

Chi Alpha 2001 Campus Pastors Retreat Leadership Survey (data only)
July 24, 2001

Context: Chi Alpha Camp is the organization's annual retreat for campus pastors and their families. The event was held July 21-25, 2001 in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Participants: 119 adults attended, along with 45 children. 42 campuses were represented. 42 of the adults were married. The presence of so many married individuals and children is a significant and relatively recent trend for Chi Alpha.

Respondents: 48

Method: A survey was administered during the concluding session on Tuesday evening (July 24, 2001). Respondents were asked to supply anonymous answers to three questions. All legible answers are recorded below--unedited.

1. IS THE MINISTRY HARDER THAN IT USED TO BE? EXPLAIN IN ONE SENTENCE:

- Yes: 29 (60.4%)

"Students are difficult to understand"

"Global, smaller world"

"More complicated"

"Complexities in staff relations"

"I've become more cynical about everything"

"Learning to relate to postmodern culture"

"Taken on a greater level of responsibility"

"More plates to spin! Fundraising, recruiting, business, staff development..."

"Students struggle with way more...We find ourselves having to 're-parent' our students in ways we've never imagined."

"The kids are coming to us with more issues and abuses"

"The culture is changing faster than before"

"I am a new campus pastor and the challenges are tough"

"Much is expected from everyone--pastors, students, self. Never really know if we're succeeding"

"Competition is fierce"

"The culture is pluralistic, relativistic, postmodern"

"Risks are higher. Dangers are greater and time is shorter"

"Students are too independent, not committed to the body"

"There is no textbook, just trusting God"

"Rapidly changing culture"

"Broken homes, relationships"
"People are not growing up with a God idea or desire"
"Christian students seem to have less spiritual hunger than 5-10 years ago"
"So much going on, so many voices"
"Because the stakes are higher"
"Because people are too 'busy'"
"The worldly pull on students gets stronger daily"
"So many opportunities"

- *No*: 18 (37.5%)

"It's not harder because we have raised up a team of great leaders"
"We have greater resources and Jesus hasn't changed"
"The lost are still lost and God is in control"
"I've given up more control"
"Just different"
"The gospel is as powerful as it used to be"
"Because God has freed and renewed me so much. I feel new & I am beginning to believe God really loves me & wants to do signs & wonders"
"We're new--God's ahead, we follow"
"This is way too much fun"

- *I don't know*: 1 (2.08%)

2. WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 2-3 LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES?

- *Among those who said the ministry is more difficult now than before:*

"Training and motivating students"
"Commitment, vision casting"
"Married to a leader"
"Motivating, organization, change"
"Learning to make decisions/relating to a new setting"
"Constantly loving"
"Training other leaders (student)/Maintaining other leaders"
"Finances, finances, finances"
"Time management--getting help from my people"
"Getting students to be committed to a lifestyle of discipleship & evangelism"
"Knowing what to say week to challenge our generation/ knowing how to counsel hurting and dysfunctional students/Balancing the emotional pressure of the call to ministry/Financing the vision"
"Self-discipline/confidence/planning/organization"
"Resources"

"Balance-how do you do it all. What is 'all'? What would a person have to know, to do, to be able to say and believe 'I'm balanced.'"

"Leadership development"

"Confidence/motivation/visioncasting"

"Being relational/creating community among independent mindsets"

"Building leaders, coming up with the new creative ideas"

"Pulling together relevant resources/Communicating the gospel to this culture"

"Calling students to a higher level of commitment"

"Getting baby Christians to stay strong in God; embracing personal criticism, singleness/hungering for deep friendship"

"Motivating students/Helping students overcome the perception that they are too busy for serving God"

"Keeping vision/Finances"

"Vision/Freshness"

"Faithfulness, compassion, wisdom"

- *Among those who felt the ministry is not more difficult than before:*

"Time management/When to correct--how to correct"

"Assimilation/Details"

"Balancing criticism & praise/Using time purposefully"

"Time (never enough time to meet with students & fill needs)"

"Organizing ministry/Making the best use of people"

"Unity among leaders/Funds/Engaging non-Christians"

"Apathy/Discipleship"

"Keeping vision for this moment (as opposed to for years from now)/Feeling like I'm educated enough/Knowing what to do"

"Delegation & Consistency with my vision"

"Communicating values & vision/ Connecting students to their purpose/Fueling passion"

"Finances/Churches that have presence of God"

"Staffing/policy"

"Conflict/confrontation/Raising up leaders"

"Knowing the real needs of my students"

"Time & staff (lack of)"

"Time & money & energy"

"Challenging worship team members to the best of their abilities"

- *For the one respondent who did not know if the ministry is more difficult:*

"I don't know enough/ Trusting God"

3. DESCRIBE YOUR LIFE IN ONE WORD:

- *Among those who said the ministry is more difficult now than before:*

"Transitioning"
"Changing"
"Okay"
"Hopeful"
"Hectic"
"Yearning"
"Green"
"Complex"
"True"
"Fun!"
"Stress"
"I am a servant"
"Burned out!"
"Possibility"
"Ready"
"Transition"
"Devoted"
"Rollercoaster"
"Fruitful"
"Fulfilled"
"Peaceful"
"Wanting a new intimacy with God"
"Mixed (joys & challenges)"
"Blessed"
"Fulfilled"
"Busy"
"Blessed--kinda crappy too"
"Adventure"

- *Among those who felt the ministry is not more difficult than before:*

"Ready"
"Busy"
"Contemplative"
"Busy"
"Changing"
"Complex"
"Great!!!"
"Hilarious"
"I'm free cause I can't"
"Desperate"
"Endeavoring"

"Busy"
"Growing/Deepening/Widening"
"Unpredictable"
"Contentment"
"Joy & Wonder & Awe (can't do just one Sorry)"
"Wonder"
"Adventure"

- *For the one respondent who did not know if the ministry is more difficult:*

"Frail"
