

FEEDING GOD'S SHEEP



Newsletter

WINTER/SPRING 2023



What happens when God's sheep are fed?

Stories from Odisha, India

From Shepherding Sheep - To God's People

The Story of Stefano

How can we feed God's Sheep?

By giving them God's Word.

John 21:16 "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Jesus was on a mission. He *“went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.”* Matthew 9:35 ESV

The Bible says when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them.

He saw the crowds like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus called Peter to take care of His flock in His absence, *“Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”* *“Yes, Lord,”* he said, *“you know that I love you.”* Jesus said, *“Feed my lambs.”*

I see God’s people like hungry sheep without access to the Master’s Word.

I hear God’s people who can’t read crying out for access to the Bible.

The flock needs to be fed.

God’s people who can’t read are also hungry to know what the Bible says to share it with people who do not know Jesus.

We want to feed God’s sheep by providing them with His Word.

Your gifts give someone who can’t read access to the Bible. Longing to know what the Bible says, they listen intently to those precious Words spoken out loud just for them. Then they share them!

Because they need to hear,



Mark S. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

Feeding God’s Sheep Odisha, India

Here are stories gathered from Odisha, India. Read what happens *when God’s sheep are fed with His Word through a Talking Bible.*



Sathyan only studied up to 7th grade, so he cannot read very well, *“with a printed Bible, I have difficulty to read.”*

So, Sathyan’s pastor gave him a Talking Bible so he could listen instead. *“This is God’s Word! I can hear it now. When I listened [to the story about Jesus feeding the 5000], I was in wonder! They are hungry for God’s Word, and so are we... Before, I don’t remember many scripture portions. But now I can remember much.”*

Praise God for the gift of His Word; Sathyan can know Jesus deeper! 



Subhashini, like many others in her community of Odisha, **could only attend school until she was about ten.**

When Subhashini first received her Talking Bible, she said, *“Now I can listen to God’s Word. Now my faith will increase!”*

Now she and her family can listen to the scriptures daily. 📖

Kilaka has no education, and before recently, she had no way to hear more about Jesus except through the mouth of others.

She was given a Talking Bible and said, *“For the last ten years I listened only by the pastor’s mouth. Now I listen directly. I understand perfectly and expect to know more if I continue listening. Knowing more about God increases my faith.”*

Kilaka listens to her Talking Bible twice daily, usually with other family members. So far, she has heard most of the New Testament, from Matthew’s gospel account to John’s first letter. Now her two sons are coming closer to Jesus by listening to the scriptures. 📖



Padma received a Talking Bible from her pastor. She says that she often felt fear in her heart, but now, not so much; **by listening to the scriptures, she gets peace.**

Most days, Padma will listen to her Talking Bible in the mornings and evenings with her husband, mother-in-law, and sometimes her three daughters. Then, she prays to God and asks Him to work in her life.

“Through this [Talking Bible], I am able to listen to God’s Word,” she says. 📖

From Shepherding Sheep - To God's People

Stefano became a full-time shepherd at ten years old; his parents stopped sending him to school so he could focus on shepherding.

Despite having no education beyond a fourth-grade level and being unable to read well, Stefano slowly became a passionate and gifted evangelist in his church.

As he grew, the elders and members of his church saw his true calling, and they dedicated him to evangelism in their community. **He now tends to God's sheep.**

Today, he spends most of his days doing door-to-door evangelism and leading different prayer groups that he has started.


After many years of ministering to his people, Stefano received a Talking Bible in KiMaasai, his mother tongue.

Now when he visits homes or leads prayer groups, he doesn't have to rely only on the scripture he has memorized. Instead, **he can play the Talking Bible and let the scriptures generate fruitful discussions.**

"It is important to have the Talking Bible because it speaks our mother tongue, so many people in the community can hear. Also, it has attracted many people to the church," Stefano explains.

Through tending God's Sheep, Stefano sees the love of God working in the community; *"There is often conflict, but after listening [to the scriptures], they put aside their conflict."*

People Stefano evangelized for years are being baptized and encouraging their children to be confirmed in the local church.

Stefano is shepherding the flock and feeding them with God's precious Word. 



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