



Kids Learn at Different Times

Jul/Aug/Sep 2009

You NEVER know when kids are going to grasp the message you are trying to present. Truly – never. You have those that seem like they are hanging on your every word and are so good in class and seem to know all the right answers. You think you are hitting a home run with them every week. But you don't know that they are actually grasping the point and that it is making a difference in their behavior and in their lives. Conversely, there are the kids that seem to take all your energy, ignore all your best object lessons and visual hoop-de-dos, and you are pretty sure their parents wonder if you ever teach anything

during your service worthwhile. But, in reality, you never know what is happening in their heart. You don't know how they are soaking in the information or how they process the stuff that is being said while they are busily bugging the child next to them. Surprising things happen at the strangest of times.

The age old phrase "You can't judge a book by its cover" applies here. You cannot know what is happening on the inside of someone by how they appear on the outside. (I Samuel 16:7 reminds us of that fact.) This is true of all people, children included. After 25 years of ministry work, I have stories I can share! But

I'm sure you have a host of stories as well. Good stories, funny stories, and sad ones. Stories from parents about how a profound truth came out of their child's mouth at just the right time. And how surprising at whom the story was about.

How then should we let this truth affect our lesson planning? The answer: GREATLY.

One thing I have witnessed recently is a move to make the lessons more "hyper" (if I can use that word). There needs to be a strong energy for today's kids, definitely. But I think we should be careful to not over-hyper our

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How to Get a Great Idea!

Why are some churches so iniventive? Why do some ministries grow and flourish and others just hang on to life? How do some Children's Churches just keep doing new things? What causes some Bus Ministries to

always seem to be doing a unheard of promotion - and most of them work? The answer of course is IDEAS. Ideas are the beginning of everything new and different. They come in all sizes from small to huge, but they make

things exciting and extraordinary.

Here are some thoughts from veteran Bus Minister Dave Smith on how you can get a great idea.

Capture the Fleeting

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2010 National BTI Conference Dates Set

We are excited about our 2010 National Bring Them In Children's Ministry Conference. The conference will be celebrating our 35th year of ministry. The dates and location will be:

August 9—12, 2010
LifeWay's Ridgecrest
Conference Center
Ridgecrest, NC

While our regional conferences are excellent, this special conference will be a "super training event." The conference will have several tracks covering almost every area of children's ministry, including traditional ministries like Sunday school, children's church and bus ministry and creative ministries like Christian clowning, Gospel magic, and juggling (just to name a few). We will also have some great Christian performers and evangelists that you will enjoy and learn from. Everything will be designed for those who serve in the children's ministry of the local church.

We are still working on the cost of the conference but we do know that it will be as cost effective as we can make it and it will be all inclusive—the price will include your accommodations, your meals and the entire conference. It will be a great time to get away for a few days and enjoy the benefits of an exceptional training event—the sort of event you will want to attend along with all those in your church who work in your children's ministry.

We hope you will mark the dates and start planning now to join us for this unique opportunity for improving your ministry to boys and girls. We hope to have all the details ready for you by the end of the year.

Providing the best training possible has been the passion and goal of the Bring Them In Ministry for over three decades. We are elated that

this new conference will continue to do just that as we commemorate 35 years of ministry of helping churches reach children for Christ.

How to Get a Great Idea!

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As an idea comes into your mind, you must be ready to capture it.

Whatever you are doing, lay it aside and give your attention to the idea that comes into your mind.

You should have a note card or pad of paper near you at all times so you can jot some notes on the thoughts that come to your mind.

When a good idea comes, jot it down.

Not every idea will have value, of course.

The point is to capture first and evaluate later.

Daydream

Get away from the distractions of life and allow your mind to drift uncluttered.

Anywhere you can be with your thoughts undisturbed, you'll find that ideas bubble to the surface almost unbidden.

Seek Challenges

Get around a new diverse set of people and listen to them.

Something said might get

you thinking in new ways.

These do not have to be people knowledgeable in your area.

Read publications and books and these may deposit ideas in your mind.

Go to conferences and read any literature that may trigger thoughts to set you in motion.

Expand Your World

Read, study and observe different fields of study.

To enhance your creativity, learn something new.

Read a book on something you know little about.

Change your daily newspaper.

The new will interconnect with the old in novel and potentially fascinating ways.

Being creative is really just a matter of paying attention to that endless flow of ideas you generate, and learning to capture and act upon the new that's within you.

Taken from The Soul Winning Bus Ministry by Dave Smith, Associate Pastor - Bus Director, Trinity Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL. You can order this book from BTI.



Kids Learn at Different Times

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entire class squeezing out the quiet moments. If we do, we might lose those kids that respond to the quiet moments. I have a concern that there is an entire demographic of children that are being forgotten about because they are quieter. It is nothing more than the pendulum swinging too far in one direction. Classrooms used to be set up so that every child was expected to be absolutely silent the entire time and that was unrealistic, but going the extreme opposite is not the solution. Balance is always the solution.

Variety is really the best answer to a great kids' service. You know, like a buffet – a little of this and a little of that. You've got a great lesson, fun music, an object lesson that packs a punch, jokes, funny skit, interactive game, etc. And you also include, strong teaching moments where the

truth rings out, prayer time when the kids pray or get prayed for, and times where a worker can look a kid in the eye and ask them how they're doing and wait for the answer.

Ahhhh ... children's ministry. It makes me smile. It warms my heart.

Patricia Meyers
(better known as Miss Pat) is the founder of Children's Church Stuff. She has been a Children's Minister for over 20 years and has a passion to see kids living their lives for Jesus. Miss Pat is an author and popular speaker at Children's Ministry conferences and seminars. She and her family live in Collinsville, IN. Get more information about Pat and her ministry at www.ChildrensChurchStuff.com



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that dramatically increases with the number of people in the van – the more passengers, the more susceptible a van is to rollover. Also, a van design does not allow them to endure a side-impact crash.

These findings put churches with vans in an uneasy position. Churches do not wish to operate vehicles that might be unsafe but they have large sums of money in vans and, for many, parking their vans would mean no more bus ministry.

Ford Motor Co., who makes the popular Econoline 15-passenger van, maintains the vehicles are "very safe." But Ford also agrees that only trained drivers should operate the van and that all passengers should wear seat belts.

If your church has 15-passenger vans that you use to transport people, it would be a good idea to check with your insurance company for any guidelines they might have concerning driving vans. You will want to follow those guidelines to be sure your coverage is intact in case of an accident.

Also, if you need a smaller vehicle for church use, consider a 15-passenger bus rather than a 15-passenger van. The bus is much safer and usually does not require a CDL (check with your state's DOT to be certain).

The key is not to panic but to use caution and common sense with your church vans: train your drivers to make sure they understand the unique driving characteristics of vans, do not overload the van, enforce seatbelt usage, have good tires, do not pull trailers, keep the speed of the van below 60 miles per hour and perform regular maintenance on the van. Then, when it's time to replace your vans, decide if you want to get 15-passenger buses.



Think You Couldn't Host a BTI Event?

A New Bring Them In Children's Ministry Conference

KEEP THEM GROWING!

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52



We are working on the 2010 conference and seminar schedule and we are looking for host churches.

We are looking for churches that have a heart for children, that want to get quality training for their Children's Ministry leaders, and want to help other churches in their area reach kids for Christ as well. Oh, did we mention *it is a very low cost way to train and motivate your workers?* That's right. We have designed BTI Training Events to be very inexpensive to any church willing to host one.

One of the most-asked questions is what is the difference between a conference and a seminar? A conference

is an all day Saturday event involving multiple speakers and several rooms in the church. A seminar is led by Dr. Larry Hipps, is three hours long and usually only involves one room.

We have conferences in all size churches in all sorts of locations, so don't let those things stop you from contacting us. We'll work with you to make a conference happen in your church.

You can get complete information three ways: check out the "Host a Bring Them In Event" link under the BTI Training Events tab on the menu bar on the home page of our web site, call us at 281-922-6743, or email us at: bring-themin@bringthemin.com

Ban the Van?

In the early days of the bus ministry there was a cry you read in most bus ministry books and heard at most conferences; it was, "BAN THE VAN!" The thinking was that since a van and bus were often the same price (a bus cost less at that time) and since a van could only hold 15 people and a bus can hold 70+, it was just most expedi-

ent to use a bus instead of a van. Since then, however, licensing laws and DOT regulations have required many churches to use their vans instead of buses.

But that may be changing soon.

Many insurance companies have declared 15-passenger vans as

"inherently unsafe," and some carriers have stopped writing new policies for the large vans. Some insurers have also started requiring drivers to have a commercial driver's license (CDL), a chauffeur's license or pass a defensive driver's course.

According to the National Highway Safety Administration, government research has determined that 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk

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