

December, 2010

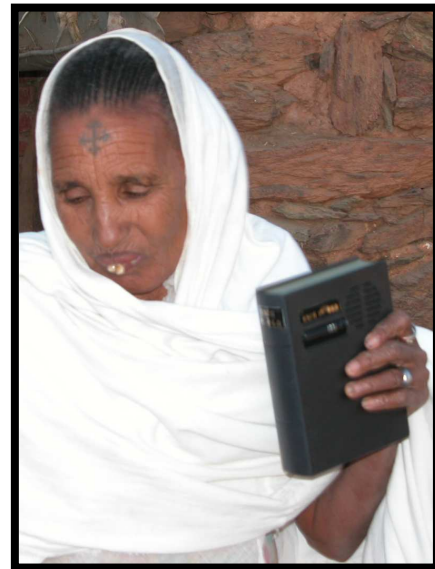
Dear Friend of the Bible,

Does a Talking Bible have feet? No! Of course not. You might be thinking, “What a silly question to ask.”

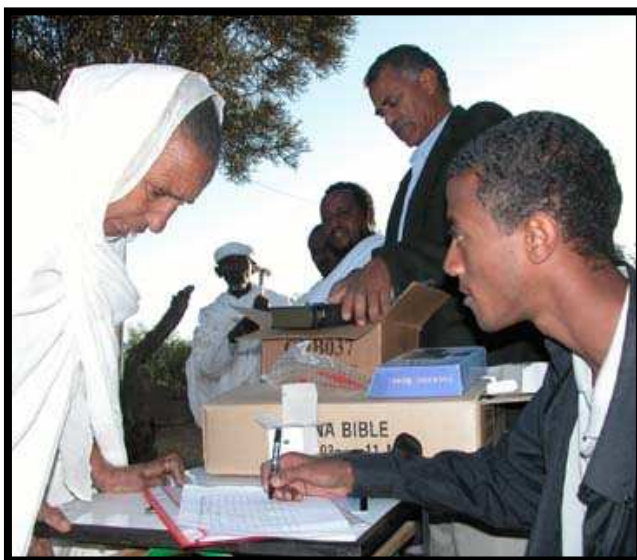
Inside the Talking Bible is the Good News many long to hear. The Bible says, “**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.**” It is not just the feet that bring the Good News to the village that are beautiful.

Beautiful are the feet of those who paid for the Talking Bible so it can go to the village. Thank you for helping people like Fadeka, get Talking Bibles.

Your feet are beautiful. Your feet which cannot walk out to the village like Fadeka’s feet are just as important as hers. Maybe more so, because without gifts such as yours, Fadika would not have received the Talking Bible she now uses in her ministry.



“I feel better,” the old man said as Fadeka entered the room, “I feel healing in my body when I listen to the Talking Bible.” He said, “Thank you for coming.”



Fadeka is 67 years old. She lives in Eritrea, Africa. She cannot read. Fadeka never had her own Bible until she got a Talking Bible.

Fadeka has been a Christian all her life. When she was just a baby her mother tattooed a large cross on her forehead so the Muslims wouldn’t steal her and raise her as a Muslim.

Now she has a Bible to listen to, but she did not keep this treasure to herself. After listening for a while she decided to visit the sick and play her Talking Bible for them. **Fadeka had a life changing experience, and for the first time in her life she can minister effectively using God’s Word.**

Fadeka is not the only one who had a life changing experience. In the Congo a middle-aged lady who sells charcoal along the road now holds Bible studies in her home four times a week. She used to hire a school boy to come to read the Bible to her once a week.

After getting a KiConga Talking Bible, **her life changed.** Instead of thinking just about herself and her need to hear God's Word, she started to think about the other women in her village. "They have got to hear this," she said to herself. So she started four Bible listening groups. Four times a week women living in her village come to her house and listen to her Talking Bible.

Tears streamed down a pastor's face as he confessed. "I cannot read. I hire a school boy to read the Bible to me every Saturday so I can prepare for my Sunday message." After getting a Chichewa Talking Bible he said "You have given me the most precious gift I have ever received. Now I can listen to God's Word and prepare for my Sunday sermons any time I want."

When Laura's husband, pastor of the village church died from a sudden appendicitis attack, she did not know what to do. There was no one to take up the role of pastor for the church. The people kept coming every Sunday, but there was no one to read the Bible to them or explain the ways of God. It was up to Laura, but how could she do that? She did not read. Then one day some beautiful feet walked into her village. Christians from a near by village had brought her a Xitshwa Talking Bible. Now every Sunday the people come to listen to the Talking Bible. They walk for miles just to hear God's Word. Getting up early in the morning, they dress in their best clothes and walk to Laura's village to go to church.

In East Kalimantan, Brunei, high above the ground in one of the stilt houses lives an elderly lady who cried and cried when she was given God's spoken Word in Lun Bawang, her native language. "Why do you cry" she was asked. She said "I am so happy because now I can hear the Christmas story any time I want". She loved the Christmas story, but only got to hear it once a year at Christmas time when the Pastor read from his Bible. She never learned to read and had no Bible of her own.

Anthony prays and people get well. Anthony lives in India. He is also blind from birth. He is the only Christian in his village. After getting a Talking Bible in his language he started to listen very carefully to what it said. One day he felt he should go pray for a sick person. **That person got well** so he decided to pray for others. God honored his prayers and many sick people got well. Anthony's faith grew strong. So did his reputation. He was known in the whole area as the man who prayed to a God that answered his prayers; unlike the Hindu god's his God could hear his prayer and heal people.

One day some men came from a neighboring village. "Can you pray for our Hindu priest?" they asked. "He is sick and dying," they said. Anthony prayed for the priest and sent the men on their way. The next day someone led Anthony down the path to the priest's village. "I need to go and pray in person and minister to the priest," Anthony said to his friend. "Maybe if I go he will get well and believe in Jesus and put his faith in God instead of the Hindu gods". When Anthony arrived at the village the priest was walking around, completely healed. Yesterday he was dying and today he is well! Many in that village believed in God after that. There is now a small church there with several baptized believers worshipping there every Sunday.

Does God's spoken Word have the power to change lives? You bet it does. From all over the world the stories keep coming in. Each story shows how powerful God's Word is.

Do people want God's Word? Yes. Hungering to know what it says, many stay up all night long listening to a Talking Bible. When the Bengali Talking Bible arrived in Bangladesh there were two groups of new believers who stayed up all night long listening to the Talking Bible. They decided to stay together and listen to the whole New Testament. None of them could read and none of them had ever heard the whole New Testament.



At the dedication of the Yanowamo Talking Bible in Venezuela, a pastor from a neighboring tribe who was there held the Talking Bible to his chest for a while, then lifted it high above his head and said, **“When will God bless my people with the Talking Bible?”** With tears streaming down his cheeks he cried, because he knows his people cannot not read and will never have access to the precious Words of the Bible unless they get Talking Bibles. Living deep in the jungle far from any school, most of his people will never learn to read. They'll never have access to God's Word unless they get Talking Bibles.

Your gifts make an eternal difference in people's lives. I pray that these few stories will warm your heart. They happen because you cared. I could go on for hours telling stories of people whose lives have been impacted by the Talking Bible. All around the world people are having a life-changing experience because of the Talking Bible.

The Talking Bible has no feet. It has to be carried to the villages by someone. But no one can carry a Talking Bible that has not been paid for from a donation by God's people. **That is the only reason why I keep coming to you and offering you an opportunity to change a life with your gift. It does make a difference!** Thank you for blessing people who cannot read with the precious saving Words of the Bible in spoken format for all who need to hear.

And may you enjoy a blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year.

Because they need to hear,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Hoekstra'.

Mark S. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

P.S. Every gift counts! A \$6.00 gift reaches one person with the good news; a \$12.00 gift reaches two people. Your \$72.00 gift will place one Talking Bible in a home. On an average six to 12 people listen to each Talking Bible. *Sometimes as many as 30 people will gather to listen!* Again, thank you!