

listen every day! She invited several women from the village to a daily Bible study. Now nine non-reading (illiterate) women are listening to the Talking Bible every day! And Ashella's family is enjoying the extra money for food and clothing.

** name has been changed
Story from the Congo, Africa*

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Gimti* lay in a dark room at the end of the small house. As he lay there he could hear the children playing outside and from time to time he'd hear the dogs barking, but for the most part Gimti's days were long and passed by very slowly. Day after day Gimti lay there, wondering how long he'd live.

Few people visited the old man. They'd look in, say their greetings and quickly disappear.

Gimti lives in Africa in one of the poorest countries in the world. He has no TV, no radio, no record player, no computer and no iPod. Gimti doesn't have a favorite TV show; he doesn't listen to music on the radio either. He simply lays in the dark room day after day in silence.

There are no lights in Gimti's room; there is no electricity in Gimti's village. No motor cars,

no sounds of machines, just the village noises and the long quiet nights.

When the people first heard the Talking Bible, one of them said, "It sounds like a bird singing". Gimti wasn't there to hear "the bird sing". The Words spoken in the local language were so precious that it sounded like a bird singing. Gimti heard nothing that morning at the dedication service when everyone received their Talking Bibles, because he wasn't there.

Abung* lives in Gimti's village. She was blessed with a Talking Bible that spoke her language. Gimti speaks the same language. His whole life he never learned to read. He fought in the war, was a respected man

in the village, but he never learned to read. There were no teachers for Gimti to

teach him to read. Now here he was an old man, ready to die, body worn out with a weary soul from a long, hard life, and he still could not read.

"Gimti, you have a visitor."

Abung said as she walked in. "How's Gimti today? I brought you something special; I got it from the priest." Abung pulled out of her bag a little black book the size of a Bible - it looked like a Bible, but Gimti knew he couldn't read it. "What is it?" Gimti asked "It's a Talking Bible. Do you want to hear it?"

Abung listened to her Talking Bible for many days before going to see Gimti. Day after day, as she listened God would remind her of Gimti. So one day she went to see Gimti. She left her Talking Bible with him. Every day she came back to see how he was doing. He said "I feel healing in my body". No longer waiting for death, Gimti was longing to live some more and he felt healing in his body.

That Talking Bible changed two lives forever. For the first time Abung is ministering to others. She is bringing comfort in the name of Jesus to others in their hour of darkness by playing the Talking Bible for them.

She takes her Talking Bible to others in need, while Gimti now smiles, because he knows he's going to heaven someday.

** Name has been changed
Story is from Eritrea, Africa*

* * *

James* walked into the village and clapped his hands a few times to draw attention to himself; then he began to proclaim the good news about Jesus. As the people listened, he could tell some wanted to hear more - but others said they'd heard enough: "Now get out of our village - We're all Hindus here!" they said.

As James left the village he was afraid. Another evangelist in the area had been beaten recently, so his mind was on that most of the time as he walked. Keeping a close eye on his back, he slowly walked down the path to the next



village. Maybe they'd be more receptive.

James had been doing this for many years now and the story was always the same. From village to village he'd walk, sharing with them about Jesus; but he was getting weary, because so few would respond to his invitation to come to know Jesus. Even his pastor had given

up hope for any real fruit of eternal consequence from what any of the evangelists were doing in the area.

When we heard about James, we asked him to find a friendly family in each village he was trying to bring the Good News to. We told him we would put one Talking Bible in every village. We would give a free Talking Bible to the friendly family willing to play the Talking Bible. All they had to do was play it every day for their family and anyone else in the village that wanted to listen.

James had faith that God was going to do something powerful with His spoken Word, the Talking Bible. James' pastor was less optimistic; after all, these were all Hindu villages.

In one village, to everyone's surprise, it was the Hindu priest who said he'd be the one to play the Talking Bible for everyone. In just a few weeks, the priest was requesting baptism from James' pastor, and the temple door was locked shut!

All over the world there are evangelists and pastors who have grown weary in their quest to bring more people to know who Jesus is. In oral cultures where people do not read, they have to listen. No printed material is of any use to them and there are no audio tracts, messages

or readings in their language, so the Talking Bible is ideal. Many people love to listen to the Talking Bible even if they don't know what it really is. They just like to listen to the stories.

God's Word is powerful. A Hindu priest found Jesus by listening to God's Word. James was able to use the questions the priest had about what he was hearing to bring him to the Lord. The New Testament says Philip used the questions the eunuch had about the scriptures he was reading. The local pastors and evangelists, using the Talking Bible, are answering questions about God that people otherwise would never ask them.

Millions of people are still waiting to hear the good news for the first time. There is an army of willing soldiers ready to bring that good news. They need to be encouraged to do so and given a tool they can use to dis-



ciple the new converts. The Talking Bible is perfect, but it takes American Christians to provide the Talking Bibles. The local priest mentioned in



The Talking Bible Report

Summer of 2006

THE TALKING BIBLE - HELPING TO BUILD THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Talking Bible brings so many new possibilities for church planting and church growth. A wonderful tool for discipleship.

the story above could never afford to buy a Talking Bible. But someone's gift of a Talking Bible changed his life and many others in the village forever - he was not the only one baptised that day by the local pastor.

** Name has been changed. Story is from India*

* * *

Sitting silently in the shade of the big tree in the middle of the village the people stared at the little black box. "Why doesn't it speak?" The pastor had said it would speak in their language, but what would it say? And why didn't it speak now?"

As the sun crept out from behind the cloud, the Talking Bible began to proclaim the good news about Jesus in their language. Everyone stood and began to dance - around and around they danced - so excited they forgot for a moment just the why they were dancing.

One by one they sat down again and stared off into the distance as they absorbed the beautiful Words that were being spoken. Most of them never knew it was the sun and the little solar panel that was playing the Word to them. They didn't seem to care once the sun was out and the Talking Bible was speaking.

I shared this story from Africa with you because for nearly twenty years the all-volunteer producers of the solar panels have been faithfully sending us a steady supply of them. These are used to power

Talking Bibles in remote areas. All over the world, these little panels play God's spoken Word - The Talking Bibles.

The last solar panels arrived this week and we opened the box of precious energy givers with heavy hearts. The Chargers, members of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, informed us they can no longer get the needed supplies to make the panels. There is such a great demand for the solar cells in this country right now that they are no longer available in small quantities for ministry use.

Thank you, Chargers, for your years of faithful service and for being such faithful partners with us! We pray God will lead you to the company willing to sell the solar cells needed to make the panels. If anyone reading this knows of any possibilities please contact us.

Story is from Malawi, Africa.

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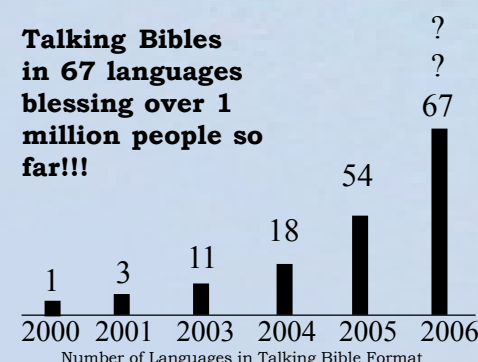
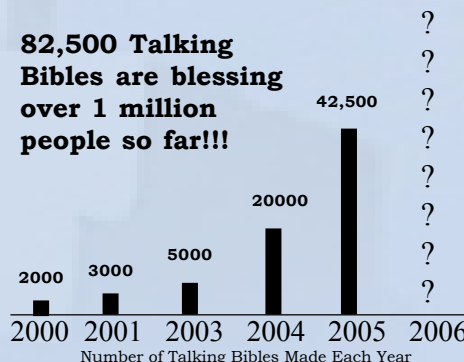
India

In India the Talking Bible is being listened to in 19 languages by 1,850 families with blind people in them.

Through the Talking Bible many of them had the opportunity to hear the whole story for the first time. Now they are going back and listening again and again, and God will work in their hearts through the hearing of the Word they were never able to read.



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The Talking Bible Report

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What if you thought there was only one Bible and it was in someone else's language? Can you imagine how excited you'd be to find out there was a Bible in your own language as well?

What if you couldn't read and someone gave you a Talking Bible? Some people dance while others cry silently, giving thanks to God when they receive their first useable Bible - the bread of life.

Your gifts make a difference.

Life after life, person after person finally has access to God's precious, saving Word!



* * *

Ashella* was tired. She had been sitting in the hot sun all day wondering when the last piece of charcoal would be sold. The African sun was blistering hot and kept Ashella busy wiping away the sweat from her forehead. Finally, she got up, bent over, and picked up the empty basket of charcoal. She

had sold it all. With the basket perched on her back, she headed off down the path for home.

It would be a long time before Ashella would arrive back at her village. In the morning Ashella and a couple of other women from the village would sit and listen to someone read the Bible to them.

Ashella hired Petros to come once a week to read to them. Ashella couldn't read.

Petros was the only one in the area who could read, so Ashella used some of the money she earned at the market selling charcoal to hire Petros to read to her from the Bible.

Once a week Ashella stays up late at night making charcoal to sell in the market. During the

days she's not at the market, Ashella finds wood to burn and make charcoal with. When enough wood has been gathered, she sets it on fire.

At just the right time, Ashella covers the fire with dirt. Enough dirt to smother the whole thing. Not one bit of smoke must be allowed to escape.

In the morning, when Ashella uncovers the pile of dirt, there is the beautiful "black gold" under the dirt - ready to take to the market.

Ashella wanted to know what was in the Bible so badly she used some of her hard-earned money to hire Petros to read to her. Although she could be spending the money on

food or clothes, she wanted to know what God's Word says.

When Ashella's pastor gave her a Talking Bible, she was excited! Now she could listen anytime she wanted and could invite more people to come to

