

The Love of a Bus Rider

Love is such a powerful emotion, and it drives those who are filled with it to do amazing things.

Bill Wilson, writing in *Charisma* magazine, tells about a woman joining the Sunday school ministry in his church in the part of New York City that has been rated as the “most likely place to get killed.”

“One Puerto Rican lady, after getting saved in church, came to me with an urgent request,” he said. “She didn’t speak a word of English, so she told me through an interpreter, ‘I want to do something for God, please.’”

“I don’t know what you can do,” Wilson answered her. “Please, let me do something,” she said in Spanish.

“Okay. I’ll put you on a bus. Ride a different bus every week and just love the kids,” he advised her.

“So every week she rode a different bus – we have 50 of them – and loved the children. She would find the worst-looking kid on the bus, put him on her lap, and whisper over and over the only words she had learned in English: ‘I love you. Jesus loves you,’” Wilson said.

After several months, the woman became attached to one little boy in particular. “I don’t want to change buses anymore. I want to stay on this one bus,” she told Wilson.

The boy didn’t speak. He came to Sunday school and all the way home he heard, “I love you and Jesus loves you.”

One day, to her amazement, the little boy turned around and stammered, “I – I love you, too.” Then he put his arms around her and gave her a big hug.

That was 2:30 on a Saturday afternoon. At 6:30 that night, Wilson said, the boy was found dead in a garbage bag under a fire escape. “His mother had beaten him to death and thrown his body in the trash.”

“I love you and Jesus loves you.” Those words, Wilson added, “were some of the last words he heard in his short life – from the lips of a Puerto Rican woman who could barely speak English.

What qualifications are required to positively impact the life of another human being? A heart filled with love and actions that demonstrate it are among the prerequisites.

– Beecher Hunter