

Organising Camps

The cost of running church family camps is becoming prohibitive to many families. Therefore, many churches are opting for several smaller camps targeting specialised groups of people, e.g. youth and women. This keeps the initial expense down and spreads the cost on a family over a year.

Accept that there will always be some in the church that feel camps are not their type of activity. There is no point persuading. Successful reports and the prompting of the Holy Spirit can change their attitude in coming years.

Advantages

1. It provides people with a break from their weekly routine. This brings refreshment from the traumas of life.
2. People are free from responsibilities and distractions which enable them to become more open to God's prompting.
3. Time with others provides opportunity for fellowship that is not otherwise available.

Points to consider

1. Do not make the programme 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 it. 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. Select wisely suitable people to join the leadership team in organising the camp as you want team unity even if there are differences of opinion. By having some new people on each year fresh ideas are gleaned. Choose the chairperson carefully. It is not normally the pastor's job.
4. Arrange the programme with balance and creativity. Professional people like things well organised. Have plenty of free time and be flexible to the unexpected prompting of the Spirit.
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 those who cannot afford to go. Do this sensitively.

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Coordinator

Dates

Targeted group

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		
- activities		
First aid person / Nurse		
Transport coordinator		
- bus		
- private		
Prayer meeting coordinator		
Liaise with speaker / transport, etc.		
	1 month	(Weekly same as monthly)
Publicity		
- church newsletter		
- person to contact interested people		
- Sunday pulpit spots		
Prayer meetings		
Registration forms to be returned		