**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.