

Johnny Apablaza spends a lot of time on buses.

We first met him at a Raíces youth leaders training conference in Paraguay three years ago; he had taken a bus from his home in Santiago, Chile, to the conference. He was the only person from Chile who attended the conference, and we got to know him because he was also working with our boss, Ric Escobar, on the DAWN project in Chile ([www.DawnMinistries.org](http://www.DawnMinistries.org)) and wanted to include youth ministry training in the project.

True to his word, Johnny returned to Chile and not only developed a team of youth leaders in the church he pastors, but he has also provided training for other leaders in his city and for the network of pastors working with the DAWN project. As one of the people responsible for the northern region of Chile, Johnny spends days on buses traveling around the area that extends more than 1,300 miles north of the capital city where he lives.

Recently we were in Concepción, Chile, and Johnny spent seven hours on a bus each way just to be with us for two days. Over a traditional meal of cheese-filled empanadas and seafood, he explained that his dream of doing more training had been truncated because the youth ministry manuals with the materials from the Raíces conference were almost impossible to obtain because they a) are published in Spain and b) end up costing around \$50 each after transportation costs, import fees, and taxes.

I can't tell you how much fun it was to be able to tell him that in the very near future we will have a solution to his dilemma: we're going totally digital.

It took a while for him to understand what "going digital" means the publishing house in Spain has given us the rights to the content, that we are in the process of re-editing and redesigning the book, adding worksheets, hyperlinks, and other helpful tools, and that when we're done, trainers can receive a digital copy of the manual from which they can make copies, distributing them on CDs, via e-mail, etc. Or if needed, they have the manual printed locally for around \$5.



The implications of this new system for people like Johnny are huge. We told you about the hours and hours he spends on buses so you could get a glimpse of his reality; he doesn't have much in the way of material resources, but he has lots of the most important resources for ministry—experience, sacrificial commitment, and a servant's heart.

We're investing the time and material resources that God has given us to prepare the most useful training tool we can so that Johnny and people like him are no longer limited by the resources they lack and can make the most of the ones they do have...time, a disposition to model and train, and a network of relationships.

*Tim & Annette*