

"Passion Wagon" by Travis Gale

What makes us passionate?

As I was thinking about this, I was reminded of a bus trip I once took in Malawi. The trip was 80km over a mountain pass and upon arrival at the 'bus station' we were greeted with an empty bus. We loaded our equipment on the roof racks and headed straight to the back seat. All was good until about 10 minutes before departure when half of Malawi came out of the bushes heading in the same direction!



Soon, the bus was loaded with about 1000kg's more than it should have had, and about double the amount of people it could actually carry. That excluded the livestock! I was in my element! This was my first African bus journey and it was sure to be a unique experience.

We headed off. I was fine until I noticed the road we were meant to drive on out the window to my right. Why weren't we on it?! Turns out the road was so bad that the traffic decided to drive through the bushes. Bumpy is probably not the right word, you would be better off riding in a tumble dryer! My passion for this new experience turned to frustration and simply got worse.

The bumpy road eventually settled and I started to enjoy myself again. The scenery was awesome. Outside to the left the African bushveld was spectacular, peaceful and surreal – I really was blessed to be right where I was at that moment.

We began our ascent up the pass. The left hand side dropped off steeply as we climbed higher and higher. Hundreds of meters below off a steep cliff face lay the African savannah. I noticed the bus starting to take strain, the driver aptly compensating by shifting down to 4th. Soon he was in 3rd begging the bus to press on under the weight. 2nd came next and before we knew it the clutch was suppressed and 1st gear was being engaged. As he released the clutch, the bus stalled! What followed were numerous attempts to get the bus moving, yet each time we moved backwards! We were stalled on a corner which meant that each time we rolled we would move closer to the cliff edge! Given we were at the back, we thought we had front row seats to our very own ending. It was hectic, mild panic became major panic. The emergency glass was not an option, the door was simply non accessible – yet everyone around me seemed fine?!

The 4th attempt proved successful. We jolted away back up the hill. It took me a half hour or so to recover! We finished our journey of 80km's in just over 8 hours!

The crux? Passion is directly linked to perspective. Think about it. The perspective I had of the bus journey when I got on was positive and passion was a given! Enter bumpy roads – negative perspective and passion dies. Then beautiful scenery, positive perspective and passion burns again. Lastly the cliff, I am panicking yet those around me are fine!

Too many managers spend time telling their staff to get passionate – yet, in actual fact they need to work on the way their staff see things. If you feel a lack of passion, check the way you are looking at things. Shift perspective – Shift passion!

What is your perspective of your surroundings and all you are involved in? How passionate are you? **Make the shift!**