

Arranging camps

With a growing poor economic climate the cost of running church family camps is becoming prohibitive. Therefore many churches are opting for lots of smaller camps targeting specialised groups of people. This keeps the initial expense down and spreads the cost on a family over a year.

Even if you are unenthusiastic about camps do however recognise that many people feel differently and over the years these have proved a great blessing to so many. Keep therefore unwise remarks to yourself.

Advantages

- It provides people with a break from their weekly routine. This brings refreshment from the traumas of life.
- People are free from responsibilities and distractions which enable them to become more open to special works of God by His Spirit.
- Time with others provides opportunity for consolidation of fellowship that people may not otherwise get.

Points to consider

1. Don't make it so spiritually heavy by arranging meetings and workshops all day and night so that people have no time to relax and enjoy other people's company. People will get more out of the talks if they are not over loaded.
2. Prayer is extremely important in planning a camp and during the running of a camp. You need to pray to know the mind of God; pray for God's protection against sickness and accidents. Pray also for a tremendous blessing and for others left at home.
3. In arranging the committee it is a good idea to call for volunteers to help serve on it. By having some new people on each year fresh ideas are gleaned. Choose the chair person carefully and don't do it yourself. Entrust that responsibility to others!
4. Arrange the programme well. Professional people like things well organised. Have plenty of free time and be flexible to the unexpected prompting of the Spirit. Again note point 1.
5. Work out the aim and theme of the camp prayerfully. This will include other peoples' suggestions apart from your own.
6. When you are about to return home from the camp, prepare your people for the real world they will be returning to. Emotional and spiritual highs experienced at camp can all too easily be lost. Encourage people returning home to have a servant and prayerful attitude.
7. It is useful to consider subsidising the expense for some people. Do this sensitively.

Organising camps

Coordinator

Dates Targeted group

Aim Theme

Procedures	6 months	Comments
Booking of campsite		
Speaker arranged/Name		
Committee arranged		
Cooks if required		
	3 months	
Publicity		
- arrange registration form		
- insert in church newsletter		
Programme		
- who will M.C. it?		
- worship leaders		
- musicians		
- testimonies		
- workshop leaders		
- activites		
Transport coordinator		
- bus		
- private		
Prayer meeting coordinator		
Lias with speaker again		
	1 month	
Publicity		
- church newsletter		
- person to contact interested people		
- Sunday pulpit spots		
Prayer meetings		
Registration forms to be returned		

