to shout and dance, but what about those little ones on the pew?

Cell phones and iPads are great, but I've watched and experienced when parents would give these devices, along with toys or crayons, to kids to keep them occupied during church. I'm not talking about 2 or 3 year olds, I'm talking about 7 to 10 year olds. It's bad enough when teens are texting and Facebooking during the ministry, but are we teaching the younger generation to do the same? We need them involved in worship now. Remember, train up a child in the way he or she should go.....?

Prayer request is a given in getting children involved. As a parent, when prayer request are being made, ask your child what or who they would like to pray for, then pray with them. Remind them that God is a healer and answers prayers and again, pray with them.

My favorite is the worship service, if you sing and praise God, even dance and shout, your child will want to sing and dance too. When the Spirit is moving real serious,

hold your child close, experience that awesome move of God together. Teach them to be quiet and listen when tongues and interpretation go forth. They want to be a part, we must involve them.

Now the preaching seems to be the most difficult part. As parents we say it's difficult for a child to sit and listen for 30 minutes or so, but if your child goes to school, guess what, they have to do it everyday. Now younger children, I know, this is more difficult, but the older a child gets, the more attentive he or she should be in service.

Altar service is one the most awesome times in an Apostolic service. When my kids were babies, only one or two months old, I would walk through the altar service, holding them, in tears, asking Jesus to keep his hand on them. I tell you they are never too young to have at the altar. Not only do we need to present ourselves to the Master, we need to give Him our children as well.

As a church family, I encourage you to include your children's choir or drama team in your services on a regular basis. This does not have to be every Sunday, but enough to let them know they're wanted, needed, and loved.

Ben Franklin said it best, even though he was talking of education, I apply this to church. He said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

[The article champions the idea of giving children active roles in ministry rather than passive seats — inviting them to serve, lead worship, pray for others, and participate meaningfully in the life of the church.]

Reflection: In what ways are you currently involving children in active ministry? What new opportunities could you create for kids to serve and lead?

ARTICLE 4

THE NECESSARY INCONVENIENCES OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Nathan Roberts

"Every inconvenience in children's ministry is an investment in eternity."

The Necessary Inconveniences of Children's Ministry

"Anything in life worth having is worth working for." It is a phrase that has been said by many people many different ways over the years. I have learned that the saying holds true, especially when it comes to working in children's ministry. As children's ministers we have parents, their children and our staffs; three distinct groups of people that we have to work with and understand. Flexibility, patience, understanding and a strong work ethic are tools that are a must with our jobs. Even with those tools though, situations will arise and tough scenarios will be presented to you. At these times, instead of looking at the issues that we encounter as "inconveniences" or "obstacles" in our ministry, we must learn to embrace them as OPPORTUNITIES. It might sound cliché, but we must find the silver lining around the clouds that occasionally come our way. Below is a short list of some of the things that we might consider inconveniences and some thoughts as to why these challenges are necessary for us to deal with in order to become better leaders.

The Helicopter Parent:

It is not uncommon for parents to be very protective of their children these days and rightfully so. The days of taking unannounced field trips are long gone. Parents have expectations about who is teaching their children, where their children will be and how they are being taught. When misunderstandings or

frustration happens, typically it stems from poor communications. These poor communications can originate from between the student and their parents, teachers and students, or the teachers and parents. It is our job to assure the parents and to make them feel confident in our staff's abilities to not only watch, but teach their children. A great way to do this is to be accessible to the parents. If a parent comes to you, make sure you know their children's names and pay enough attention to mention something that their child said in class that was cute or maybe a tough question that they answered. This lets them know you actually care!

As a leader, you must feel confident that what you are doing is not only what's best for the children, but also what is acceptable and appropriate in the eyes of the parents. Praying every day for God's direction is truly the only way that you will be able to accomplish this on a consistent basis. As far as the hovering parent that seems to always want to know what is going on...ask them to be a part of your staff! Either they will accept and hopefully be an invested and vital part of your ministry, or they will take the hint and get involved in the adult classes.

The Disinterested/Irresponsible Staff Member:

This is a challenge that I know every Children's Pastor or Sunday School Superintendent has had to deal with at some point in time. The easiest and probably most common way it is dealt with is through not doing anything at all. That is quite honestly the worst possible way of handling disinterested and especially irresponsible staff members. Ignoring the problem is a disservice to everyone involved. The children are not gaining the most out of the limited amount of time that we have with them. Also, your other staff members not only have to pick up that person's slack, but a bad attitude is a contagious disease and can spread very fast!

The moment that you suspect that someone on your staff is not really putting their whole heart into their work or you notice them doing things out of character, you must be proactive by speaking with them. It might be as simple as asking them how they are or what's on their mind, but a conversation is necessary. If you can figure out the source of the problem, you can solve it much easier. Perhaps the staff member is burnt out and needs a "break"? Maybe they are going through a rough patch and just need someone to talk to? Whatever it is, you will never regret the decision to act. Once again, inaction is not acceptable.

The Disruptive Child:

Unruly or disruptive children are a fact of life when working in children's ministry. The key is handling it properly. I wish there was a perfect, one-size-fits-all solution to this problem, but there isn't. Every child has to be treated and responded to differently, if we are truly going to reach them. Many think that if you make a child stop talking and disrupting out of fear of negative consequences, they have been successful. I respectfully disagree. It has been proven through research that positive reinforcement is much more successful long-term. I'm in no way suggesting that you let children run wild or be permitted to distract teachers from teaching and other children from learning. I am suggesting that we need to be careful to consider the circumstances and situations that the individual child might be going through at home and in school. Be willing to speak to the child in a respectful way and try to help them if they are in need.

The fact is kids are just bad sometimes because they are ornery kids. When that is the case, you shouldn't be afraid to let them know their actions are unacceptable and that there can and will be consequences if appropriate, ranging from not getting to participate in a game all the way to a personal conversation or letter to their parents. Keeping in mind that everything we do should be doing in love. Some of the children that I enjoy the most in class have been the children that I used to see as inconveniences, because they took up so much of my time and effort. The amazing thing is, the time and effort are never wasted!

If you work in children's ministry long enough, you will unquestionably encounter these and many more situations that might be considered inconveniences. Use them as motivation and approach them as opportunities. Working with children is an honor and no challenge or inconvenience should deter or prevent us from leading with the vision God has given us!

[The article reframes the sacrifices and inconveniences of children's ministry — the early mornings, the extra prep, the sticky messes, the patience required — as necessary, worthy, and ultimately rewarding investments in the next generation.]

Reflection: What "inconvenience" in your ministry has God used to produce the greatest fruit?

How can you shift your perspective on the hard parts?

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Lloyd Squires

A dedicated children's ministry leader and prayer advocate, Lloyd Squires brings years of passion for intercession and spiritual formation in KidMin. His heart is to see every children's ministry anchored in the power of prayer.

Nathan Roberts

A voice for children's ministry excellence, Nathan Roberts writes with conviction and practical wisdom about the realities, joys, and challenges of serving kids in the local church. A champion of hands-on, all-in ministry, Nathan inspires leaders to keep going and keep growing.

Bro Moe (Editor)

Moises Alvarez — known as Bro Moe — is the editor of **Better & Brighter** and the founder of Kid Challenge World-Wide. A creative curriculum designer, ministry trainer, podcast host, and global KidMin leader, Bro Moe is passionate about equipping children's ministry leaders everywhere to make it Better and Brighter.

MAKE IT BETTER. MAKE IT BRIGHTER.

Thank you for reading the April 2026 issue of **Better & Brighter**. Share this newsletter with a fellow children's ministry leader and help us spread the vision of transforming KidMin around the world.

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"Turning Children to Jesus"

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