

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW & INTRODUCTION



Items Highlighted in This Section

- ◆ What is it?
- ◆ Purpose
- ◆ What is in it for our members?
- ◆ What is in it for the community?
- ◆ What is included in this manual?
- ◆ What about support?
- ◆ Brief overview of your calendar
- ◆ Committee structure
- ◆ Events



Time for FUN, FOOD, FAMILY, and FRIENDS!

*Lord of Harvest, let there be
Joy and strength to work for Thee
Till the nations far and near
See Thy light and learn Thy fear.
Jonathan F. Bahnmaier (1827)*

It's time to take a step back to a simpler time as we invite the community to an old-fashioned festival of food, fun, family, and friendly relaxation. Let's turn back the clock with a country festival just like our ancestors enjoyed years ago, with box lunches, pie contests, corn on the cob, lots of tasty root beer, cider, and caramel apples, while the kids enjoy a puppet theater, sack races, and fishing pond. And we daren't forget the seniors who'll be playing checkers, competing in a cow milking contest, and winning at bingo. But that's not all. We can also include some interesting and educational stops for quilt-making, soap and candle making, saw painting and maybe even some fresh ice cream churning. So be prepared to organize your committees, plan your calendars, gather the necessary funds, design your marketing strategies, and finally invite your community to stop and stay a spell.

***The day is FREE. The food is FREE. The fun is FREE.
The community can come and go as they please!***

WHAT IS IT?

This is not a one day Vacation Bible School program! Rather it can be compared to an open house festivity where the church invites the community to stop in and stay as long as they wish, perhaps just for a box lunch or a quick try at the dunk tank, or they may decide to stay the day. The schedule is open, with ongoing events throughout the day. The food is always being served, and the craft tent is always prepared for more kids.

PURPOSE

The key purpose of this outreach project is to give your church members an opportunity to offer God's Word to your community in a very unique and effective way. This is done by transforming your church campus into an old-fashioned country festival. You will share your love for the gospel message through the morning worship service. You will share your love for fellowship in your old-fashioned "hymn sing". And you will share your love for your neighbors with free food, giveaways, and entertainment for a brief moment in time.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR MEMBERS?

This will first give your members a tremendous opportunity to put their faith into action. An *Old-Fashioned Country Fest* is an ideal forum for Christians to show their love for

the Lord and their community. A program as this can truly motivate your entire church. One pastor commented on the Kremer one-day event his church presented. He said, “I’ve been a preacher for 40 years, and never have I seen all my members get more involved. It was absolutely fantastic!”

This event calls on your entire congregation to make it a reality, from the senior adults, to the parents, youth, and children. It truly becomes a team project. You will discover this to be a marvelous way to get the entire church working together. And the results will long be remembered by your community.

WHAT’S IN IT FOR THE COMMUNITY?

This outreach program can also be a tremendous blessing to the community because it will give visitors an opportunity to enjoy themselves in community fellowship and they will hear God’s saving message and see the joy found at the foot of the cross. They will see your church’s joy in action—outside of the “intimidating” church confines. Perhaps they may even be compelled to return at a later time to see what gives your members such a joy-filled attitude.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THIS MANUAL?

The CD-reproducible manual includes a number of important suggestions and details to help you plan and present a real *Old-Fashioned Country Fest*. You will find helpful ideas on fund-raising, scheduling, committee formation, entertainment, sound system, giveaways, food, and lots more. Be certain to view all the files included on this CD. We don’t want you to miss a thing.



WHAT ABOUT SUPPORT?

You are welcome to speak with the authors at Kremer Publications (1-800-669-0887 or info@kremerpublications.com.) They will be happy to lend any assistance they can give and are always receptive to suggestions and ideas.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF YOUR CALENDAR (More details in “Planning the Calendar”)

To plan a large one day event as this, you will first need to carefully plan your calendar. There are three dates you will want to etch in stone as you begin your plans.



1. **BEGINNING DATE:** It is ideally suggested to set aside six months to prepare for the *Old-Fashioned Country Fest*. For a summer fest January would be a great time to begin, and for a fall fest, perhaps March or April. At the very outset of the planning an **EVENT DIRECTOR** should be named. This individual will oversee the entire operation of this event, select the committee leaders, plan and schedule meetings, and keep in close touch with progress.
2. **EVENT DATE:** Be certain to carefully choose a date that will not compete with other local events such as local festivities or major sporting

events. Also, be certain a rain date is chosen that fits well within your local community calendar.

3. **EVALUATION DATE:** The Event Director is also responsible to plan an evaluation meeting with each of the committees a few days after the event at which time suggestions, successes and failures might be discussed. Good note keeping is essential.

Note: In a questionnaire taken of churches that used Kremer's one day outreach program, the most frequent comments regarded starting early enough. Many mentioned that six months was just right. Those that said two months also added "but stressful", "barely finished", "not enough time."



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (More details in "Committee Assignments")

Reliable committees are necessary, as is a minimum of meetings. To accomplish both objectives, you will want to divide the various tasks and responsibilities among several committees. This will take the burden off of a select few individuals. At the head of the entire program is the Event Director. Next there will be eight committee leaders. These leaders, along with the Event Director, make up the Structure Committee. More details on the responsibilities of each committee are on this CD manual.

COMMITTEE FORMATION



COMMITTEE	SUGGESTED LEADER	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NECESSARY
FUND-RAISING	Men or Women	3 (will need additional volunteers) Consider your church finance committee or ushers.
PUBLICITY	Men or Women	4 (will need additional volunteers) Consider retired persons, church elders, and youngsters.
CONSTRUCTION	Men can work well here	4 (each with handyman talent) Consider your church trustees or members who are in the construction business.
LAYOUT	Men or Women	2 (include pastor on this committee ad hoc) Consider church trustees or groundskeepers.
TECHNICAL	Men can work well here	2 (each with technical/sound system ability and familiarity with your church sound system)
ENTERTAINMENT	Men/Women/Teens	3 leaders with subcommittees under them 1 Puppet director (plus about 6 puppeteers) Consider the church choir or youth group. Women who love to sew also work well here.
FOOD	Men can work well here	6 per shift Consider the men's club, church council, or a sport's team.
CRAFT	An artistic woman or man	6-8 (Depending on number of shifts necessary) Consider the day school PTA or Sunday school teachers.

EVENTS (More details in "Entertainment" and "Layout")

The ***Old-Fashioned Country Fest*** is designed to transpose your church campus into a fun and exciting place as you turn back the clock to the days of sack races and root beer, bingo and seed spitting. You will invite your community to come and go as they please during this event.

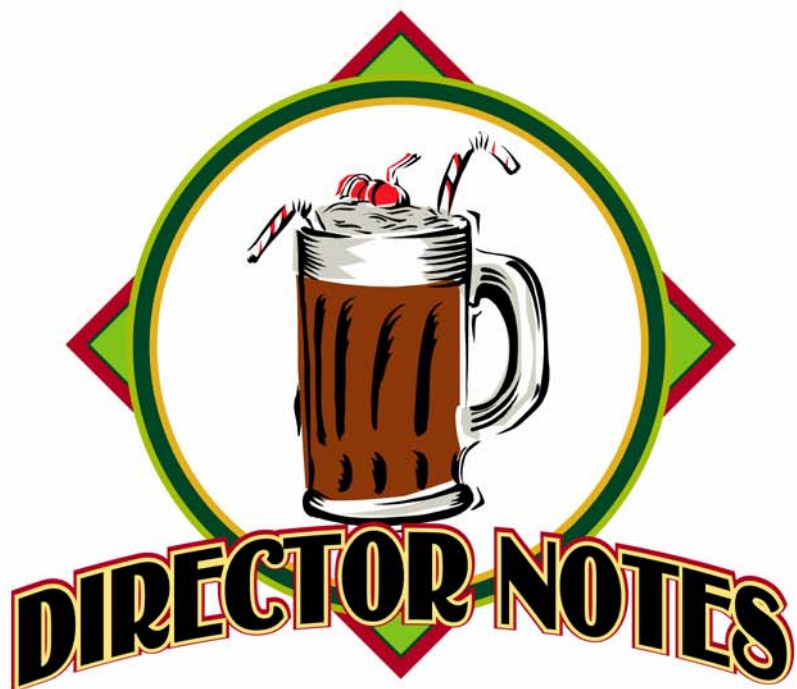
Although your church will decide which events they wish to provide, there are a few major event areas you will want to consider:

1. **Food tent**
2. **Stage for demonstrations**
3. **Puppet theater**
4. **Chairs or bench area for morning worship and an afternoon hymn sing**
5. **Contest area**
6. **Craft tent**
7. **Game area**

Every church has a different size and location situation. Obviously a large green space that can be roped off is best, although we give many suggestions on mapping out an area. (One church told us they rented a building at the county fair grounds.) You will also need to estimate the number of people who might attend. In some communities it may be possible to team up with another congregation to share the best facility.



CHAPTER 2



Items Highlighted in This Section

- ◆ Check out the program
- ◆ A word about outreach and this program
- ◆ Reprint permission



*Oh, for workers strong and brave,
Who will lift the banner high;
So the lost can see the way,
To the mansions in the sky.
John H. Sheppard (1868-1937)*

You are about to begin work on a one day community outreach event. This event is designed to provide your church an opportunity to reach out to your community and say “welcome” to those living in your area. It should be a fun-filled event for your congregation’s members as well as your visitors.

This manual will guide you through the process of planning and carrying out the event. Hopefully these suggestions and details will offer help in organizing the planning. All major areas that need to be addressed are contained here. However, this manual presents only suggestions toward the ideal situation. It is very likely that your church may need to make adjustments. Perhaps you will have fewer workers on the committees, or you may not be able to provide all the events suggested. If so, feel free to make any changes you feel might be necessary. Your situation may also dictate that you might only expect 50 or 100 visitors because of the size of your community. Your budget will also affect what is and is not possible. Be certain to keep this in mind in your planning stages. You are welcome to delete or make changes to any part of this manual.

As Event Director, you are responsible for seeing that committee leaders are selected, meetings are scheduled, work is progressing, and the event is carried out with as little disruption as possible. You will also make a detailed follow-up after the event and keep records for the next Event Director.

This manual provides an outline that should inspire you and your committee’s creativity. You and your leaders must prepare to “think outside the box” throughout the planning process. That’s when the real fun begins and your project takes on a personal nature. A good example is one church that was searching for giveaway items contacted the local Wal-Mart. They promptly gave the church a Schwinn bike for a drawing. Another church gave as a door prize a free year of tuition to their Christian day school. A third church rented a building at the county fair grounds because their site was inadequate. Obviously there is no way this manual can lay out your church property, know the types of food your region enjoys, or understand your budget situation.



CHECK OUT THE PROGRAM

As Event Director you are responsible for the oversight of this project. PLEASE be certain to read through ALL of the material on this disk. Every effort has been made to make this manual easy to follow. There are, however, many hints, suggestions and ideas throughout this manual. We do not want you to miss any of them.

A WORD ABOUT OUTREACH AND THIS PROGRAM

Please share these thoughts with each of your committees, and even your church members. It is obvious that a major reason for this event is to share your love for Jesus with your community. This is certainly in keeping with Christ's command to go and teach all nations. This objective should be stressed in every meeting and should be at the forefront of each committee's plans. However, we would issue a gentle word of caution here as well. There is another reason for this event that should not be overlooked. That is to provide an enjoyable day of food, fun, fellowship and friendship for your guests and visitors. Please be cautioned never to overwhelm your guests with a bold "in your face" type of evangelism. You do not want to overwhelm your guests with an evangelism handout at every turn. Some well-meaning church members may feel that once you have visitors on your soil it is time to make your evangelism call. Your guests already know your church is sponsoring the event. Some may have even been apprehensive to attend, wondering if they would be approached with a "join our church" speech. Your members should be ready to give printed information about your ministry, but not to force it on anyone. Be ready to tell interested guests about your church, but do not make everyone sit through and evangelism presentation. A high-pressured approach simply will not work in this setting, in fact it may well work in reverse, and put a quick end to any future outreach programs of this nature.

REPRINT PERMISSION

You have permission to print out any pages you wish as many times as you need them. Permission however is **not** given to share this manual with another church or to sell it.

This manual is divided into several sections and chapters that will make your job easier. The following is a brief overview of the chapters as they are presented.

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- What is it?
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Chapter Two

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- A word about outreach and this program
- Reprint permission

Chapter Three

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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THE CALENDAR

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Chapter Eight

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Chapter Nine

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Chapter Twelve

CRAFT COMMITTEE

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Chapter Thirteen

GIVEAWAYS AND GIFTS

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- T-shirts with iron-on
- Fishpond
- Adult game prizes
- Door prizes
- Prize suggestions

Supplementary Items

At first glance this may seem like an insurmountable task, thus the importance of good, faithful, and hard-working committees. And let us never forget that it is the Lord who gives us the strength and wisdom to carry out his kingdom work.

An early start to the project will result in greater enjoyment and fewer problems with your *Old-Fashioned Country Fest!*

