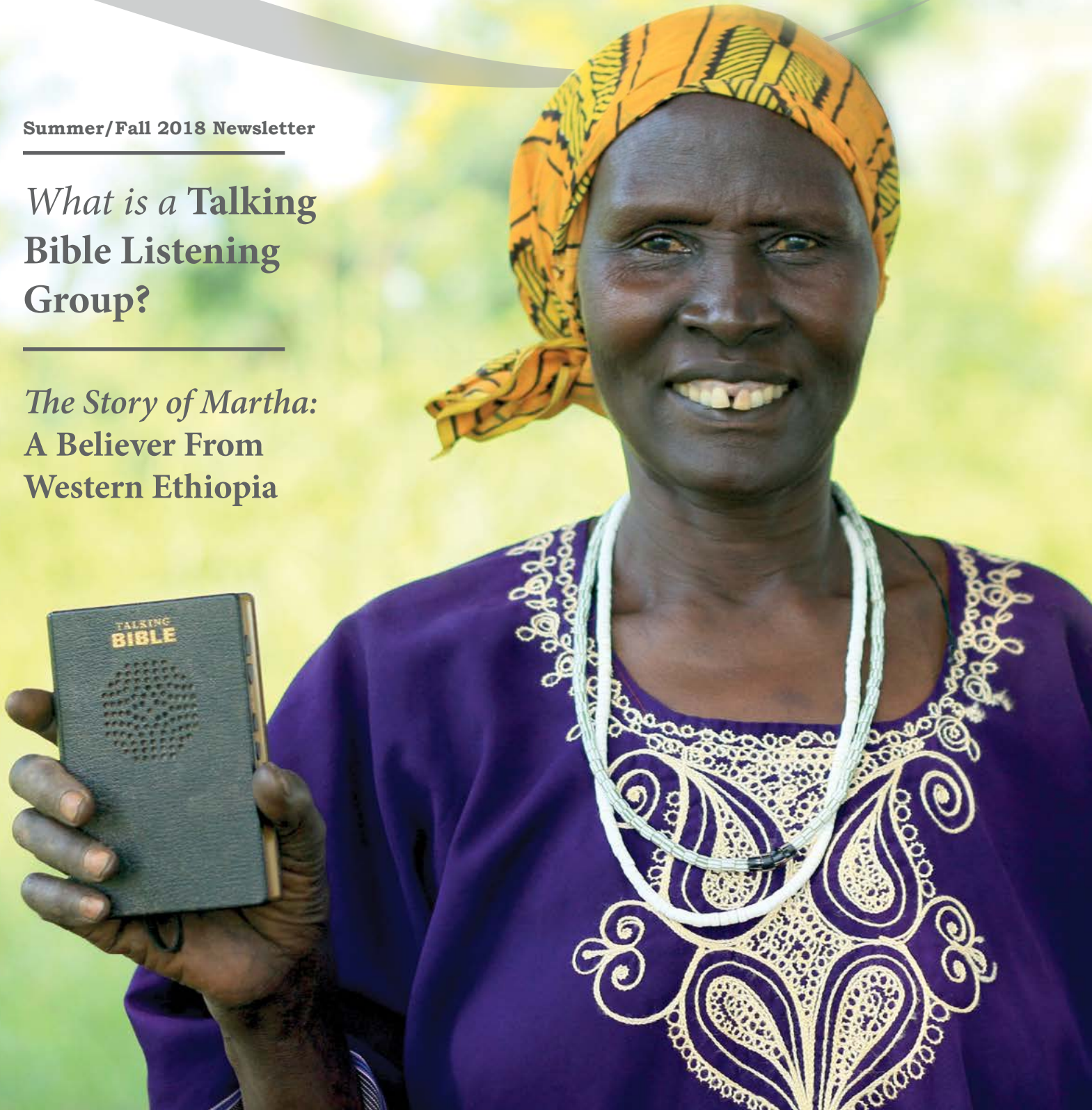


Many Listeners ONE BIBLE

Summer/Fall 2018 Newsletter

*What is a Talking
Bible Listening
Group?*

*The Story of Martha:
A Believer From
Western Ethiopia*



DEAR FRIENDS,

The remarkable transformation of an individual's life in response to what they have heard on the Talking Bible is a miracle!

Many times, the *way* God gets a Talking Bible to that person *is just as spectacular and faith building* as the transformed life resulting from listening to the Bible.

Some of Jesus's followers will walk two days to get a Talking Bible. Some will stay up all night listening because they have not heard it before. Longing to know what the Bible says, believers, young and old alike, will stand in line for hours just to get a Talking Bible.

Pastors and evangelists have been run out of villages while trying to share the Talking Bible with people who have yet to hear the Good News about Jesus. Angry people shout and kick as they drag the pastor out of the village, all because God wanted to speak to someone in that village about His Son.

Just this week, I heard a report of something that happened earlier this year. A pastor was traveling with military escort in a convoy of 200 vehicles. When the convoy stopped to rest near a garrison, the pastor shared his testimony with the captain. The pastor showed him the Talking Bible and began to play it. Soon there was a large crowd of soldiers listening.

Now, months later, there are five Talking Bible listening groups started by that single captain. Each group listens and talks about what they heard and how to live the new truth.

God has called his people to share the Good News with their families and friends. Local pastors, evangelists and new believers all have the energy and desire to reach the unreached. In India, Africa and many other places in the world, they are in reach of the unreached. *The Talking Bible lets them answer the call and use their opportunity.*

Talking Bibles International continues to seek out new believers in communities where people are hearing the Good News about Jesus for the first time. We provide local pastors and willing believers with Talking Bibles that can be used to share the Gospel with people who have yet to follow Jesus.

Your gifts make this possible. Every gift counts. Every gift makes a difference. People will hear because you cared and did something about it.

Thank you,



MARK S. HOEKSTRA
President, Talking Bibles International



AFRICA

Martha is a believer who needs to hear the Word of God.

MARTHA *(photo on cover)* lives in western Ethiopia. Her two children are grown now, and she is a widow. Martha became a believer through one of the Anuak pastors who was discipled by the missionaries. *Even though she has been a Christian for a long time, Martha does not know much about God. This is because she does not know how to read.* In the area where she lives, very few people can read. She only heard the Bible on Sundays at church.


Last year, her church received several Talking Bibles. *Martha has been able to join a women's listening group. She is now able to learn about God.* Her new understanding and growing in her faith are helping her with problems in her life. *Usually, she*

listens with a group of thirty other women.

They also listen during coffee ceremonies, a time each day when they gather and have coffee together. This is a good way to share God's Word with others. Guests often join and they are delighted to hear the Talking Bible. Martha describes it like fishing: they are catching neighbors and friends for Christ using the Talking Bible while having coffee.

Listening to the Talking Bible is a blessing for the women. Some of them do not have husbands. They are

getting comfort, direction, and encouragement. For those with husbands, listening is helping them in their marriage. Meeting together to listen has reduced the amount of fighting among their friends and in their community.

Martha and her church are grateful for the opportunity to hear God's Word. They are listening to books from the Bible they have never heard before. They are learning how God wants them to live. 

TALKING BIBLES LISTENING GROUPS

A listening group can take many forms

- A Christian woman in India playing the Talking Bible in her home and for her neighbors
- A large group in an Ethiopian village listening to the Talking Bible during their coffee time
- A family in Pakistan listening in secret for their safety
- A shop owner playing the Talking Bible all day for her customers
- A fisherman on the Bay of Bengal listening with his coworkers during breaks

We place Talking Bibles with people who agree to play them, not only for themselves, but for family, friends, and neighbors. They may schedule a formal discussion group or listen as they are able in their home and neighborhood. We also give Talking Bibles to churches where there are a few or no readers. The church will organize listening groups and use the Talking Bibles for evangelism.

Often, Talking Bibles are placed in closed areas where it is dangerous to proclaim the Gospel and illegal to convert to Christianity. National pastors and residents have the best chance of reaching into these difficult places with Talking Bibles. Suspicion and distrust of outsiders are prevalent in areas like this, but God's Word can reach through the spiritual darkness and speak to His people.

Sponsoring a Talking Bible Listening Group includes a Talking Bible, shipping, loading the needed language, and training local leadership on the use of Talking Bibles to set up Listening Groups and effective follow-up.

To learn more visit: www.talkingbibles.org

INDIA:

At 18 years old, Jaswinder was ill. He suffered from fevers and often passed out. He sought healing at a temple, but they could not offer hope.

Leaving frustrated and discouraged, he walked out of the temple only to pass out on the side of the road. A passing evangelist cared for him and read Acts 3 where a crippled man was healed at a gate of the temple in Jerusalem.

The evangelist prayed for him, and Jaswinder remembers, *“It was then I accepted Christ because he offered me hope of physical healing and assurance of eternal salvation with him, so I got up and walked.”*

Being a follower of Christ made him an outcast to his family and community. The people in his village in Punjab rejected anyone who converted away from the village’s religion. Sometimes, this rejection becomes violent. This violence forced him to travel to a house church he heard of in a nearby city.

The young man began praying there for his family and his own community.

After 10 years of praying, Pastor Jaswinder’s family began to ask for him to pray for them. As God healed physically, he also healed their relationships. *“Most importantly,”* says Pastor Jaswinder, *“he also saved them, so I was able to*



baptize my parents and my grandparents.”


Now 35 years old, Pastor Jaswinder recalls how God used a village’s rejection to build the small church movement his area is now experiencing.

Pastor Jaswinder explains, *“Most people in my village are trapped in idol worship and demonic possession, but that is beginning to change as the words of God are being heard in the house churches in my area.”*

The Talking Bible he received six months earlier is already transforming his community. As the only literate person among the Christians, there were limits on the number of people who could meet. He says, *“But with the Talking Bible, house churches can gather—even as a family—and listen to God’s word.”*

When people listen to the Talking

Bible as a family, God’s word is accepted as something holy and not as something from outside the community. Pastor Jaswinder says his one Talking Bible is used almost every day either in one of the house churches, for personal listening or for evangelistic listening groups. He says every person who hears the Talking Bible must respond to hearing the words of God.

“Not long ago, we were only 10 Christians in our city, but because of the Talking Bible we are near 20, and we are always being asked to play it in more homes,” says Pastor Jaswinder, adding, *“I have one great desire, and that is to share the gospel with these people trapped in idolatry and demons. This Talking Bible helps me do that.”* 

To order additional copies of this newsletter, please email info@talkingbibles.org or call (760) 745-8105

Talking Bibles International is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization completely dependent on God’s people. Your donation is much appreciated and is tax deductible.



Summer/Fall 2018 Newsletter (Vol. 30 No. 1) is published by Talking Bibles International, 419 East Grand Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025 — (760) 745-8105 or visit our website www.talkingbibles.org