

...mentally getting out of debt
 ...my education costs," he said.
 ...the Lord opened the door for
 ...e out here to fly. I had been
 ...ould go into the military, but
 ...uced to MAF. This new plane
 ...ny mind. How fast it takes off
 ...a real trip."

Dryud, another graduate of
 ...ight Technology, has been
 ...o MAF and is now building
 ...support. "My funding is
 ...percent," said Dryud, who
 ...ng with his wife Tammi to
 ...guage School near Montreal

...ar, the Dryuds will be heading
 ...atic Republic of Congo. "Lots
 ...est there," Tammi said, who
 ...r degree in education from
 ...ill home-school their 8-month
 ...ce. "But we're prepared, and
 ...ard to it."

...dded. "We really believe in
 ...ion statement of reaching
 ...are spiritually and physically
 ...n the gospel of Christ," he

...transforming work of the
 ...ssionaries makes a lasting
 ...o both Christians and non-
 ...Many of our individual
 ...are not necessarily even
 ...oyd said. "But they see the
 ...such as helping out with the
 ...years ago. Only our planes
 ...nd out of that situation.

...out to others less fortunate.
 ...s, that's our fundamental

...Nampa, Idaho, MAF was

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...public debut at
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Photo: Cynthia Robertson

A million dollar recording? You bet!

Zig Ziglar, motivational speaker and author of *Confessions of a Happy Christian*, once said, "Offer me a million dollars for my tape player, and if I knew I couldn't replace it, I would not take the money."

If an old-school recording device that plays non-inspired words is worth that much, then how much would a recording of God's Word be worth? Consider this: Believers have risked their lives to smuggle copies of the written Word behind the Iron Curtain. American POW's in the Hanoi Hilton risked beatings to pass along scraps of what they could remember of the Scriptures to each other. Christian workers have spent their entire lives learning and translating languages in stone-aged cultures to give one people group God's Word. If the only way members of an oral culture were ever to hear the Bible in their own



language
 w a s
 t h r o u g h
 s u c h a n
 a u d i o
 d e v i c e , t h e n
 w h a t w o u l d i t
 b e w o r t h ?

In Escondido, Talking Bibles International has combined zeal for God's Word,

cross-cultural understanding, and modern technology, to produce and deliver over 109,000 "Talking Bibles" around the world. Founded by missionary and Bible translator Harvey T. Hoekstra and now led by his sons Paul and Mark, the ministry produces a device that looks like a small Bible (for credibility) and plays the New Testament on MP3. It packs some powerful speakers and can run on either battery or solar power.

Mark, the inventor, explained, "The idea was to produce a Bible that was virtually indestructible to being dropped, shaken, and would even be impervious to water and insects."

A wide variety of individuals and groups have come together to pay for production and distribution of these audio wonders. The National Bible Society in various countries have contributed. Christians in Sierra Leone raised money to do their own translation in the Krio language. A



YOUR MISSION

BILL SMITH

group of Scottish students raised enough money for 1,000 Talking Bibles for Malawi. As Paul Hoekstra suggests, "Think of how pleasing it must be to God to hear His Word played back."

Not surprisingly, the blind have found them especially useful. Every single blind Christian in Bangladesh has received one. A Lebanese believer wrote, "My husband is blind, and he goes out to witness, but his (audio) Bible is 70 cassette tapes! Even his Braille Bible is knee-high." Now he is able to go out to witness with a single "book" in his hand.

Even in America, people are finding uses for the English version of the Talking Bible, recorded by Cliff Barrows. A nursing home resident named Jim had an unfulfilled lifelong dream to lead one person to Jesus, but never had done so. One day he went to be with the Lord, and when his family came back the next day to pick up his things, they asked the fellow who had been in the same room whether he was a Christian. The roommate replied that he had believed on Jesus just the day before by listening as Jim was playing his Talking Bible! God says, "My Word will not return to me void." Indeed.

What I can do:

1. Volunteer to help with any task, from graphic design to packing boxes.
2. Give \$72 to fund production and delivery of one Talking Bible, which might be used to reach an entire village. Or \$720 as a leadership gift to fund 10.
3. Pray for the ministry of Talking Bibles and for increasing resources.
4. As a church, adopt one listener, one village, or one Bible listening coordinator.

The ministry can be reached at (760) 745-8105, www.talkingbibles.org or info@talkingbibles.org.



Bill Smith of Escondido attends Emmanuel Faith Community Church and works in Rancho Bernardo as an investment advisor.