**The Bus Worker’s Responsibilities – What’s My Job?**

Every bus worker has certain basic expectations to meet and responsibilities to carry out that are essential to not only their success as a worker, but the overall success of their route and the bus ministry as a whole.

There are three main areas I’d like to bring to your attention to that are good for us to be reminded of. If we do these three things and do them well, our bus ministry will be what it needs to be.

* **VISITATION (most important as it relates to the *success* of the route)**
  + The bus ministry is built on the visitation efforts of its workers.
  + As we’ve discussed last fall when talking about the difference between building and maintaining, the bus ministry ultimately rises or falls with what we do on Saturdays.
    - A lack of seriousness on Saturday results in a lack of success on Sunday.
    - The greater the investment on Saturday, the greater the return on Sunday.
  + Visitation in the bus ministry is not about us coming and punching in our time card for an hour and then punching out to say we did our ritualistic and religious duty.
  + Visitation on Saturday is kingdom building time.
    - Families have needs that can only be met on Saturdays… (visit by two’s)
    - Parents won’t primarily be reached on Sundays, but on Saturdays. (small chat, invitation, sharing the gospel)
    - Saturday visitation is soul-winning time. Families are counting on us and they don’t even know it. And sadly, many times we don’t even care.

While the first responsibility has to do with Saturday, the second two primarily deal with Sunday.

* **SUPERVISION (most important as it relates to the *safety*  of the route)**
  + Every bus worker must take their responsibility to supervise the kids very seriously.
    - It is the reason we are on the bus as a worker.
    - It is what parents are trusting us to do in their absence.
  + Basics rules of supervision:
    - Keep the kids seated
    - Spread out evenly throughout the bus
      1. No two workers in the same seat…
      2. Gap Theory – Workers all in front and back but none in the middle where all the kids are.
    - Oversee the general activity on the bus.
      1. When we have 5-7 workers on a bus, it ought to be a rare occasion that we are caught off guard by something that happens that no one was aware of. (someone gets hurt, inappropriate conversation)
    - Inform the bus captain immediately of any concerns.
* **INTERACTION (most important as it relates to the *spiritual influence* of the route)**
  + The quote, “God didn’t save us to sit, God saved us to serve” is also true of the bus ministry.
  + “God didn’t just call us to sit on the bus, God called us to serve on the bus.” Not serve by way of visitation… or supervision… but interaction. God has called us to serve our kids!
  + Kids don’t see our service to them by our visits on Saturday… by our telling them to sit down and be quiet on Sunday… but by our personal investment into them on the bus.
  + One of the dangers of being a bus worker is failing to keep the main thing the main thing – the kids! They’re starving for our interaction with them, yet we so often sit in our seats like a bump on a log from start to finish, never once saying anything *meaningful* to them.
  + How to fulfill the need and meet the responsibility of Interaction:
    - Greet every child by name when they get on the bus.
      1. The bus captain or driver ought not be the only person to greet them.
      2. Greet them with excitement… from wherever you are on the bus.
    - Make sure the first and last thing you say to them is positive and upbeat.
      1. Don’t just say “Hi,” or “give me your hand so I can mark it.” We don’t want them to view us as factory workers and they are just one more number on the assembly line.
      2. Praise them, compliment them, encourage them…
    - Move out of your seat and into theirs.
      1. No bus worker has an assigned seat… Don’t have *sticky buns* when you get on the bus in the morning.
      2. It doesn’t matter if you are the runner, watcher, secretary… your job can be done from anywhere on that bus.
      3. Even if you spend one solid minute (60 seconds) with a child it can mean the world to them and make their day.
    - Talk to them… Start a conversation.
      1. Most kids love to talk and even those that don’t still love to be spoken to.
      2. Ask yourself, “how much meaningful conversation have I had with a bus kid in the last month?”
         1. For some… it would be none. There is absolutely no interaction
         2. For others… little/not enough.
         3. For all… could/should be more.
      3. We’re not on the bus every week just to add an extra 100 people to the FBC attendance roll, we are here to change lives!
         1. Illus. – When I invest a good sum of money into something, I want to make sure I’m getting the most that my money will buy… each of us are investing 3-5 hours of our life every week into the bus ministry, yet we’re not making the most of our investment for eternity.
    - Make them feel special.
      1. I want kids to feel like a million bucks when they get off the bus on Sunday.
         1. “You’re a really good kid.” “You’re awesome… I’m so proud of you.”
         2. “Can’t wait to see you next week… I’m going to pray for you.”

Million Bucks handout

Benefits of Interaction:

Fun for Kids… enjoy the bus ride more…

Build Relationships… lasting lifelong friendships…

Share Christ’s Love… fulfilling Christ’s command…

We’re not on the bus for us!

Our responsibilities are threefold… which one(s) are we doing well at. Which ones need improvement?

The bus ministry is too important for us to give less than our best. Eternity in Heaven is too long for us to invest too little on earth.