



Taking the lessons of the Holocaust and breaking the Silence of Fear, Pain, and Shame caused by Prejudice and Indifference

Getting Organized

April 19th, 2015 (Yom HaShoah 5775)

EVENT ORGANIZATION

Setting the Date

The date should be tied directly to Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) if possible. If not, we do request that we stay within the same general time frame.

Planning A Route

This is determined by the event organizer. When choosing a route, several things should be considered.

- Is there a Holocaust Memorial in your city?
- Is there a seat of Government or Public Square in your city?

Generally, it is a good idea to look for a parade/march route between the two. However, ask God – He's been thinking about this a long time, and probably has some great suggestions! Remember to keep Him in this!

Applying for Permits - REQUIREMENT

I found that a goggle search engine is the most helpful if you are not sure how to get started. Goggle your town name and "demonstration permit" or "event permit" or "public demonstration". This usually will get you to a part of your cities website that is all about holding a protest, demonstration or event. Please note that permits are usually required, but the process is somewhat smooth as long as you leave enough time for the application to go through.

Also, make sure you ask if other agencies require a permit. You may need permits from the police, park service or security services.

The application will ask you questions similar to the following:

1. Number of people attending (better to over-estimate to avoid hassles later)
2. Stage/Sound - what stage or sound will you have (remember that power can be an important question to them). Note that there may be restrictions on stage size, height, banners/signs, direction of speakers.
3. Marshals/Organizers - Typically, you will want marshals or volunteer organizers to be identified... we used "optic orange" hats to make it clear who a marshal was.
4. Event Organizer - You will need to identify an event organizer, who the Police, or security force can interact with.
5. End-To-End Timeframe - You will need to think about how long it will take for people to setup stage or sound and time for breakdown and removal of trash. I found that the application process actually helped me organize my own thoughts about the event. Take it seriously.

Tentative Schedule

This turned out to be a very helpful step. The entire idea went from a dream to a reality in a matter of an hour as I pulled together a potential schedule/timeline for the event. Don't get too hung up on the exact nature of the schedule, because I assure you of two important facts. First, the plan will change repeatedly from inception to actualization, and perhaps more importantly, the schedule will be transformed completely on the day of the event. Remember Proverbs 16:9 "In a man's heart he plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps". This is a blessed promise, because as you will see, the LORD has much bigger plans for this day than you can imagine. Plan to your hearts content, but make room for HIM to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we could ever hope for or imagine. Your job is to build the stage, his job is to give it life.

Guests and Speakers

Holocaust Survivors & Family

Contacting of Holocaust Survivors and or families to share at a March of Remembrance event should be done as early as possible in the preparation. Many will already have standing engagements or be involved in their local Synagogue. You can also contact the local synagogue to ask if the Rabbi or any of their congregants would be willing to share. Taking part in their remembrance is also an appropriate direction to take, only insure that you have coordinated this with them before attending.

Gate Keepers

Every society has gatekeepers who are responsible for keeping our communities safe and secure. These are pastors, rabbis, government officials, judges, district attorney, police and other enforcement agencies and many others. Their inclusion and recognition at these events not only lends credence to the cause, but also reminds them that they bear a great responsibility to insure that these types of horrific events never occur again.

Discretion should be used to insure that the event does not become politicized, and you may or may not want them to speak. However, invitations, special recognition and or seating for these men and women should be made.

Publicity

- Local Newspapers
- Christian Radio – Public service Announcements
- Public Radio – Public service Announcements
- Posters – Church Bulletin Boards, Local Businesses & Public Bulletin Boards (Court House, Post Office etc...)
- Churches – Weekly Bulletin and Announcements
- Flyers – Local businesses, churches or newspapers
- Facebook
- Website
- T-Shirts

Funding Ideas

- T-Shirts provided in bulk and sold to support local MoR events.
- Church or Local Business donations

Preparation – Reminders

- Pictures & Video of March and Event
- Stage & Sound
- Venue for Ancillary Event
- Fund Raising
- Tee Shirts
- Banner / Posters
- Speakers / Presenters
- Musicians
- Coordination with a Charity(s)
- Publicizing Your Event

Mobilizing

Designated Job Descriptions / Responsibilities

Transportation Planning and Organization

Event Speakers / Presenters Accommodations (Food/Lodging)

Photographer