



Reaching a Nation

WINTER/SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



**God is leading an army of women,
armed with Talking Bibles,
to reach the nation of India for His kingdom.**

Dear friend of Talking Bibles,

It's a dangerous tool to use. But it's still used every day.

In many parts of India, it's the only way to share the Gospel.

Some pastors' lives are at risk when they use this tool.

When no one can read, how does the gospel spread?

By word of mouth. One's own mouth becomes the only tool available to share the gospel.

But in some parts of India, to use one's own mouth to share the gospel is very dangerous. In fact, it is illegal.

I have met pastors who have been beaten and imprisoned for using their mouth to share the Good News.

What's the alternative? The pastor and the Talking Bible working together.

With many states in India having anti-conversion laws prohibiting the sharing of the gospel message, it becomes a very difficult task that God has assigned to the Pastors and Christian workers in India. With a Talking Bible, the task of reaching the lost for Christ becomes much easier.

I have observed there are many women in the villages in India that are followers of Jesus. They are frequently the only Christian in the home. Scattered all across India, God has placed these women in the homes of non-believers who have yet to hear the Gospel in a meaningful way. Pastors are unable to reach into the homes where the non-believers live, but the Talking Bible accompanied by God's Spirit can.

This is how the Gospel is now spreading to the men and new churches are being established in many parts of India, especially in the North where there is strong anti-Christian sentiment.

Before COVID, Christians could walk to another village on Sunday where there were more believers. That changed this past year. Now the COVID virus has prohibited such gatherings, so the believers are forced into their homes to worship together in smaller groups. This is where those who have yet to hear the Good News are. They would not walk to the church to sit with believers, so God has brought the church to them. They will sit and listen to the Talking Bible.

God is leading an army of women, armed with Talking Bibles, to reach the nation of India for His kingdom. The door is open to these homes. And the Talking Bible is sharing the message of God's love and eternal salvation.

The need is great. The pastors can place God's Word into homes but they need the Talking Bibles.

With your partnership, we can reach the nation of India with the Good News.

Because they need to hear,



Mark S. Hoekstra • President, Talking Bibles International



Dithu grew up in a Christian home in southern Rajasthan,

but it was not until a few years ago that her faith became more than nominal. In 2013, Dithu fell ill. She spent many months searching for health, but even the hospitals could not help her. Then another believer prayed for her and she was healed. Since that time, Dithu has been a strong believer.

Today, Dithu is ministering in her church and in her community. This is an amazing thing because Dithu cannot read. Her Talking Bible gives her the ability to share her faith and share God's Word with her neighbors and with those in her own home. She leads a small Bible study using a Talking Bible. Ten other women in her neighborhood listen with her regularly. Recently, two of the women in the group began causing trouble, but Dithu was able to confront them and love them by using her Talking Bible.

"Those who oppose us, we don't need to oppose them but to love them," Dithu says. "Other women in the community can cause problems, but we need to be an example for them. Now everyone is okay, and we are all loving each other."

Harmony has been restored in Dithu's listening group, but she is still praying for God to continue changing hearts and minds.

Dithu is also reaching non-believers with her Talking Bible. People are fascinated to hear the Talking Bible even when they don't know what it is. Dithu plays it, and people listen and ask questions. She has become an evangelist in her community.

What a wonderful example of a non-reader being equipped with God's Word. Now Dithu can share her faith, reach new believers, and minister in her church and community. Praise the Lord! 



I met a young man in India who told me how his mother came to know about Jesus.

Even though no one else in his family was a believer, his mother was. She had a vision one night while she was sleeping and was compelled to seek out a woman in a village nearby who was known to be a believer.

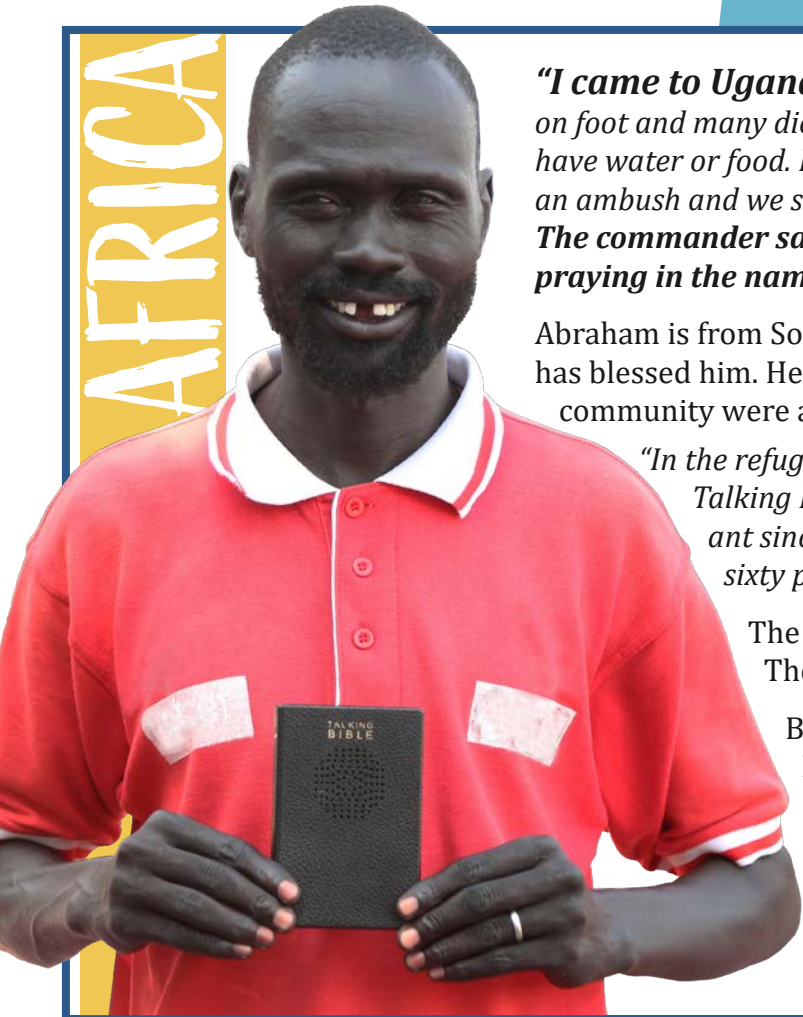
Raju said when his mother came to the believer to share her experience, the woman refused to see her. She was the only believer in her family and had been beaten for being a Christian. She was too fearful to talk to Raju's mother and sent her away.

Living in fear, this poor woman did not trust that Raju's mother was also a believer and of kindred spirit. As time went on, God softened her heart and she began to talk with Raju's mother. Now there were two believers in the area.

From time to time the women would meet the pastor at the market or other place and receive some teaching and simple discipleship. They could also walk to another village for church on Sunday.

When Raju's mother received a Talking Bible, she was able to listen to the Word of God for herself. She grew as a Christian and was able to gain the confidence to share her faith with her family and neighbors using the Talking Bible. - Mark S. Hoekstra • President, Talking Bibles International

AFRICA




"I came to Uganda during the time of war. We had walked to Juba on foot and many died along the way. Twenty-one in total died. We did not have water or food. It took us one week in the bush. In one place we fell into an ambush and we surrendered to the rebels. We knew that we would die. The commander said that they should kill us, but since we were all praying in the name of Jesus, he was going to let us go to Juba."

Abraham is from South Sudan. His story is hard for us to imagine. But God has blessed him. He and his wife and six children along with others in their community were able to escape to a refugee camp in Uganda.

"In the refugee camp I am serving as a pastor. We were given three Talking Bibles. We use these for Bible studies. This is very important since most of the people cannot read. Every evening, fifty to sixty people will listen at a time and discuss what they hear."

The refugees are so happy to have access to God's Word. They can listen and learn and grow in their faith.

But the Christians are not the only ones listening. Fourteen non-believers living in the camp have joined the church because they have been hearing the Talking Bible.

"We are so grateful for this new opportunity to hear God's Word. It is something that is changing many lives. Thank you!" 

AFRICA x4
Match

**Thank you for participating in our Africa x 4 Match Campaign.
We were able to reach our goal of \$500K!**

Thanks to all our partners' generosity, fifty thousand Talking Bibles will be placed in at least 10 countries in Africa over the next two years.

Please pray with us that God's Word will reach into hearts, change lives, and bring His kingdom closer.

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

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