

A piece of weathered wood is attached to a tree trunk, featuring a white-painted arrow pointing to the right. The arrow has a fletched tail and a triangular arrowhead. The background is a blurred green forest.

Three Paths Toward Church Driven Camps

That Reach
Families, Children
and Young People

A collection of various colored and worn hard hats arranged on a wooden surface. The hats are in different colors including yellow, white, blue, orange, and grey. Some are clean, while others are heavily worn and stained. The text "Who am I and what hat am I wearing today?" is overlaid in the center in a bold, black font with a white outline.

**Who am I and what hat
am I wearing today?**

Not A Silver Bullet!



The Big Picture

“A cord of three strands
is not quickly broken”
Ecclesiastes 4:12b



**Weaving Church and Camp
Ministry Together in Ways
That Change Lives**

“All who are skilled among you are to come and make
everything the Lord has commanded”
Exodus 35:10

Our Vision

**Lives Changed
Forever**



**Hosting and Providing Camps,
Events and Occasions That
Change Lives**

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty”
Psalm 91:1



**Providing, Developing and Caring for
Property and Facilities That Enable Camps,
Events and Occasions That Change Lives**

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve
others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”
1 Peter 4:10



**“All who are skilled among you
are to come and make everything
the Lord has commanded”**

Exodus 35:10

Three church-based camping stories:

1. **Tamaki Community Church, Auckland** and their annual family camp
2. **Life Switch, Lower Hutt** and their annual children's and youth camps
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TBh2YzSbzV3q0Nd_BIYKj_4L5SVvYzxz/view?usp=drive_web
3. **Riccarton Community Church, Christchurch** and their youth agency (CDN Trust) with camping as flagship programme.



What does CDN do?

Tamaki Community Church (TCC)

1. Annual family camp at Willow Park Christian Camp. Has church run the camp for 9 years the last 5 at Willow Park. It runs Friday to Sunday in the last weekend of the term 3 school holidays. The camp offers a discount rate that enables people to attend with a koha.
2. It is an outwardly focused camp with which the whole church is called to help. TCC is extremely intentional. from the community. There is 10 weeks of 'preseason training' slots in Sunday services leading up to camps teaching people how to invite and welcome people to camp.
3. The programme is intentional and organised but relaxed.
4. Last camp about 95 people stayed over plus day visitors. 43 community attended camp (45%). There are professions of faith at each camp. About 13% of TCC has come through the camps.
5. TCC is a church about 90-100 people which makes its story all the more remarkable and transferable.

A background image showing several children running and playing in a lush green field. The children are in motion, with some in the foreground and others further back, creating a sense of activity and joy. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Life Switch Children and Youth Camps

1. Annual series of two three-day camps run at the end of term 1 each year for Year 5-6 students and year 7-8 students at Silverstream Retreat where the church is also based. 150 kids per camp. First camp was 60 kids in 2005.
2. Church pays for camps but does charge \$30 for a camp pack which includes a tea shirt and other 'goodies'.
3. The has extensive school-based ministries which enables it advertise the camps widely. People apply to attend camp and kids that don't attend churches (80%)are prioritised. There are 500 applicants.
4. This is the main church outreach of the year, and it is a whole church effort. Intensive efforts are made to connect people to children's and youth ministries. Because the camp site is also the church this reduces barriers for many children and families. 10 Families currently in the church came through camp plus a range of young people.

Riccarton Community Church and CDN Trust

1. CDN is a youth agency arm of RCC. It is outreach and community focused and runs alongside and in support of the church youth group. It was custom designed to serve the church vision.
2. It does a lot of different things such as school-based youth work, drop-in centres, camps for teenagers and intermediates as well as counselling for children.
3. Each year CDN works with 1300 individuals. Its flagship programme is Kids Camp – a 5-day camp for year 7-8 students each school holidays. About 320 attend annually. 90%+ are not part of a church. It all started originally with one camp of 20 kids.
4. CDN draws young people from all over the city and works hard to place them in church youth groups near to them. Last year about 90 young people were connected with youth group with 35 staying.

What do all these models have in common?

1. They are intentional. They are clear about what they are trying to do and keep trying to get better at.
2. They believe in leadership development, and they work hard at it. They all need volunteers and they have seen how serving grows people.
3. They have all found ways to remove cost as a barrier for community people, but they all charge something otherwise people don't value it.
4. They have established a long-term relationship with a camp site and received beneficial treatment as a result.
5. They are all backed by their church leadership as a major ministry and sometimes the major ministry of their church.
6. Connection with church is the hard part but they keep trying to do better.
7. They all started small and went from there.

Exercise

Break into groups of three and discuss which model might be best for your context, why that is and what you could do to start.

You have 10 minutes.



How do you start?

Small!

Some suggestions on starting

1. Ask the Lord to show you what you should do?
2. Find someone who already doing something like you are thinking about and go and visit them.
3. Even better go on a camp and help them do it. You will learn more.
4. Work out what your capacity is and start with the size you can handle.
5. Remember this is a marathon not a sprint



Want to know more?




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**But Wait There's More
With Option 4!**

Church Plant on a Campsite



**Watch
This
Space**