

# Chapter 4

## The Order of Service

The first thing that I do when deciding what the order of service will be is to make a list of the things that I want to do and the things that I want to accomplish. Of course, this would be true in preparing any order of service for any event. Once the goals are determined and the things that I want to do are listed, I put them in an order. For example, my list of things to do and things that I want to accomplish may look like this:

### Things to Do

1. Singing
2. Announcements
3. Greeting
4. Preaching
5. Skits
6. Testimonies

### Goals

1. Love Jesus
2. Reaching parents
3. Reaching children
4. Hating sin
5. Having fun

The next thing that I do is put the "Things to Do" list in order and choose my goals for the week. For example, my list may be arranged something like this:

## *Jump Starting Your Bus Ministry*

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Greeting      | 4. Skits       |
| 2. Singing       | 5. Testimonies |
| 3. Announcements | 6. Preaching   |

My goals in the bus meeting may range from getting folks to fall in love with Jesus to developing a bitter hatred for the sin that will destroy our youth. In the bus meeting I want every need that my workers may have to be met. So I consider several things as I decide what my goals will be.

- A. **Weather:** In our area, ice and zero degree weather can hinder our bus routes and I may need to motivate my workers to overcome this obstacle. Most all weather conditions will affect the bus route in some way by affecting your workers. Good weather can cause your workers to want to picnic or shop at garage sales and waste valuable time. So the weather is always a factor in deciding what my goals will be for the week.
- B. **Sickness:** Helping my workers forget their own infirmities is sometimes my goal. When people feel badly they do not produce as well, so I may help them in that area. And I always make it my goal to praise any worker who goes out bus calling in spite of his infirmity. I had a lady bus worker once who had lung cancer and was dying. She told me that she was going to visit her bus route faithfully. She felt that if she could make herself valuable enough to the Lord, He just may let her stay around awhile. That was nine years ago and she is still going for Jesus today.
- C. **Laughter:** The Bible says that, "*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:*" (Proverbs 17:22) Sometimes I feel

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as though my workers need to laugh so I plan a bus meeting that will be filled with laughter. If you think about all of the things that a normal person has to go through in life, then it is easy to see that he needs to laugh sometimes. Laughter can lift the spirits and brighten the countenance of your workers.

I have found that bus workers must be cared for spiritually and emotionally if they are going to perform at their peak potential. The wrong goal at the wrong time could be counterproductive and could hurt a good worker. It is important to pray about your goals and let the Holy Spirit lead you as you set the goal for each week.

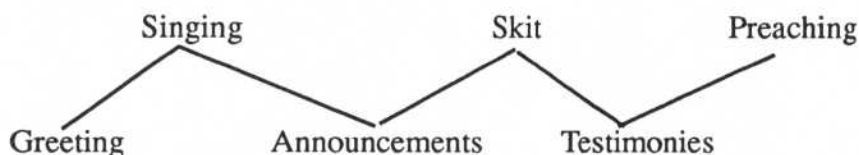
Another thing that I consider is the mood of the bus meeting. I want to do everything that I can and use every tool at my disposal to accomplish this. Some of the tools that I would consider are:

- ◆ Pace        -        fast or slow
- ◆ Volume    -        loud or soft
- ◆ Emotion   -        funny or serious

You could make a chart that would help you make these decisions as to how to set up your order of service. It is always important to break up your service so that it will not be bland. They say that the attention span of an adult is only seven minutes, so I had better do something to break up the service a bit if I am going to keep their attention.

Here is a chart that will illustrate how I would break up my service in the bus meeting:

## *Jump Starting Your Bus Ministry*



The service will start out pleasantly as I greet the bus workers and have a word of prayer with them. I may say something humorous or I may be sincere. The next thing on my list is singing. I want to get the workers going so I start off with a really fast-paced song. I want to get them excited! I want to push all of the cares of this world into the back of their minds. I want the meeting to be a feast. I really try to get them going during the singing and I may sing three or four bus songs with them until I feel they are getting with the program. Next, I will make any announcements that need to be made or give special instructions, if there are any. From there I may have a little skit. I always do skits about the bus routes. Something that they have experienced always gets them laughing. Then I bring them back down to a serious plane by having a testimony time. I want to start focusing their minds on those families out there that need them. Then I end the service with preaching. I always try to encourage and motivate the bus workers. Everything that is done in the bus meeting is done on purpose and is designed to help me reach my goals for that week.

I think you get the picture. The bus meeting must be planned. You must give time to the planning stage. Success doesn't just happen. It takes time to plan your bus meeting. When your workers see how important it is to you, it will start to mean something to them.