

**sustainable
children's
ministry****from
last-minute
scrambling
to long-term
solutions****Mark DeVries and Annette Safstrom**
Author of Sustainable Youth Ministry

*Sustainable Children's Ministry:
From Last-Minute Scrambling to
Long-Term Solutions*
Available January 23, 2018
\$17, 256 pages, paperback
978-0-8308-4522-4

In this practical resource, you'll learn how to recruit volunteers, partner with parents, navigate politics, and care for your own soul instead of frantically scrambling to do it all yourself. Sustainable Children's Ministry will help you build a ministry foundation that will still be standing long after you are gone. Jim Burns, president of HomeWord said, "Think of Mark and Annette as your personal leaders and consultants to help take your ministry to the next level. I love both the strategy and the practicality."

Ministry Architects Team Tackles Challenges of Children's Ministry



Mark DeVries (M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the founder of Ministry Architects, a consulting team that helps churches and ministry organizations build sustainable ministries for children, youth, young adults, and entire congregations. He served for twenty-eight years as associate pastor for youth and their families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has trained youth workers on five continents and has taught courses or been a guest lecturer at a number of colleges and seminaries.

DeVries is the author of *Sustainable Youth Ministry* and *Family-Based Youth Ministry*, coauthor of *The Most Important Year in a Woman's Life/The Most Important Year in a Man's Life*, and he has been a contributing writer for *Josh McDowell's Youth Ministry Handbook*, *Starting Right*, and *Reaching a Generation for Christ*. In addition, his articles and reviews have been published in a variety of journals and magazines. He and his wife, Susan, have four grown children.

Follow Mark on Twitter: @markdevriesYMA.



Annette Safstrom is a senior consultant, speaker, and trainer with Ministry Architects and has served in children's ministry for over thirty years, including as director of a rapidly growing children's ministry in Texas. She speaks at a variety of children's ministry events, including the Children's Pastors Conference and Group's KidMin Conference.

After graduating from Bible college with a certification in children's ministry, Annette earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas A&M University and a master's in research psychology from Southern Methodist University. She and her husband, Kevin, have two children.

Follow Annette on Twitter: @annettesafstrom.

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Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, broadcast and online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com

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*"Whether you're beginning in
ministry or on the brink of
quitting, this book is a great
reminder that it's not about doing
ministry alone, but about you and
your church thriving as you
develop the foundational
structure for a fruitful and
lasting ministry."*

— Yancy, songwriter and
worship leader for kids and
families, Yancy Ministries, Inc.

Long-Term Guidance for Children's Ministry Leaders

Though the principles outlined in this book will set you up as a children's ministry leader to be much more creative in your ministry than you've ever been, this is not a book of creative ideas to bring more flash and pop to your ministry. If you are in need a book of clever crafts or cutting-edge ideas, there are lots of them out there, but this is not that book.

If you are looking to build a foundation for your ministry that will be standing long after you are gone, you won't be disappointed. Flash and fizz are fun and can be very effective at attracting young families, at least one time. But without sustainable systems beneath the unforgettable moments, the impact is almost always short-lived.

Archimedes, the Greek mathematician and philosopher said in the third century BC, "Give me a place to stand, and with a lever I will move the whole world."

Sustainable Children's Ministry offers you that "place to stand" and shows you the levers you'll need to get things moving, to create change that you might never have thought possible before in your particular context. It's a book written primarily for the children's ministry professional, whether part-time, full-time, or volunteer. It's also written for senior leadership and for the volunteer teams taking responsibility for their church's ongoing ministry to children, birth through fifth or sixth grade.

Annette will introduce you to a number of ministry tools that can, like levers, multiply what you are able to do on your own. Annette offers the picture of trying to pull out a nail with our bare hands instead of using the claw of a hammer. It's an apt depiction of how often children's ministry workers wear themselves out, burn themselves out not for a lack of effort but for a lack of the appropriate tools.

We realize that these ministry tools are not and will never be the reason we do what we do. You can certainly invite kids to experience the love of Jesus without using these tools, but they hold the potential to vastly expand your impact (without vastly expanding the amount of effort required).

When every kid who attends your fall festival has an opportunity to connect with a leader by name, you expand your capacity to connect more kids to Jesus in a sustainable way. When every volunteer is well-trained and coached, less children and families wander from your ministry. When every visitor feels safe, welcomed, and connected, there's a better chance those children and families will stay around and live into a lifelong love of Christ.

— Taken from the introduction

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