

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN STUDENTS (FCS)

PLANNING AN EFFECTIVE CONFERENCE, CTC, AND RALLY. PRESENTED AT THE FCS AREA AND STATES AFCS COORDINATORS RETREAT 28TH-1ST MAY 2023. @ FCS HQTRS. JOS.

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INTRODUCTION:- Benjamin Franklin a renowned psychologist said and I quote “ **Failure to plan, is Planning to Fail**” implying that for anyone to fail in any given project or responsibility, all one needs do is not to plan for that project, which can be interpreted as a deliberate plan to fail. This statement has shown the necessity of Planning in everything one sets to achieve, be it an individual project or an organizational program, the need for Planning cannot be over emphasized. Its in this understanding that this topic becomes very relevant for FCS staff and Associates alike to look at How to plan an impactful Conference, Committee Training COURSE and FCS Rally, which are part of our major outreach programs.

And interestingly God Himself is the master Planner, for He said in **Jeremiah 29:11..** I know the Plans I have towards you, they are though of Good and not of Evil...

A PLAN:- can be described as a diagram or list of steps of activities or actions, with details of timing , resources etc. Required to achieve a giving task or objective. Or it can also be said to be a set of intended action that one expect to achieve a goal.

PROGRAM PLANNING:- is a multi-step process that generally, begins the definition of the problem, project or program, step by step remedy actions or activities to be implemented, alongside resources required, and a plan of evaluation.

GROUP WORK:- Now in group of three let's find and list out **a).** Indicators of a well-planned FCS Conference. **b).** Indicators of a poorly planned or unplanned FCS Conference. **c).** list out the Major check-list of things to ensure when planning for a Conference.

The first step to take is Identification and definition of problem, project or program respectively. For us in this topic the programs have been identified already which are Conferences, rallies and CTCs. Below are the definition of what this programs area.

A CONFERENCE:- this can either be National, Area, State, Zonal or sub-zonal conferences. is that gathering of fcs members together for a number of days, where participants sleeps ,eats, and participate in different activities e.g. Bible studies, message, sports, prayers, seminars, workshops etc. It is meant for all categories of members, including children, secondary schools students, POSEC students, Associates and Staff and those who may want to enjoy the spiritual blessings of the conference with us. It can also be held differently for children, youth and adults/ POSEC , associates, sisters, or staff conferences respectively. The aim is to provide spiritual refreshment for all members of the family. It is our belief that when all family members are together

A RALLY:- is a one day conference most times it is organized to bring together FCS Secondary schools branches within a Zone, a Sub-zone or a Rallying Unit. Some of the major activities in a rally area special recitations from various school branches, Playlets or drama, Bible study, Life Skill, Message etc as time permits..

A COMMITTEE TRAINING COURSE CTC:- this is an inductive leadership training that is given to all newly elected or appointed officials in FCS school branches, it can be organized in a zone, sub-zone or a school where the branch is restricted from attending the combine CTC outside their school premises.

WHAT FCS LOOKS OUT FOR IN OUR CAMPS AND CONFERENCE:- As an evangelical ministry , the major aim of our programs are evangelistic, soul winning and discipleship, These others below most preoccupy our minds when we are to plan for any of these outreach programs in FCS:-

- a) We are committed to teaching basic Christian truths as an essential part of evangelism.
- b) We aim to express God's Good News to children, young people and families, not only in words, but also by building caring relationships with them.
- c) We make every effort to communicate the Gospel in contemporary language and in ways appropriate to the context.
- d) We emphasise that faith should always lead to action and to growth in Christian character and service.
- e) We acknowledge that the Gospel has inescapable social dimensions and therefore it involves us in service to others and a concern for social justice. In view of our specific aims, we have a special responsibility for children and young people who are poor, deprived or exploited.
- f) We encourage children to follow Christ in ways that are appropriate to their age, culture and background, taking special account of their home and family situation and level of maturity.
- g) We believe that the new birth is a profound supernatural experience, brought about by the Holy Spirit. So we invite people to respond to what he is doing in their lives and guard against calling for superficial responses.
- h) We are committed to working in ways that reflect our beliefs, in appropriate cooperation with organisations and institutions, such as schools, that welcome us.

Most camping events in FCS are called conferences or retreats. These hold over a period of between three to six days. These conference and retreats take place at various levels of our formation, from the school branch to the national level. Some are exclusive for certain gender, some are for students only, some for staff only and some for everyone.

GENERAL STANDARDS IN OUR CAMPS AND CONFERENCE:- 1. A high ratio of leaders to campers is an important consideration.

2. Sleeping quarters are always Separate for unmarried male and female Campers and leaders. These are out of bounds to campers of the opposite sex, except in supervised programme situations.
3. Campers are always supervised at night with leaders in sleeping quarters or nearby.
4. Any misbehavior which offends or is against Christian values and morality should be actively discouraged.
5. Discipline should be positive. Breaches should be dealt with wisely and appropriately, with the leaders being properly briefed and consulted.
6. The highest possible standards should be adopted for medical care, food preparation, personal hygiene and safety.
7. Careful consideration should be given to legal requirements in our country on various aspects of the camp or conference.
8. FCS child protection policy is a good guide that should be consulted during the planning.

BASIC STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN PLANNING AN IMPACTFUL CONFERENCE, CTC AND RALLIES:-

- 1). Set up a central planning committee.
- 2). The central planning committee should set up sub-committee as follows:-
 - a). Venue/accommodation b).program c). Publicity and mobilization d). finance and funds mobilization e). prayer/ counselling f). Kichen g). water/sanitation h). security i). Transport J). Rgistration k) maitainance/ Media crew .l). Worship/ music m). protocol/ Ushering n). 0).
- 3). Budget for the program and sources of income.
- 4) Speakers and resource persons for seminars and workshops.
- 5). Honorariums for speaker and resource personse.
- 6). Refreshments for resource persons.
- 7). Power and water supply.
- 8) Security and order.
- 9) Conference officials.
- 10). Designations of bible study groups and workshop rooms or sign post.
- 11). PA systems and Musical Equipments.
- 12). Sick bay or clinic.
- 13). Suggest others.....

CONCLUSION:- May the lord enable us to prayerfully plan and execute impactful programs that will transform the lives of our target audience in Jesus mighty name.