

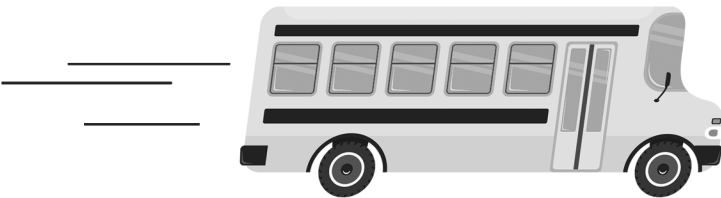
**KEEP**  
*the*  
**BUSES**  
**ROLLING**



# KEEP ROLLING

*the*  
**BUSES**

LUKE FLOOD



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3530 De La Cruz Boulevard  
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408.988.8881  
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Editing Team  
René Flood, Nicole Flood, Lauren Morris, and  
Hannah Joy Reimers  
Cover Design by Hannah Grace Johnson  
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## ***DEDICATION***

*Keep the Buses Rolling* is dedicated to the great members of the North Valley Baptist Church who have sacrificially given their time, money, and prayers to see countless people reached for the cause of Christ.

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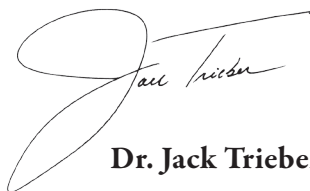
## ***FOREWORD***

From the very beginning of my ministry here at North Valley Baptist Church, I have supported, promoted, and been involved in the bus ministry. I believe it is a vital part of our local church. Many have said that it is no longer relevant or effective, but I wholeheartedly disagree. Our bus ministry is being used to see souls saved, baptized, added to the church, and brought to the house of God on a weekly basis. As a result, scores of men and women who were reached through our buses are now faithful laymen, staff members, and preachers of the gospel; so many are scattered around the globe serving God with their lives. Was it worth it? Yes, it was!

Because I believe so strongly in the bus ministry, I am excited to introduce this book, *Keep the Buses Rolling* by Luke Flood. Having grown up at North Valley, Bro. Flood has been involved in our bus ministry since he was a young boy. He is a tremendous Christian and one of the finest young men I have ever met. He has served as a bus worker, bus captain, bus driver, and now serves on staff as the bus director. He has captured my vision and compiled this practical book for every church member to read. His insight will help both new and seasoned bus workers take



their ministries to new heights. Ultimately, it is my prayer that you will be helped, challenged, and encouraged as you read these pages. May you seek to keep this essential ministry alive in your church!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack Trieber". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dr. Jack Trieber**  
Pastor, North Valley Baptist Church



# INTRODUCTION



## THE BUS MINISTRY STILL WORKS

*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

*-Acts 1:8*

Christ’s last command to His disciples before His ascension was to reach the world and be witnesses of Him. However, Christ did not tell them to start at the uttermost part of the earth. He did not even tell them to start in Samaria or in Judaea. Christ instructed his disciples to start where they were and give the gospel to the people in Jerusalem.

## *KEEP THE BUSES ROLLING*

People across the world are dying and going to hell having never heard a clear presentation of the gospel, but how sad it would be if there were people living in your city, under the shadow of your church, who died without ever hearing the gospel or even receiving an invitation to church. The bus ministry can reach those people!

Today, the bus ministry is the greatest tool available to our local church in reaching people in our area for Christ. Some say that the bus ministry is a thing of the past and is no longer relevant in our independent churches. NO! The bus ministry still works! Over the past 41 years, North Valley Baptist Church has been able to bring over 1.3 million riders to the house of God via the buses. That is 1.3 million people who may not have ever heard the gospel otherwise.

If you do not have a bus ministry, start one. If your bus ministry is dying, revive it. The people in our cities cannot afford for us to be lethargic in our outreach! I remind myself of this fact every day in order to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to reach lost people. I realize that there is nothing new under the sun; however, I hope this book will help to prove that the bus ministry is still relevant and still necessary. I also hope that it is a help and an encouragement to us to make sure we are doing

everything we can to reach our respective areas with the gospel. The bus ministry still works!



# CHAPTER 1



## THE PURPOSE OF THE BUS MINISTRY

The purpose of the bus ministry is threefold. Its primary objective is to evangelize the area surrounding the local church in order to see people come to know Christ as their Savior through the power of the gospel. The second purpose of the bus ministry is to glorify God through worship and obedience to the great commission. Lastly, the bus ministry exists to teach and train others—both bus riders and workers—to do likewise, reaching even more people for Christ.

### **1. EVANGELIZE THE AREA**

The bus ministry is a powerful tool through which the local church can fulfill its purpose to reach lost people

## *KEEP THE BUSES ROLLING*

in its area. In Acts 1:8, we find Christ's command to His disciples to reach the world; but the first step He gave in fulfilling that command was to "be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem..." Starting in your own city, reach people! To effectively reach an area, the bus ministry must focus on souls, value baptisms, make an impact on its riders, fulfill the purpose of its church, and organize its workers.

Focusing on the souls of men is the main reason that a church should have a bus ministry. The eternal destiny of lost people is too important a matter not to invest in one; it would be irresponsible to have such a great tool at our disposal and not use it. Some people criticize the bus ministry because it is generally geared towards children. Don't let this idea keep you from creating or growing your own bus ministry! If the bus ministry exists to reach as many people as possible with the gospel, and if children in your area are more likely to ride a bus to church than adults, then why should we not gear this ministry towards children? While we certainly should not be so solely focused on children that we exclude or ignore potential adult riders, neither should we try so hard to attract adult riders that we pass up opportunities to reach more children—more souls—for Christ. Our job is to present the gospel to as many people as we can. I can only imagine the thousands of people that will one day be in heaven as a result of the bus ministry!



After salvation, riders must be taught the principle and command of baptism. Christ told His disciples, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19). The Bible specifically explains that baptism is a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for sin. In many ministries, however, people get saved but are never baptized. This step of the Great Commission is often overlooked once a rider has accepted Christ; we workers, captains, drivers, and bus directors all need to be reminded that baptism is a command. It is vital that the bus captain, a bus worker, or a Sunday school teacher follow up with each rider who gets saved at church. Let’s not neglect to teach our riders the next step of obedience so they can grow as Christians!

The bus ministry makes an impact. People will notice a church bus. It is not a normal occurrence to drive down the road or look out the window on a Sunday morning and see a bus filled from front to back with children, teenagers, and adults on their way to church! On the streets that the church bus picks up riders, the people behind the doors will begin to notice and recognize it. When out door knocking, I often use one of my favorite phrases in order to transition into talking about the bus: “Have you ever seen a big white bus with a blue stripe in your neighborhood?” A majority of the time, they say, “Yes!” Our white and