



▷ “Colorful Flowers” by Lavina, St. Mary’s School, Yap.

# BILLY THE BUS DRIVER

## A Parable on School Improvement

By Judah C. Johnny

**T**here was a man named Billy. Billy was just an ordinary simple man. The best he could do in life was to be a bus driver. At one stop point on his bus route, Billy would wait for passengers for at least seven minutes. Each day at this stop



▷ Judah C. Johnny

point, he saw empty soda and beer cans and bottles, plastic bags, and other trash that riddled the area. So, for at least seven minutes every day of every week, Billy’s eyes suffered from the filthy scene, and his nose from the rotting trash. Billy’s life was in misery each time that he sat there awaiting passengers. He wished that somehow, something would happen to rid the area of filth.

One day, Billy said to himself, “Why don’t I pick up a couple of these empty cans and bottles?” Billy got off his bus, and during his seven minutes wait time, he picked up a few cans and bottles. He

went home and threw them away at the public dump.

When Billy came to the bus stop the next day, he saw that the cans and bottles he had taken were no longer there. Billy saw that it was good. So, during his seven minutes wait, he gathered a few more empty cans and bottles. The next day he gathered more, and the next, and the next, and the next. By the end of the week, he saw no more empty cans and bottles.

Billy then said to himself, “Why don’t I bring a trash bag on Monday and gather more empty cans, bottles, and other trash?” Billy did. He did this every day, seven minutes a day, for the whole winter. By the end of the winter, Billy had picked up the last piece of trash. Billy was happy.

Spring came and Billy said to himself, “Why don’t I bring some flower seeds?” Billy began to bring seeds. During the seven minute wait each day during the spring, Billy scattered flower seeds at the bus stop.

It was finally summer time. Billy began to notice something strange. He noticed that his income from bus fees

was growing quickly. Billy had never earned such a daily income! He began to wonder why.

Billy was amazed to find that there were more and more passengers riding his bus. He found that these passengers were families, youth groups, church groups, government groups, tourists, all kinds of people. These people were riding to the bus stop to have retreats, picnics, and sightsee. Why? Billy realized that he had turned this unofficial dump into a meadow – a beautiful flower garden – an official public park.

Billy was only a bus driver. But the wisdom he had was sufficient for him to solve this environmental problem. He figured out that if someone removed the cans the environmental problem would also be removed.

Billy took the first can and he took the last can. He planted the first seed, and he planted the last seed. He converted the dump into a meadow in only seven minutes a day.

Not only did Billy’s community benefit from his seven minutes of extra work. He made himself rich driving a bus.

Billy was alone. Can you imagine how much more will be done if you and I and each and every one of us become BILLY?

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