

Children's Ministry in the Mid-Atlantic District

When did you begin your friendship with Jesus? I point to the summer of 1996 at the altar in the youth tab at Delta Lake as the moment I truly gave my heart to Him and began that friendship. I was just six years old at the time. That may seem young, but Barna research shows that **more than two-thirds of Christians began their relationship with Jesus before the age of 18**. In fact, research has also demonstrated that, by the age of five, a child's lifelong concept of God has been formed and, by the age of 12, they have stopped *deciding* what they believe and start *defending* what they believe. Disciplemaking in kids couldn't be more vital.

Our C&MA family is committed to equipping, encouraging, and empowering leaders to introduce kids to Jesus, share His Word with them, teach them to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and transform them, and understand their place in the story that God is weaving in His people across time.

Be in the Know

- Our national Children's Disciplemaking office has developed a team of what we call "Regional Connectors" to do just that: connect children's ministry leaders in our area to resources they need. I'm your **Connector for the Mid-Atlantic District**! If you are looking a sounding board on ministering to kids, feel free to contact me at 716-697-4642 or at abbyburg@gmail.com.
- Melissa MacDonald, our National Children's Disciplemaking Specialist, will be coming to our district on Saturday, April 13th, 2019 to provide a **one-day cmallianceKIDS training event**, hosted at First Alliance Church in Silver Spring. Children's ministry leaders, pastors, and parents won't want to miss this opportunity!
- Did you know that your children's ministry **curriculum purchases can benefit the Great Commission Fund** (GCF)? Our team has developed strategic partnerships with high-quality publishing houses so that, when you purchase a curriculum we've partnered with and mention that you are part of the C&MA, a portion of the proceeds will be given to the GCF. To learn more about these partnerships, visit cmalliancekids.com/resources/curriculum.

Tools to Grow

- Melissa MacDonald puts out a **monthly newsletter** full of ideas, blog posts, and freebies for you and your children's ministry leaders! You can sign up at cmalliancekids.com.
- If you or your children's ministry leaders are on Facebook, be sure to join our **KidMin Heroes of the Mid-Atlantic District** group. It's a place where children's ministry leaders throughout our district can ask questions and post encouragement, ideas, training tips and more.
- The **Children's Disciplemaking Leadership Certificate (CDLC)** is a 12-month certificate program created by our National C&MA Children's Disciplemaking Ministries team and designed to help leaders (whether full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer) grow in the area of children's disciplemaking and leadership through online coursework, coaching, and certification. To learn more, visit cmalliancekids.com/certificate.

Blessings on you and your church as you minister to the children God has entrusted to you!

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Burg