**3 “I’s” of the Bus Ministry**

The bus ministry takes a lot of different little things coming together to make everything happen. I want to share with you three important ingredients for a successful bus ministry, or three things that will help us accomplish our purpose - making an eternal difference in the lives of kids.

**1. Interaction**

- Believe it or not, kids don’t wake up early on Sunday morning because they love sitting on a bus for an hour and a half before arriving to church. They get on the bus because they believe that somebody cares about them…

• Involves integrating our self into where the kids are and what the kids are doing.

• Involves moving around on the bus.

- No worker (driver, ex.) can be fully effective staying in one seat from start to finish.

• Involves talking to the kids instead of the other workers.

- We always say our main focus is to be on the kids, but one of the things I’ve seen as a struggle on any route is that we so easily get focused on visiting with each other…

• Involves talking in some fashion to every child every week.

- greeting as they get on bus… personal

- if there are 6 workers on the bus, every kids should have had interaction with at least six different people on the bus that day.

- Sometimes very little, if any

- many of these kids are starving for affection.

**2. Initiative**

• Involves seeing the need and meeting it without being told.

- moving kids up, etc…. someone in back during bumps… moving them up w/o being asked…

- A bus route should run like a well oiled machine when everyone knows what needs done and shares the same vision for the route.

• Involves keeping the kids seated a priority.

- kids staying seated has to be a priority to all

Illus. - Struggle of only one person making it a priority…

- Other than how the buses drive on the road, kids staying seated is the most important visual testimony we have.

- The best ways to consistently keep kids seated is to always keep them up front and always have workers spread out on bus.

• Involves always looking at the big picture.

- What can I do to make my route better?

- What can be done to increase our effectiveness… testimony… attendance?

**3. Influence**

• Involves having regular conversations with your riders.

- Name one child that you had a ***conversation*** with… last week, month.

- Bus workers have the most opportunity for one- on-one interaction/influence of any worker that deals with the kids on a given week.

• Involves knowing the kids better than anyone else.

- We ought to know more of their home life, struggles, schooling, etc than anyone else in the church.

• Involves investment.

- Investment requires the sacrifice of something. (time, convenience, pride)

- Investment = Influence.