



419 E. Grand Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025  
760.745.8105; fax 760.745.8150  
[www.talkingbibles.org](http://www.talkingbibles.org)

March 15, 2011

Dear Friends of the Talking Bible,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Normally, my brother, Mark writes to you with reports about the ministry of Talking Bible. Unfortunately, while we were in Ethiopia a few weeks ago to dedicate the Majang Talking Bible, Mark met with an accident in which he broke both of his legs – feet actually. He had surgery in San Diego on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and will be recuperating for some weeks to come. Thank you for remembering him in your prayers. While Mark is getting better, I have the privilege of sharing about Talking Bibles with you.

In February, a group of us traveled to Ethiopia along with my father, Harvey. We went to celebrate and worship God with the Majang people. I thought I would share a report that my dad wrote about our time in Ethiopia. - Paul D. Hoekstra, Vice President for Talking Bibles.

*“Ours was an unbelievable experience. Solomon Gizaw flew us all from Addis Ababa to Teppi for the celebration dedicating the 200 Talking Bibles in Majangir (formerly called Mesengo) language which we had with us. We were amazed to see thousands of people lining both sides of the airstrip (between 5 to 10,000 people estimated to be there) All were Majangir, now wearing clothes – no more leaves and grass. We were greeted by countless numbers at the plane itself. In the afternoon, we drove to the city hall, which was packed out with over 2,000 inside and countless numbers unable to get in.*

*“We were amazed to see two huge banners 4 or 5 feet in height and a large photo of Lavina and me on it. In bold print it read, “THE HOEKSTRAS WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU FOR YOU LED US TO ETERNAL LIFE. The Majangir.”*



*"I felt so unworthy of such love and praise. In the huge hall, there was beautiful singing and swaying with the rhythm by the entire assembly. Mark spoke introducing our group. Several short speeches were made and then I was asked to speak. They wanted to know how it was that we came to Godare to the Majangir. I told them how God had closed all the other doors and opened this one only. I told them about the survey, about Lavina and Paul and my trekking in with six mules, two horses and many different carriers. I told how we soon made cassettes and described how interested the people were to hear. I told of three different knotted strings that came to us.*

*"I told them the Lord had given me two verses of Scripture to share with them. One, Jesus saying, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness...." When they heard this verse, they all clapped for joy. The other verse was where Jesus said, "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples."*

*"The hotel in Teppi consisted of individual houses with bed and toilet, separated by trees and bushes. Each of us brought our own sheet, pillowcase, mosquito net, drinking water and a flashlight. Lights went off at 7 p.m. and came on at 7 in the morning.*

*"Later that afternoon, we sat in that hotel area under a huge palm tree like bush. We ate from loaves of bread which we dipped in wild honey. We survived!!*

*"Numerous visitors stopped by to sit with us. The emotions brought many tears. It was unbelievable. Carol had a nice small picture of Lavina from the memorial. When she showed it to someone, they automatically burst into un-controllable tears. This was true of both men and women. They obviously loved her deeply. Lavina had been a model Christian among them.*

*"The next day Solomon flew Denny, Sandy, Carol, Walter Potts, Paul Lindberg, and me over the Godare and we landed in Gambella in the area where we had once served over 50 years ago, where local church leaders came out to meet us. We also dedicated another 20 Majang Talking Bibles with a promise of more. It was a rare, rare privilege. So many reasons to praise God.*

*"Mark, Paul, Tim and Curtis went by road to Godare. What took me 25 men and 17 days to bring the Land Rover in to Godare, they now did on an upgraded road in just 3 hours. They said some 1,000 people greeted them and they had a wonderful worship service where they normally worship. Mark and Paul both spoke at the service, Paul was able to speak to them in the Majangir language. I saw photos of their offering table overflowing with Ethiopian dollar bills, a man bringing a chicken and many fruit and vegetables on the ground. God has done a great work among them. Mark and Paul met numerous older people whom I still remember well.*

*"It is impossible to find adequate words to describe this historic event. God gave us the honor to be the first to tell them about His love in Christ. We planted the seed but the real growth took place after we had said our farewell in 1976. Today they estimate some 26,000 believers, 30 plus pastors and their own Bethel Majangir Synod. I marvel at what God has done.*

*"At 90 years God enabled me, after 35 years, to return to see what He has done. Words simply fail to describe it all."*

Blessings,  
My love in our Lord Jesus,

  
Harvey Hoekstra, Missionary, Founder of Talking Bibles International