

Blessed are the Hungry

Newsletter

SUMMER/FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



TALKING
BIBLES



Dear friend of Talking Bibles,

When I grew up in Ethiopia, the Majang people would come up to my father and pull at their empty stomachs. *"Lak-a-ngwa!"* They'd cry.

This basic phrase carries a deep meaning. "Lak-a-ngwa." I am starving. My body does not have what it needs. I am dying.

This phrase was developed over years of suffering from starvation...
(cont. inside)

Then Jesus declared,

"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

Psalms 63:1

"O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

Jesus answered,

"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4



Dear friend of Talking Bibles, (cont. from cover)

They needed a simple way to express their pain. The Majang people live in the rain forest of southwest Ethiopia, where it is hard to find food.

Many Majangir face the reality of hunger for their entire lives. And until they had Scripture in an audio format, the Majangir faced spiritual hunger as well. This is true for many followers of Jesus. Believers all over the world face spiritual hunger for the Word of God. They know their souls need it, but because they can't read, they can't have it.

“Lak-a-ngwa.” I am starving. I need God’s Word. My spirit does not have what it needs. It’s the cry of believers who don’t have access to the Bible.

Before Europeans came to the Americas, North American Indians didn't have a written language. Everything was spoken. Today still, many people groups around the world belong to oral cultures who prefer to speak and listen rather than read or write. These people may follow Jesus, but they do not read.

Hunger for God’s Word is felt by all who do not have access to the Bible. They know they need the Bible. A “Lak-a-ngwa” for Scripture deepens with every passing day.

But God is faithful to satisfy their hunger pangs. He will replace their pain with comfort. His Word will fill their hearts with gladness.

Christians in Mozambique felt the hunger for access to the Bible and walked two days just to get a Xtishwa Talking Bible. Believers in Venezuela ran from the villages to the missionaries' house so they could be one of the few who received a Yanomamo Talking Bible. An elderly, blind pastor in Malawi cried with deep joy when he got a Chichewa Talking Bible.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless. They were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus shepherds His sheep through the Bible. And in areas of the world where people do not read, Jesus shepherds His sheep through the Talking Bible.

You can give someone who doesn't read a Talking Bible. They will listen to the voice of their Shepherd.

Someone living in a remote village will get a Talking Bible because of your gift. They will no longer cry “Lak-a-ngwa!” Their hunger for the Bible will finally be satisfied. The comfort of the Lord will be upon them.

Because they need to hear,

Mark S. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International



Rosemary

When Rosemary first chose to follow Jesus, she faced many hurdles. She didn't know much about Christianity, and there were not many churches around her. **Rosemary can barely read, which means reading her Bible was nearly impossible.** But that didn't stop her from trying.

Every day for 12 years, she struggled to read the precious Words of God. She oftentimes grew frustrated to the point of tears because she could not understand the words. Her spirit was starving for scripture.


How was she to learn more about her Lord if she couldn't read her Bible?

Finally, her hunger for God's Word was satisfied. Rosemary received a Talking Bible in her heart language. What a gift for her tired mind!

Engaging with God's Word is no longer hard work. She listens with ease, and she listens often. In fact, Rosemary listens to her Talking Bible so much that she has large passages memorized!

Rosemary shares the Talking Bible with her children every evening, and she plays it while working as a seamstress every day. Like most of her caste, all of her coworkers are illiterate. Without the Talking Bible, many of these women would most likely never know the freedom of the gospel.

Rosemary believes that the Talking Bible is a unique tool to reach those in bondage because people can listen to it in private. It is in private that the Holy Spirit will shine light on the lies in their hearts and bring the comfort of His peace to them instead.

"Most of the people in Puri do not have peace from knowing Jesus Christ. They are trapped in bondage," says Rosemary. *"The Talking Bible speaks with authority like nothing else we have in Puri."* 



Reaching the Nation

Together, we're placing a Talking Bible in every village in India by 2033. It's a big task, but God has created an extensive network of donors like you and partners in India to get the job done.

When non-readers are able to engage with scripture and respond to God's call, their families, friends, and communities are transformed. The lost are within their reach. Thank you for joining us in equipping and empowering the people of God with Talking Bibles. 

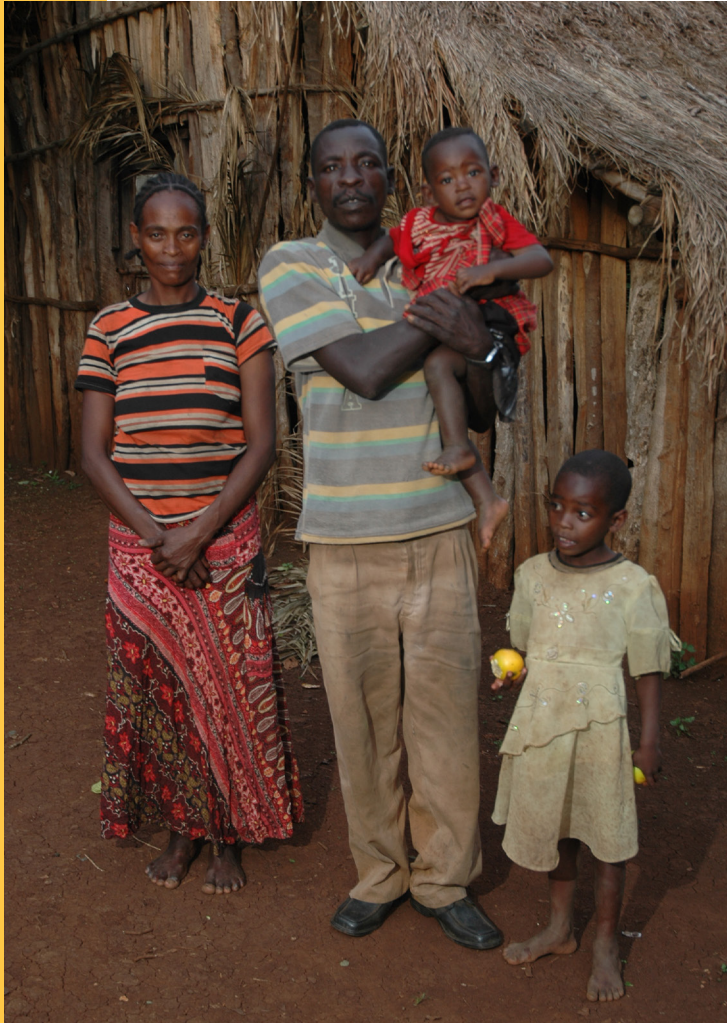


Tamriru is a pastor in a Majangir village.

He is from the same people who cried “*Lak-a-ngwa!*” many years ago.

Although the majority of Majangir are Christians, many struggle to maintain their faith.

“It is not that the modern generation has not heard the gospel, it is that they have no way to grow as Christians,” says Tamriru, explaining the problems his church faces.



They know who Jesus is. But the spirits of the Majangir were starving for a way to learn more about Him.

Even though about half of Ethiopians can read, many living in rural villages cannot. Tamriru’s church has over 200 attendees, but Tamriru says, ***“There is no person in the church that can read a Bible. Most of us have never finished school.”***

Recognizing the great need for scripture among his people, Tamriru began to pray. God answered his prayer with a Talking Bible.

When the news spread that Pastor Tamriru had a way to listen to the Bible, people came at all hours to hear God’s Word. Everyone wanted to listen. Hearing the scriptures brought peace and comfort to the community.


“There is a great desire to hear the Bible because only a few can read but all want to know what God desires of His people,” says Tamriru.

When the Majangir first heard the gospel decades ago, they went from knowing only darkness to

knowing the light of Jesus Christ. Without being able to engage with God’s Word, though, they felt stuck. The Talking Bible allows them to know more about Jesus and follow His ways.

“Our people are not only becoming Christians, but because of the Talking Bible, they are learning to live like Christians. They are no longer in bondage to doing evil,” Tamriru shares.

With Talking Bibles, the Majangir are experiencing the transformation of Christ. Listening groups gather in the village daily, and many are traveling from afar to hear God’s Word on Sundays.

There is no more aching with questions or doubts. No more struggling to try to read the Bible. **The Majangir are no longer starving for access to the Bible, but they have a new hunger within them to draw nearer to Jesus and share His love with others.** 

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