

Planning Events In Ministry

Tim Price

Over the years, Harvest has been a part hundreds of youth conferences, lock-ins, youth rallies, retreats, revivals and worship services. Here are a few things that stand out about successful events where we have been privileged to serve.

1. Successful events involve lots of people in leadership. We were involved in a lock-in once in Tennessee that had about eight adults in the kitchen making homemade pizzas for most of the night.

2. Successful events help create an experience for the students / adults that are involved. There are so many things that people can do with their time, that when we invite them to take part in the ministry we are planning, we need to invest the time to plan something worthwhile.

3. Successful events pray for and expect things to happen during their time together.

4. Successful events balance planning with publicizing. Too often, the “planning” overtakes the “telling” and both are important. One without the other doesn’t work. With all the publicity that goes across desks and through mail boxes, successful events count on more than just a flier. Personal contacts, phone calls, several postcards, letters, press releases and brochures are needed to make sure people know about an event. In the case of a concert, youth rally—youth want to be where youth are. A critical mass is needed so that people are excited about the evening event.

5. Successful events have a specific purpose and mission. You don’t have to accomplish everything in just one day, evening or weekend. What is the main thing you hope to achieve by doing this event? Is it outreach? Discipleship? Fellowship? Equipping? Evangelism? Knowing why you are getting a group together will help answer critical questions such as one type of program to have, how much to spend, who should be invited, etc.

6. Successful events realize that they are just a step in people’s journeys of faith. Don’t just do the event because you have done it before. Don’t get attached to the weekend itself. It’s just a tool for a bigger mission—sharing Jesus.

Tim Price is the Director of Harvest Ministry Teams in Troy, IL. Since 1996, Harvest has been in existence to “equip young adults for ministry while providing a resource to the local church”. Tim (along with others from the ministry) is available to lead worship and speak for your event. He lives in Troy, IL with his wife Suzanne and daughter Ruby.

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