



# Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2026



## **God's Word In Action**

Lives Are Transformed When God's Word  
Is Heard and Understood

## **From Grief to Hope:**

Padma's Journey to New Life  
Through God's Word

## **God's Word in Ethiopia:**

Transforming the Gamo Highlands

**Faith Comes by HEARING the Word of God!**



## GOD'S WORD IN ACTION



### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Friend of the Bible,

Across the world, people long to hear God's Word in a way that speaks directly to their hearts. For many, literacy is a barrier, and printed Bibles remain distant or inaccessible. But through Talking Bibles, **lives are being transformed**—one listener at a time.

In India, Padma faced years of grief and hopelessness after losing her son. When she and her remaining son prayed to Jesus, their lives began to change. Today, a Talking Bible helps Padma hear God's Word daily, guiding her, strengthening her, and shaping her family and community.

In Ethiopia, the Gamo Highlands are experiencing a similar transformation. The full Bible is now available in audio in the Gamo language. Children walk to school with Scripture playing, families gather to listen together, and older generations are discovering hope for the first time.

These stories show **the power of God's Word**—and the impact of supporters who make this possible. Thank you for helping us reach people with Scripture in ways they can understand and treasure.

Respectfully,

Paul D. Hoekstra  
President, Talking Bibles International



### GOD'S WORD IN ACTION GAMO HIGHLANDS, ETHIOPIA

High in the hills of Southern Ethiopia, something beautiful is happening. The sound of Scripture is echoing through villages where faith has been passed down for generations through spoken word alone. The Gamo people—nearly 1.9 million strong—are rich in oral tradition, yet many cannot read, and printed Bibles in Amharic often felt distant and difficult to understand. The hunger for God was there... but understanding was out of reach.

Everything changed in 2017, when Davar completed the full audio Bible in the Gamo language. In 2025, through a partnership, Talking Bibles were placed directly into the hands of believers across these mountain communities.

Now, God's Word is being heard in Gamo—bringing the Gospel clearly in the heart language of the people and transforming lives. **On the next page are just a few of the powerful testimonies we've received:**

CHURCH LEADERS AND RECIPIENTS IN GAMO





## FAITH FOUND ON THE VILLAGE ROAD

*"I was walking along a village road when I heard Zachaius, a local evangelist, playing the Gamo Talking Bible. As I approached him, **something lit up in my heart**. He stopped walking and waited until I reached him. I stood there and began to listen. I heard that Jesus saves from the devil.*

*I stayed and listened with Zachaius for some time. When I went home, I shared everything with my family. The next morning, I went to church and accepted Christ. My whole life changed. I felt peace—real peace—and now I tell others about that same peace.*

*In the book of Acts, the prison guard asked Paul, 'What must I do to be saved?' Paul answered, 'Believe in Christ, and you and your family will be saved.'*

*That promise stays in my heart. Just as the guard was saved, **I believe I am saved too.**"* 📖

## REACHING THE OLDER GENERATIONS

*"I received a Gamo Talking Bible and took it home. I started to share it with my family and neighbors.*

**Through listening, my mom has found hope. She said, 'If Jesus is really like this, I will believe in Him.' So this Talking Bible really works.**

*I am so lucky to have this Talking Bible—it is important. May God continue to bless you.*

*This Bible will help the older generations because they only know Gamo, and now they can hear the Gospel through this Word in their language."* 📖



ABERASH



## SALVATION IN THE SEWING SHOP

*"I run a sewing shop. It is a great way to share the Word of God with customers. When I started playing the Gamo Talking Bible, people became very interested and would stay for a long time to listen.*

*There are young kids who also come and listen. I encourage them to bring their friends, and when they invite someone new, I give them a piece of candy.*

*The elders also come to listen regularly. They ask many questions. It is difficult to work during this time, but I enjoy sharing with them. When I was behind in my work, I used to come very early to get some sewing completed. However, when people saw me there early, they begged me to play the Talking Bible for them.*

***I consider it a ministry and will continue to let people listen. Over ten people have decided to follow Jesus, and many are finding hope in Christ."*** 📖

BIRUK





**PADMA AND NEIGHBOR**

## FROM GRIEF TO HOPE: HOW PADMA FOUND LIFE IN GOD'S WORD

Padma's life was filled with loss and heartache. Twenty years ago, her second-born son, Subrahmanyam, died tragically in a fight. Her village blamed her for his violent behavior, and she felt abandoned—not only by people, but by the gods she had once trusted. For years, Padma struggled with hopelessness, believing that no person or god could truly help her.

Then, a neighbor shared the story of Jesus. Padma was cautious but listened. Soon after, her first-born son, Srinivas, fell seriously ill with a heart condition. Desperate, Padma prayed with him to this new God. Miraculously, Srinivas was healed. It was the first time she experienced a God who answered prayers, and Padma knew they had to follow Him.

As she and Srinivas began attending church and praying regularly, blessings started to follow. Srinivas found better work, and doors that had been closed for years opened before them. Even amid opposition from her husband, who tried to discourage her faith, **Padma found joy and peace** in her new life in Christ.

Padma never learned to read, so she memorized Scripture through church teachings and songs. Two years ago, her pastor gave her a Talking Bible. Now, she listens to God's Word daily—learning new passages, correcting herself, and speaking more peacefully with others. Through this small device, God continues to transform her heart and life.

**Padma's story shows how even one Talking Bible can bring hope, healing, and lasting change. Your support helps people like Padma experience the life-giving power of God's Word every day.**

### Putting God's Word in Action

You can hear it in churches where groups gather to listen with joy. You can see it along village roads where families walk with Scripture playing from a Talking Bible. You can feel it in the testimonies we receive—stories of men, women, and children understanding God's Word personally and deeply, many for the very first time.

***Because when Scripture is heard in your own language... it speaks to the soul.***

From Padma in India to villages in Ethiopia, God's Word is moving hearts and changing lives. These transformations are made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters who provide Talking Bibles to those who need them most. Every device is more than a tool—it is a lifeline to hope, faith, and eternal impact. 📖



Give a Talking Bible—bring Scripture to life and transform a heart in their own language!

**Donate Now!**



**Want to share our newsletter?** Email: [info@talkingbibles.org](mailto:info@talkingbibles.org), and we'll gladly send you extra copies!

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