



Long Range Planning (Christian Camping: Workshop Outline)¹

Ted Ward

What Scriptures do you associate with planning? Create a list of what the Scriptures you have selected focus on. For example: Trust/Faith, Anxiety, Responsibility, Purposefulness . . .

Describe what planning (not necessarily long range) means in your own experience.

List the sorts of planning that take place in your organization.

Why plan?

- Enables pro-active operations (Readiness)
- Allows a broader base of involvement (Participation)
- Clarifies and reshapes purpose

When to plan?

- Initially as an intensive moment (e.g., a workshop)
- Periodically as updating (e.g., conferences, annual event)
- Whenever operational planning seems to lack purposefulness

Who plans?

- Broadly shared responsibility
- Leadership focuses problems and issues
- “Expanding circles” approach to scenario writing

How to plan?

- Define Christian values and purposes basic to the organization
- Develop sensitivity to the needs and conditions of people
- Develop a futuristic perspective
- Establish an agenda and timetable of Preparations (which feeds into short range planning)

Long Range Planning incorporates the following elements:

- Anticipates change
- Evaluates decision-making
- Deals with uncertainties
- Demands more than projections based on history.
- Requires that we decide what factors to look at and gather data about what is really happening.
- Concerned with creative anticipation
- Depends on vision
- Requires teamwork—creative interaction of ideas
 - Demagogue: a creative purpose with no interaction
 - Cult: A demagogue with a following
- Provides a sense of direction and challenge to participate

¹ Ted Ward. Long Range Planning (Christian Camping): Workshop Outline. The Firs Retreat Center,

Demands high tolerance of ambiguity
Requires continuity

Exercise: Discontinuities

1. First Phase: Mark several dates related to several anticipated events or intentions. [Event or Intention] could happen within ___ year(s)
2. Second Phase: Sort the years in sequence of likelihood
3. Third Phase: As a group determine how many items are above 50% probability in the next year, 5 years, 10 years. Which items are most commonly seen as likely?
4. Implications. In light of probabilities, write several scenarios: "I ought to . . ."