

God's Harvest

Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter

*The Story of Kamtu:
A Farmer from
Rajasthan*

*Persecution in
East Africa*



TALKING
BIBLES

Dear friend of Talking Bibles,

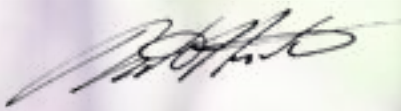
When unbelievers hear the Word of God, they discover a treasure that's been hidden from their eyes. Once they see this newfound treasure, nothing in the world seems to matter anymore. Becoming a follower of Jesus and trusting in Him brings peace that surpasses their hardships and poverty. Can it be that simple? The Bible says it is.

Jesus said the fields are ripe for the harvest. I can tell you after doing this for 30 years the fields are indeed ripe for the harvest. Ripe with low lying fruit on the vine! Just read the story on the back cover: an entire village on a mountain top in Haiti was full of fruit!

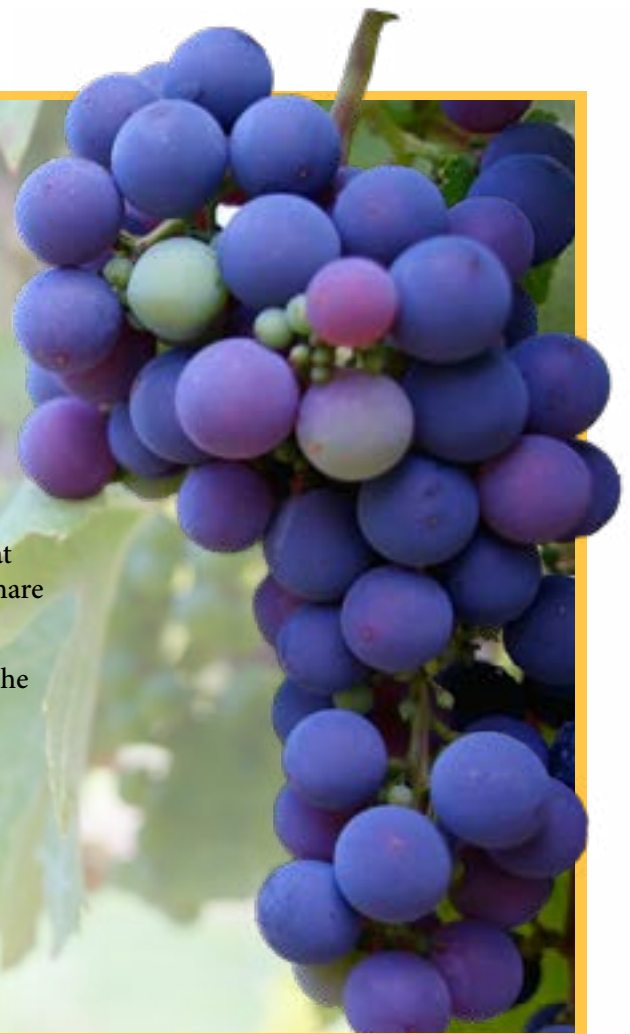
Jesus said the fields are ripe, but the workers are few. Sadly, this is true as well. The fruit hangs low on the vine, but there are few to go harvest it. That is why the Talking Bible is so powerful. It multiplies the opportunities to share the Good News with the people who have yet to hear.

Thank you to everyone who has given a gift so others can hear right from the Bible in their own language. I trust you are being blessed by the stories we share of how "God so loved the world that he sent His son Jesus..."

Because they need to hear,



Mark S. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International



Soweyos




When Soweyos was a child, he lived in Godere, Ethiopia. He learned about the gospel from Harvey Hoekstra, the founder of Talking Bibles, who trained the first Christian leaders in Soweyos' community.

From there, the evangelists spread the gospel to many villages all over the mountains. This message brought peace between the Majangir and Anuak peoples.

Soweyos is now a man. He never learned how to read and very few people in his area have an education. He was recently given a Talking Bible in the Majangir language. But he doesn't keep it to himself. Everyday, Soweyos shares his Talking Bible with up to 50 people during their coffee ceremony.

Because of the Talking Bible, Soweyos' village now has a congregation of believers. Regular access to God's Word on the Talking Bible has helped reach new believers and increased the faith of the non-reading believers like Soweyos.

Listening to God's word brought changes in his life and in the life of his community. *"I have learned not to quarrel with others and not to get drunk or go to other people's wives,"* says Soweyos. *"I learned that Jesus brought the truth and the one that follows Him will have a good life. It's because of the love of Jesus that we can gather together and listen to God's Word."*

The seed was planted early in Soweyos' life and God has produced a great harvest through Soweyos and through the Talking Bible. 

To make a quick and easy donation Text: BIBLES To: 41444

God's Word Producing a Harvest

Five years ago, Kamtu, a farmer and housewife, became very sick. In the rural communities of southern Rajasthan, where Kamtu lives, even ordinary sicknesses can financially ruin a family. Worse yet, Kamtu and her family suspected there were malevolent spirits responsible for her illness.

Not knowing where else to go, her family eventually brought Kamtu to a local Christian church. There Kamtu was healed and delivered from her sickness, and her whole family came to faith.

Kamtu has never attended school, so she cannot read or write. She listened to what her pastors had to say about God and the Bible, but sometimes she would forget.

Despite her miraculous healing, her family never had very strong faith in God.

But that has changed because one year ago Kamtu's pastor gave her a Talking Bible. Now, the whole family listens together daily to the Talking Bible. Kamtu listens whenever she has free time. She is learning more and more about God and His love for her. She is learning how to live the way God wants her to live.

Kamtu particularly likes listening to John's Gospel account and his letter of Revelation. She feels that she has learned a lot from those two books, and the hope of a renewed life after death gives her great hope.

The seed which is God's Word was planted in her life and is producing a harvest in both Kamtu and her family. Praise God! 📖



Persecution in East Africa

Christians are being persecuted in many areas where we place Talking Bibles. Twelve church buildings were burnt to the ground in one sensitive area of East Africa. Many of the churches that were attacked lost Talking Bibles in the building fires, along with everything else. The Talking Bible Coordinator for this area was targeted and run over by a car several months ago. He suffered many injuries, but is now recovering and out of the hospital.

Despite these trials, the people are more on fire for the Lord than before. Since their worship services now meet outside, even more people are attending.

Please pray for the safety of these new Christians and pray that we may be able to get more Talking Bibles to them quickly and safely. 📖

Haiti



Last year 34 organizations took
600 Talking Bibles to Haiti.



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

Pastor Jeff Sanderson witnessed many miracles in his 23 years of ministry. After a cancer diagnosis, he felt an urgency to record many of the things he witnessed firsthand. In his book ONLY GOD, (excerpt below) he shares stories that testify about the overwhelming love, faithfulness and transformational power of God.

Pastor Jeff recently passed away, and we are thankful he shared this amazing testimony about the power of God's Word.

GOD'S WORD ABOVE ALL

The opportunity to travel to the ends of the earth seemed to be mine 17 previous times, along with mission teams from our church but after my journey to ROBIO, I have now found the TOP OF THE WORLD!

For those who have never heard of Robio there's an obvious reason. Robio is a small village on the top of a high mountain in Haiti. It cannot be found listed on any Haitian map, for the country of Haiti does not recognize this village as an official population. Robio has no monetary means for survival. They survive by the rains of heaven and a simple barter system of trading their carrots and avocados for beans and rice. Although the village consists of nearly 600 residents, the Haitian government refuses to provide assistance of any kind. While Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Robio is among the poorest places within this impoverished land.

That is why I was so overwhelmingly amazed by the riches I discovered in Robio. After a four hour trip and a 4,700 foot climb in elevation (2 hours by four wheel drive and 2 hours by DONKEY) we arrived at this most remarkable place! As we gathered with the people, something happened that revealed Robio as the RICHEST VILLAGE IN THE WORLD... After we shared testimonials with each other, through an interpreter, their Pastor explained how the whole village had been listening to the WORD OF GOD, recorded on the Talking Bibles they had received three months earlier, and how the entire village of people had come to believe in Jesus.

When we asked them, "What else can we do for you?" they did not request money, food or housing assistance. What they wanted more than anything else on earth was more Talking Bibles. When we handed them another 20 bibles the people of Robio rejoiced and celebrated as though they now had EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED. They had discovered GOD'S WORD AS THE ULTIMATE TREASURE OF LIFE!

Jesus shared that he had come to:

"Proclaim Good News to the Poor" (Luke 4:18)

*In Haitian Creole, the people of Robio heard the words of Jesus:
"I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)*

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