

Ministry vs. Movement

The goal of the Great Commission is to be a movement not a ministry. An easy way to distinguish between the two is to view Ministry as a camp fire and a Movement as a wild fire.

MINISTRY Camp Fire	MOVEMENT Wild Fire
Contained. Stays within a structure.	Not contained. Spreads everywhere.
Predictable. Common, just like the one before. You know what to expect. No surprises. You are comfortably warmed and enjoyably entertained.	Not predictable. Uncommon, unlike anything before. You never know what to expect. Surprising. You are completely involved. Your life is changed...forever.
Not challenging. Doesn't require new strategy. Involves doing what you did before. Ritual is valued. People chafe if things change.	Challenging. Requires new strategies. Involves new ideas and paradigms. Requires "outside the box" thinking. People are too busy to chafe.
Highly managed. Constant oversight of all details.	Not highly managed. Unaware of all the details, only that something big is happening.
Controlled. Barriers in place to make sure it is not driven out of control by the wind.	Not controlled. Wind driven. At the mercy of its force and direction. John 3:8
Small in scope. Affects relatively few (your affinity group).	Large in scope. Affects everyone (those not in your affinity group)
Stationary. Affects those who go to it.	Not stationary. Affects those it goes to.
Externally fed. Needs a constant fuel supply from an outside source (Offerings).	Self-feeding. Does not require outside source of fuel to keep going.
Scheduled. At one location, at a specific time, on a given day of the week.	Not scheduled. Occurs anywhere, anytime and effects anyone.
Safe. Can be experienced from a safe but warm distance. No risk.	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 structure. Either the structure has to change (very hard) or it needs to become smaller (easier). Many bonfires (mega churches) are just large camp fires, not true movements.	Decentralized. Potential for unlimited growth. Structure does not threaten or determine size because there isn't any. It thrives without structure and adapts to its surroundings.

A horizontal event. Humans get the credit.	A Vertical event. An awe-inspiring event. Clear act of God.
A measured event. Those present are counted. Attenders are numbered. Totals are recorded and reported. They define success.	An unmeasured occurrence. Exact numbers of those involved are impossible to count so they aren't measured. There are just continual reports of changed lives from ever expanding areas.
Entirely visible. Everyone is always aware of its location and size.	Not completely visible. No one is sure of its exact location and size. There is just a common agreement that it is growing and spreading.
A fun event. Devoted to good time, laughter, story-telling, games and snacks (S'mores).	A life-threatening event. Requires that you stop what you're doing and devote yourself to it. Forces a change in priorities.
Restful. A place to eat and relax.	Exhausting. Requires all your energy and effort. Too much at stake to just sit back and watch. Rest and food just a means to a greater end.
Clean. Neat, clean and well defined.	Messy. Loosely defined around the edges.
Passively experienced. Come and enjoy. Nothing more required. Leaders do the work. Just be a spectator.	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!
Localized. Does not naturally spread. Easier to just start more elsewhere.	Spreads spontaneously. Grows naturally. No need to plan for it. It's part of its DNA.
Humanly controlled. Need a permit to start one. Permission required from authorities. Limited by human decisions.	Starts without human permission. Not limited by authorities. Humans are at its mercy.
Culturally defined. One people group gathered around one event...because that is the way it's always occurred.	Not culturally defined. Many people groups gathered around one idea. Formats are varied because it has never occurred before.
Unchanging. Same event in the past, present and future. Same format year after year, decade after decade.	Unique. One of a kind event. No two are the same.
Facility dependent. Dependent upon available structure. No structure means no event.	Not facility dependent. Not dependent on available structures. Forms around available environment.