

Movement vs. Ministry

The goal is to lead a movement not manage a ministry. An easy way to distinguish between the two is to describe the difference between a campfire (Ministry) and a wildfire (Movement).

CAMP FIRE (Ministry)	WILD FIRE (Movement)
Contained. Stays within a structure.	Not contained. Spreads everywhere.
Predictable. Common, just like the one before. You know what to expect. No surprises. You leave comfortably warmed and enjoyably entertained.	Not predictable. Each one unique, unlike anything before. Surprising. Requires new strategies, ideas, tools, etc. Involves new paradigms. Requires “outside the box” thinking.
Highly managed. Lead by one. Experience preferred.	Not highly managed. Experienced by everyone. Training not necessary.
Controlled. Intentional steps to make sure it is not driven out of control by the wind.	Uncontrolled. Wind driven. At the mercy of its force and direction. John 3:8
Small in scope. Affects relatively few (your ethnic group).	Large in scope. Affects everyone (those not in your ethnic group)
Decisional. Affects only those who go to it.	Not decisional. Affects those it goes to.
Externally fed. Needs constant supply from an outside source.	Self feeding. Once it begins, it does not require outside source to it to keep going.
Scheduled. At one location, at a specific time, on a given day of the week.	Not scheduled. Occurs anytime, anywhere with anyone.
Safe. Can be experienced from a self determined, comfortable, warm distance.	Dangerous. Two choices, flee or stay and fight. Involvement is risky, life threatening...and exhilarating.
Centralized. Not designed for unlimited growth. The bigger it gets the more it threatens the present structure. Either the structure has to change (very hard) or it needs to become smaller (easy). Note; many bonfires (mega churches) are just large camp fires.	Decentralized. Potential for unlimited growth. Structure does not threaten size because there isn't any. It thrives without structure and adapts to its surroundings.

CAMP FIRE (Ministry)	WILD FIRE (Movement)
<p>A measured event. Attendance is counted. Numbers are recorded. The amount of people who attend is reported. Decisions are very important and used to verify success or failure.</p>	<p>An unmeasured occurrence. Exact numbers are impossible to obtain therefore there is no attempt to do so. There are just continual reports of changed lives from ever expanding areas.</p>
<p>A “horizontal” event. Humans get the credit.</p>	<p>A “vertical” event. An awe inspiring event. Clear act of God.</p>
<p>Entirely visible. Everyone is always aware of its location and size.</p>	<p>Not wholly visible. No one is entirely sure of its exact location and size. There is just a common understanding that it is growing and spreading.</p>
<p>A fun event. Devoted to good time, laughter, story telling, games and “smores.”</p>	<p>An life or death event. Requires that you stop what you ordinarily do and devote yourself wholly to it. Forces a change in priorities.</p>
<p>Restful. A place to eat, relax and rest.</p>	<p>Exhausting. Requires all your energy and effort. Too much at stake to just sit back and watch. Rest and food are just a means to a greater end.</p>
<p>Clean. Neat and clean and well defined.</p>	<p>Messy. Loosely defined around the edges.</p>
<p>Passively experienced. Come and enjoy. Nothing more required. Leaders do the work. Just be a spectator.</p>	<p>Actively experienced. On the job training and immediate involvement. Too big for “professionals” to handle alone. You are needed, NOW! Spectating not an option. Grab a hose!</p>
<p>Localized. Does not naturally spread. Easier to just start more elsewhere.</p>	<p>Spreads spontaneously. Grows naturally. No need to plan for it. Its part of its DNA.</p>
<p>Humanly controlled. Need a permit to start one. Permission required from authorities. Limited by human decisions.</p>	<p>Starts without human permission. Not limited by authorities. Humans are at its mercy, not the other way around.</p>
<p>Culturally defined. One group gathered around one event...because that is the way its always been done.</p>	<p>Not culturally defined. Many small groups gathered around one idea. Formats are varied because its never occurred done before.</p>

CAMP FIRE (Ministry)	WILD FIRE (Movement)
Unchanging. Same event in the past, present and future. Same format year after year, decade after decade.	Changing. Events are one of a kind and each one requires new paradigms. No two are the same.
Facility dependent. Dependent upon available structure. No facility, no event.	Not facility dependent. Not dependent upon available structure or facility. Forms around available environment.