



# **Building a Ministry That Moves**

A ministry that moves is a ministry that refuses to settle. Movement is not noise, busyness, or activity - it is spiritual direction. It is the difference between a ministry that survives and a ministry that shapes destinies. A ministry that moves is one that expects God to work every week, not occasionally. Movement begins with leaders who refuse to drift. When leaders move, ministries move. When ministries move, children move toward Jesus.

A ministry that moves has three traits: clarity, consistency, and conviction. Clarity gives direction. Consistency builds trust. Conviction fuels passion. When these three align, momentum becomes natural. Your ministry is not meant to be stagnant - it is meant to be alive.

# **Momentum Makers: 5 Rhythms That Keep Your Ministry Alive**

Momentum is not accidental. It is built through rhythms - repeatable actions that create spiritual motion. Five rhythms every kids ministry needs:

- (1) A weekly prayer rhythm for leaders.
- (2) A preparation rhythm that honors excellence.
- (3) A worship rhythm that teaches children how to respond to God.
- (4) A discipleship rhythm that reinforces truth at home.
- (5) A celebration rhythm that highlights wins.

When these rhythms are practiced, momentum becomes a culture, not a moment.

# **Outreach That Actually Works With Kids**

Outreach is not an event - it is a mindset. Kids respond to authenticity, joy, and invitation. Effective outreach includes simple touchpoints: personal invitations, family-friendly events, follow-up systems, and consistent presence in the community. Kids come where they feel welcomed, seen, and valued. Outreach that works is outreach that builds relationships, not just attendance.

# **The Culture That Refuses to Settle**

Culture is created either by intention or by accident. A ministry that refuses to settle is one that continually raises expectations. Excellence is not perfection - it is stewardship. When leaders raise the bar, children rise with them. A culture that refuses to settle is marked by honor, preparation, joy, and spiritual hunger. This culture becomes contagious.

# **Leader Growth Corner: Leading With Motion**

Leaders create movement by staying spiritually alive. Motion begins in the heart before it ever shows up in a classroom. Leaders who pray, dream, study, and grow create ministries that move. Children do not need perfect leaders - they need leaders who are moving toward Jesus. Leading with motion means leading with humility, hunger, and hope.

# **A Prayer for Momentum**

"Lord, breathe fresh momentum into every children's minister reading this. Let their ministry move with Your Spirit. Give them clarity, consistency, and conviction. Let every classroom be filled with Your presence. Make their ministry better, brighter, and full of holy motion. Amen."

## **Looking Ahead: Issue 3 Preview**

Next month's theme: "The Ministry That Multiplies." We will explore how to build teams, develop leaders, and create a ministry that grows beyond you.



## Not Yet is Not a No

**By David Fout**

I still remember the moment I first felt the call. I was at an altar during a youth conference, and without warning it settled deep in my spirit, you are going to preach the gospel. I didn't understand it fully then, but I knew my life would never be the same.

For a long time, I ran from that call. Eventually, at another altar, I surrendered. Looking back, that act of surrender became one of the most important lessons of my life. I learned to recognize God's voice, and just as importantly, to trust the voice of my Pastor who was also my father.

At an HYC in Arkansas, God placed a burden for children in my heart. Kids ministry had always surrounded me. My dad was a children's evangelist, so I knew both the joy and the cost. I began serving in my home church, leading kids church on Wednesday nights. In those early years, I was learning more than I realized. God was quietly placing tools in my life that would be needed later.

When I was 18, I made a well-meaning but misguided prayer. I told God I would go wherever He wanted once I was licensed. I didn't understand then that God doesn't work within our conditions. The very next day, my Dad told me about a Pastor in Magnolia, Arkansas who had asked me to preach a kids revival. I went unlicensed, nervous and carrying a Bible and a rubber chicken. God moved, and I learned something I'm still learning today: God's timing is perfect.

As the years passed, my wife and I continued ministering in children's revivals while I worked jobs that limited travel. There were moments of frustration and doors that seemed promising, only to close after prayer and counsel. Not with a no but with a not yet. In those seasons, I learned to trust God's process and the guidance of my Pastor.

Two years later, life had settled. I had a good job and had grown comfortable. Then one day, I was let go. Fear set in, and I called my dad. What I couldn't see at the time was that earlier that day, I had prayed, God, send me where You want me. My life is in Your hands. God took me at my word, just goes to show he does hear our prayers.

After days of prayer and fasting, God gave me a single word: fulltime. I walked into my dad's office uncertain and unprepared, with more reasons why it didn't make sense than why it did, yet my Pastor looked at me and said, I agree. It's time to try the door.

Four years later, I see the faithfulness of God more clearly than ever. Many children have received the Holy Ghost, friendships made and countless lives have been touched. All because I stayed faithful to his voice while being told not yet. It didn't happen quickly, and it didn't happen on my timeline. Sometimes it's God inviting us to wait, to grow, and to trust until the yes arrives. Don't give up, stay faithful, the yes is on its way.

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## **Molding The Classroom**

**By Cory Gonzalez**

The average Sunday School class is an hour. That's 3,600 seconds every Sunday to make an impact on a child's life, and we need to use the time we have wisely. Laugh with them, encourage them, love them, teach the Word to them, and pray with them. Every second matters because we don't know the challenges they'll face at home or school before they return to our class.

The way to do that is to go beyond the status quo and think outside the box.

**Interactive bible lessons:** In the classroom, object lessons create hands-on moments that spark curiosity and help kids remember God's truth long after the lesson ends.

**Tell stories:** When teachers use stories, children are better able to understand the Word of God, see themselves in God's story, and apply the lessons to their own lives.

These are powerful ways to communicate scripture and spiritual truths to children. Sunday School teachers have a special call of God. Don't give up, continue to be faithful and He'll continue to give you the creativity and wisdom to reach children and families for His Kingdom.

What we do today will have lasting implications on a child's tomorrow. We don't know God's plan for their life, but we can help shape it. Keep molding your classroom.

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## **Little Leaders, Big Calling**

**By Rev. Loren Gaines**

I didn't know I was stepping into leadership the day it happened. There was no microphone in my hand. No lesson outline. No crowd watching. Just a child tugging on my sleeve, asking a simple question that carried more weight than I realized at the time. In that moment, leadership wasn't about being in charge—it was about being present.

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14, KJV). He was not offering a sentimental thought; He was establishing a priority. Children mattered to Him—not only as the future of the Church, but as a vital part of it now.

Leadership in children's ministry often begins quietly. It starts when a child feels safe enough to ask a question, secure enough to share a fear, or confident enough to try again after failing. Scripture reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Training does not happen in a single lesson or moment. It is formed through consistency, patience, and faithful presence.

Early in ministry, I learned this through an unexpected—and humbling—moment. I had prepared what I believed was a well-organized children's lesson. The props were ready, the plan was clear, and the energy was high. I asked a familiar question: "Does anyone know the answer?" A small hand shot up immediately, and I called on the child. He stood and confidently announced, "My dad sleeps in church." The room erupted with laughter. I stood there, momentarily stunned, doing my best to regain focus while extending grace.

That moment taught me something no leadership resource ever could: children value authenticity. When leaders are willing to laugh, recover, and continue with humility, trust is built. Children do not follow leaders because of titles or authority alone. They follow leaders because they feel safe. Every response, every correction, every smile teaches something. Long before children can articulate theology, they experience it. They learn grace by how forgiveness is modeled. They learn authority by how discipline is handled. They learn about God by how they are treated.

Jesus spoke with seriousness when He said, "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck" (Matthew 18:6). This statement underscores the weight of our influence. Leadership in children's ministry is not secondary work—it is sacred responsibility.

It is tempting to believe leadership requires charisma, creativity, or confidence. Scripture, however, places the emphasis elsewhere: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). Faithfulness looks like showing up week after week. It looks like learning names, honoring routines, and remaining steady when lessons do not go as planned. Children thrive under consistency; reliability fosters trust.

Jesus redefined leadership through service. After washing His disciples' feet, He said, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). In children's ministry, leadership often looks like kneeling down, listening carefully, and serving quietly. It may involve spilled juice, unfinished crafts, or unexpected interruptions. In those moments, humility speaks louder than instruction.

One of the challenges of children's ministry leadership is accepting that the full impact of our labor may not be immediately visible. The Apostle Paul wrote, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6). Our role is obedience. Growth remains God's responsibility.

Some of the children we teach and care for today will one day stand behind pulpits, lead ministries, and raise families grounded in faith. They may not remember every lesson—but they will remember how they were treated. I recall a service where the Spirit began moving in a way that was unplanned. The altar response lingered, the atmosphere was reverent, and children were praying earnestly. In the midst of that sacred moment, a child leaned over and whispered,

with complete sincerity, "Is this the part where we run?" I smiled and quietly replied, "We follow the Holy Ghost." We both stayed where we were and I was reminded again that children are learning not only what we do, but how we respond when we are Spirit-led.

Joy remains essential in ministry. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). Joy invites participation, reflects the heart of Christ, and sustains leaders through demanding seasons. When joy begins to fade, it is often a signal to pause, pray, and allow God to renew what service has poured out.

To the new children's ministry worker who feels uncertain or unqualified, Scripture offers reassurance: "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27). Willingness matters. Faithfulness matters. Your leadership matters now. One day, a testimony may begin with the words, "There was someone in kids church who believed in me." That is leadership. That is legacy. And it begins with a simple, faithful yes.

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## **Excerpt from The ROK Method**

**By Rev. Justin Hamby**

“An altar call is the climax of a service, a sacred moment where hearts are opened, and God’s Spirit can move freely. It’s where decisions are made, lives are surrendered, and destinies are altered.” T.F. Tenney, *In Search of Holiness*

“I don’t get it.” The teacher on the team had been a solid member of this church for nearly 50 years. As a leader, I had to balance the delicate situation of challenging new thoughts and processes without alienating effective members of the staff that were faithful, loyal, but who had strong opinions about some of these new concepts. It wasn’t that this particular teacher was being difficult, or that they didn’t want to experience revival or growth in the children’s ministry, simply that the concepts being presented were so abstract to the way things had been done that they weren’t sure they could adapt.

This is a challenge I have faced many times in churches where I teach. The idea that giving children the opportunity to lead somehow diminishes the role of the teacher is foreign to many people. Sometimes it is difficult for them to grasp. So allow me to put it in terms that bring clarity to the issue.

At its core, this is about discipling children in a way that allows them to take ownership of their walk with God, at an appropriate pace, with proper guidance. When children are trusted, taught, and guided correctly, they begin to understand that they matter, that they are seen, and that they have a place in the church beyond simply attending. The responsibility of leadership in this process is learning how to trust, how to listen, and how to guide children into spiritual maturity without controlling every outcome.

Worship is the foundation. It is reinforced through consistency and by teaching children that everything we do is meant to honor God. At the center of all of it is the altar. Everything should lead there. Any form of children’s church, Sunday School, Super Church, Vacation Bible School, Kid’s Camp, or special event that does not give children the opportunity to seek after God is missing the most critical element of ministry. Any leader who is effectively teaching children, regardless of structure or format, must give children and the adults present the opportunity to respond, to worship, and to pray. You can measure effectiveness by how everything ends. Worship training, mentorship, preaching, and teaching should always point to the altar.

Even with explanation, some people are not convinced this works. In many cases, they simply need to see it. That moment came after a multi-week series on prayer. During that series, the children were taught how to pray, what prayer feels like, what it sounds like, what the presence of God feels like, how to pray in an altar, and how to pray with others. After several weeks, the kids had an incredible altar service. They prayed so long that adults began coming to get them and ended up praying alongside them. It was during one of those altar services that the teacher came to me with tears in her eyes and said, “Ok, now I get it.”

It’s about the altar. To that teacher, and to many teachers around the world, I ask this question. In all those years of teaching in a traditional classroom setting, how many altar calls were given? How many opportunities were provided for children to seek after God? When did we take the time to teach children, even as young as five years old, what the presence of God feels like?

This is the heart of the matter. Every service should end with an altar call. When I first began doing altar calls with children, I approached them the same way I had approached altar calls with adults. I believed that if the message was strong enough, the children would be compelled to come forward. That approach rarely works with adults, and it almost never works with children.

Then I saw a method that changed everything. At a Holy Ghost Rally where I was the speaker, the National Director of

Children's Ministries, Rev. Steve Cannon, instructed the teachers, ministers, and leaders to stand across the front of the altar. The children were then told to pick an adult and face them. The instructions were simple.

Close your eyes.

Lift your head.

Raise your hands.

Use your voice.

That simple approach has proven effective again and again. Thousands of children of all ages have received the Holy Ghost through this method. Altar your children, and you will alter the future of your church.

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