

DIGITAL BIBLE SOCIETY

Summer 2025

# ACCESS

God's Word  
Every Nation  
Every Language



BIBLIA  
INYATI



# The Miracle in Africa

*Letter from the CEO, Ken Bitgood*

Dear friends,

The miracle of what God is doing in Africa is unique, and I'm excited for you to dive into the amazing stories in this newsletter! Thousands of people have come to know Christ throughout Africa in recent years.

One of the biggest challenges facing churches in Africa is that there are so many new believers but so few are being discipled due to illiteracy, poverty, and violent conflicts within their countries. Many believers cannot afford to purchase Bibles. Others cannot read printed Bibles due to illiteracy. And violent conflicts in certain nations are displacing people, making it difficult for them to access God's Word in their native tongues.

Men, women, and children in Africa are hungry for Christ. We continue to be amazed at the power of God's spoken Word when it falls on the ears of open hearts and willing souls who are good soil for God's Word. When people receive audio Bibles in their own language, it results in immediate and often multipliable impact. In fact, you'll find a story in this newsletter about how God used a single audio Bible to plant 20 churches in Mozambique! We see many stories like this happen every year. The Holy Spirit is using these audio players, and thousands are coming to faith in Christ by hearing the living Word across Africa. It's so very exciting! Praise God!

It's amazing to hear these stories, and yet we know the work has hardly begun. The hunger for God's Word in Africa is strong, moving us to immediate action and prayer. Thank you for joining us in this important work. In this spiritual revival across many nations in Africa, we trust and know that the best is yet to come.

Until Scripture is accessible to all,



Ken Bitgood  
CEO at Digital Bible Society





# Contents

**4** "GIVE ME A SOLAR BIBLE SO I CAN NOURISH MY SOUL":  
THE GOSPEL BRINGS HOPE TO MOZAMBIQUE

---

**8** UGANDA: THOUSANDS TURNING TO CHRIST IN  
REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGES

---

**13** MEET OUR AUDIO PLAYERS

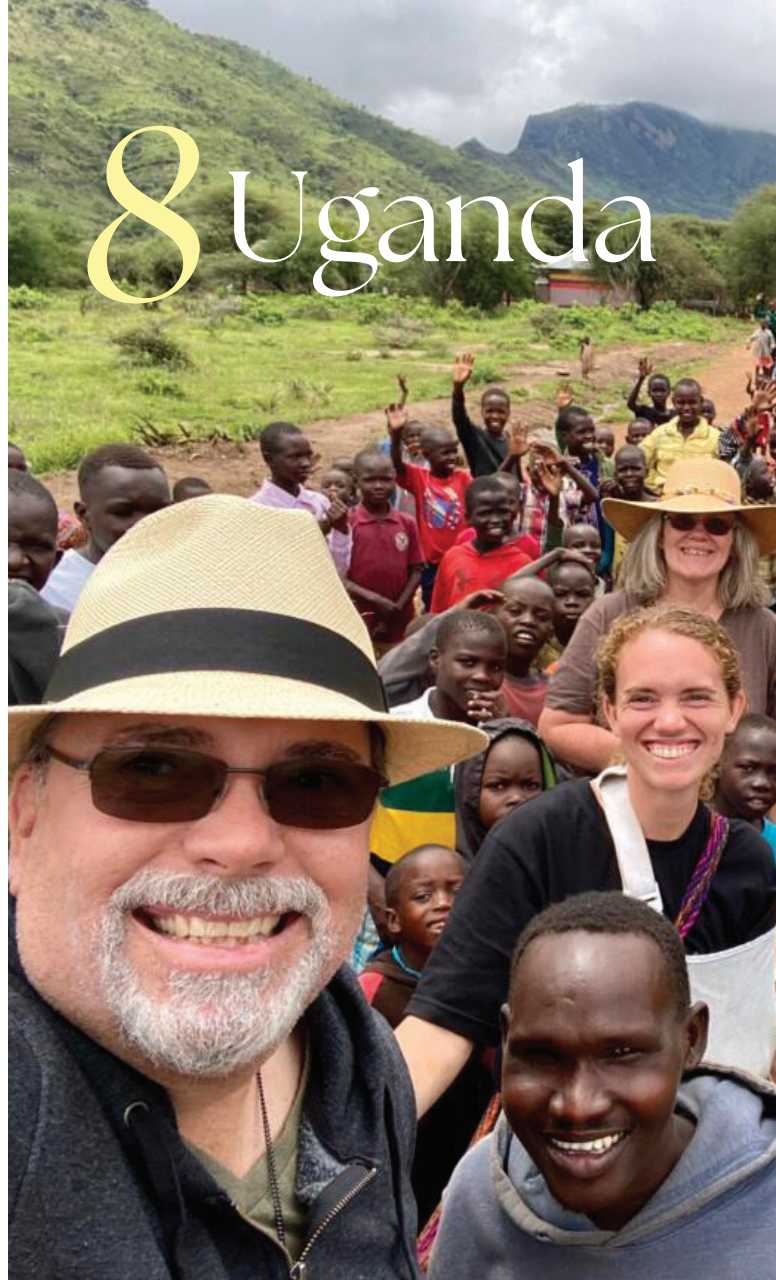
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**14** WINDS OF CHANGE SWEEP ACROSS MALAWI AS  
THOUSANDS OF CHIEFS FOLLOW CHRIST

---

**17** PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TIM MARTIN

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## About the Cover

Thanks to your prayers and generosity, God's Word has reached the heart of Maasai territory in Kenya, East Africa. The Maasai people, spread across twenty-two subtribes, are now experiencing the Scriptures in a powerful way. Our CEO, Ken Bitgood, witnessed the radiant joy of a Maasai woman as she held her very own Maasai Bible and a new audio player containing the New Testament in the Maa language. With your continued support, we are equipping more communities across Africa with God's Word in their native tongues, bringing hope and transformation where it's needed most.

To honor our friends and partners in persecuted regions of the world, identifying details throughout this publication may have been subject to change for their protection. We appreciate your collaboration as we work to ensure the safety and protection of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world.



# Mozambique

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## The Gospel Brings Hope to Mozambique



These “solar Bibles”, as they’re known locally, were loaded with the Bible recorded in the native tongue of each region.

When a team from Pemba visited the village of Nacala, one man stood out for his eagerness to hear the gospel. He received a solar Bible, stayed close to the group, and listened attentively. A month later, he called the team:

*“We took the solar Bibles, and we planted a church. I am now the pastor. Please, will you come and disciple us?”*

From this one church came many more. Today, around 20 churches have grown from the original congregation—meeting under trees, in neighbors’ houses, and under shade shacks, as they gather to hear scripture, discuss it with each other, and sing in worship. The audio Bibles have become a vital tool for teaching and worship, helping new believers grow together in their faith.

In Mozambique, a nation marked by poverty, illiteracy, and violence, the joy of the gospel is spreading across the nation through solar-powered audio Bible players. IRIS Global, a missions organization serving Mozambicans since 1995, is committed to loving sacrificially, sharing the good news of Jesus, and caring for the most vulnerable. As part of their work, IRIS has distributed thousands of audio Bibles, bringing the gospel to the illiterate and disadvantaged.

Partnering with IRIS and Global Christian Relief, the Digital Bible Society sent 13,500 Mini Pearl players to Dondo, Nacala, Zimpeto, and Pemba.







IRIS Farm and Refugee Camp

Even those displaced by violence are echoing this eagerness for God's Word. When districts near Pemba were attacked, more than 76,000 people were displaced, and many fled to the IRIS farm and refugee camp. Despite losing everything, one group of refugees was marked by joy and longing, not for food or clothing, but for Scripture.

*"No, no, we want Bibles. You can give us the other things, but where are the Bibles?" they insisted. One man, not yet a believer, added: "I want the words of life."*

At another camp, a father, who fled with his family from Macomia, approached a pastor and said:

*"Give me only food for my soul and work for my hands. If you give me rice, I'll eat and return. But if you give me an ax, I can support my family. And give me a solar Bible so I can nourish my soul."*

During these times of tragedy, the audio Bibles offer more than comfort—they provide a lifeline to a relationship with Jesus, and the hope and transformation that He brings.

The gospel continues to spread, even amid fierce Muslim resistance. One young man named Manuel, raised in Islam, received a solar Bible and chose to follow Christ. Today, he travels from village to village, sharing the good news and using his solar Bible as a tool for evangelism.

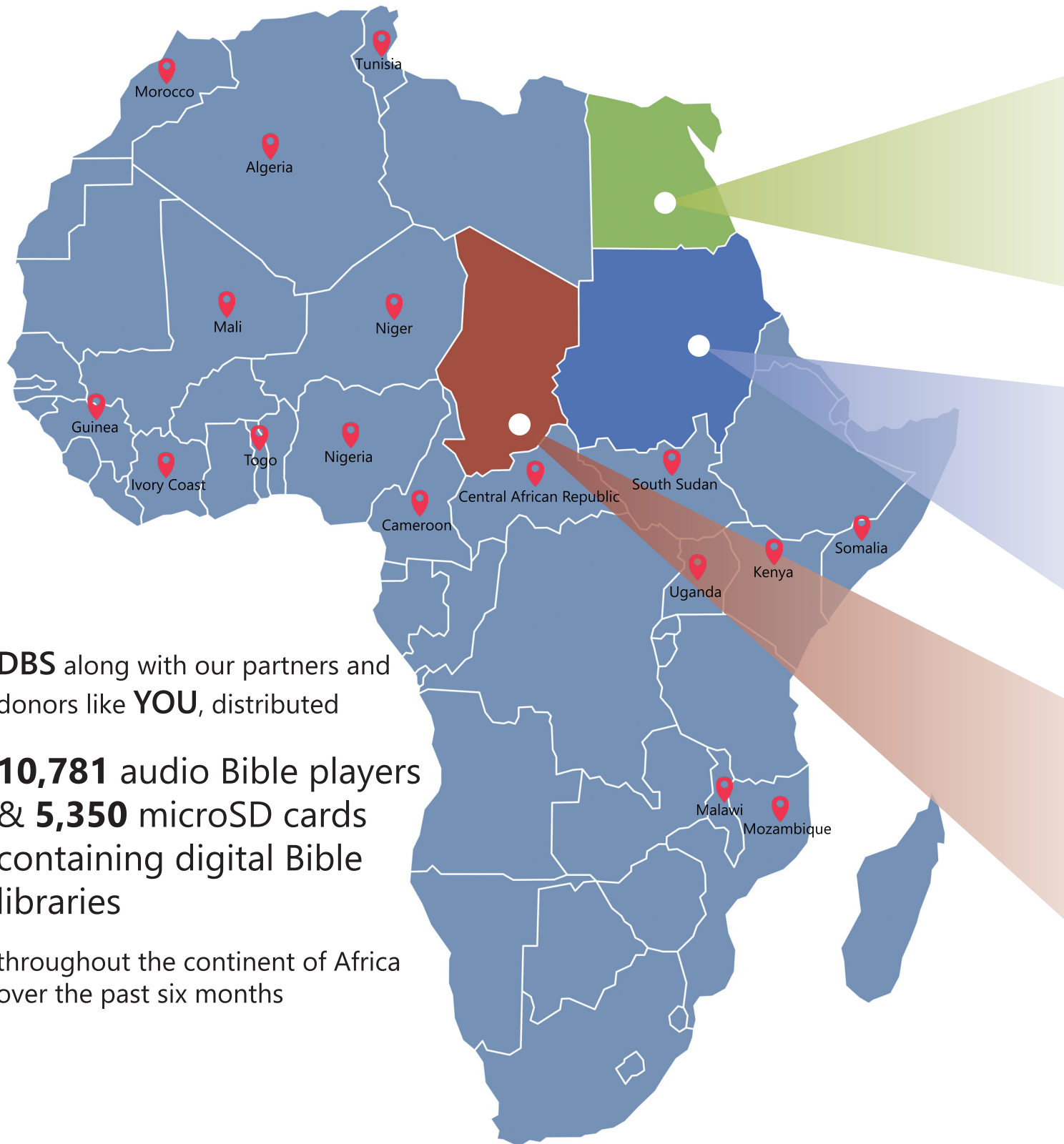
Mozambique is witnessing a powerful revival. People share their players so others can hear the good news. Small churches spring up in unlikely places. And despite hardship, the people press on with joy, sustained by the Word of God in their native tongue.

In a country scarred by conflict, Scripture is bringing peace, heard one verse at a time.



# Africa

## Recent Bible Distributions







## Egypt

In Egypt, Christians face increasing challenges, including heightened government oversight of churches. In partnership with the Evangelical Convention of Egypt, Digital Bible Society distributed 1,000 MicroSD cards to church leaders. These leaders eagerly welcomed the digital libraries, especially the Bible Project translations, and expressed a strong desire for additional cards with even more resources.



## Sudan

Sudan, ranked #5 on the World Watch List, continues to experience persecution and violence. Civil war and Islamic extremist attacks have devastated churches, forcing many believers to flee. Amid this turmoil, the need for Scripture is urgent. Digital Bible Society recently responded by distributing 400 MicroSD Bibles to support hope, peace, and discipleship among the faithful.



## Chad

Partnering with Global Christian Relief, the Digital Bible Society team distributed 500 MicroSD cards and 300 audio Bibles in Chad last month, following a previous effort of 3,000 MicroSD and 1,000 audio Bibles. Chad is largely unevangelized, impoverished, and illiterate, but the spiritual hunger of the people is evident, reflected in one man's request, who travelled to the missionaries' house to ask: "do you have the library of God's word?"



# Uganda

*Thousands Turning to Christ in  
Remote Mountain Villages*







In sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda faces immense challenges, battling one of the highest orphan populations on the continent, widespread poverty, and limited access to education in rural areas. Miraculously, Uganda is experiencing a remarkable spiritual revival among the Karamojong people on its northeastern border as entire villages are transformed and lives are changed forever.

### **Orphanage Goes from Abandoned to Abundant**

In 2021, Rebekah Bullen and her parents, Matt and Lisa Bullen, missionary evangelists, took over an abandoned orphanage outside the town of Moroto in northeastern Uganda. At the time, forty children were living in dilapidated buildings with no caregivers apart from a few older teens, who had been faithfully praying for God to send help.

In just four years, the once-forgotten orphanage was rebuilt and expanded into a thriving home for more than 350 orphaned children. Today, the site includes new dormitories, a Christian school, a 1,000-seat auditorium, and a Bible training school. It now stands as the epicenter of a sweeping revival among the Karamojong people in the surrounding mountain villages.

This revival was sparked by a few Digital Bible Society Village Players, solar-powered audio Bible devices with a 10-watt speaker, capable of reaching groups of up to 100. Matt brought several back, loaded with the Bible in Karamojong, from his visit to the Digital Bible Society office in Texas. When Pastor Grace, a local minister with a heart to reach the mountain villages, saw them, she said, "These are exactly what we need."



# Uganda continued

Soon, the devices were being used in remote villages. Digital Bible Society sent 25 more Village Players, which quickly became essential to the public reading of God's Word. Young preachers, some raised in the orphanage, would place a device in the center of a crowd, play a Scripture passage, and then preach from what had just been heard. The response was overwhelming as people began coming to Christ in large numbers.

## A Movement in the Mountains

As more villages were reached, many people received Christ and voiced their eagerness to be baptized. Word reached the Bullen family at Mission Moroto, and a gathering was arranged at the nearby Nakiloro River. On that day, 150 people were baptized, including a group of five "ancients", respected elder women whom the locals affectionately call "grandmoms."

As these grandmoms returned to their villages, joined by many others, their testimonies had a profound effect on

all who heard. In the following months, the number of people coming to Christ continued to multiply. Another baptism was planned, and 500 more Karamojong villagers publicly declared their faith in Christ.

A movement of God was fully underway, spreading from village to village. In the summer of 2023, nearly 1,000 Karamojong journeyed down from the mountains to Mission Moroto for a weekend of worship and preaching. On Sunday, Matt, Rebekah, and two local pastors waded into the Nakiloro River and baptized 750 more new believers. It was a miraculous day.

Later that summer, a generous donor funded another 100 Village Players which have allowed the audible Word of God and the preaching of the Gospel to spread to even more villages. Rebekah recently reported that two high school orphans carried Village Players to a previously unreached village and shared the Gospel there. Several graduates from the orphanage have joined the Bible school and are now training for ministry.

*"I'm praising God today for raising up our boys to be mighty warriors for Christ," Rebekah Bullen shared.*

Churches now exist in 25 villages, and many more continue to be reached as news of the revival continues to spread.

## The Road Ahead

Mission Moroto continues to welcome more children into the orphanage. Recently, Rebekah and her team







began a program in mountain villages called "Jesus and Porridge," where, three times a week, over 2,000 children receive a cup of porridge, basic reading and arithmetic lessons, and Bible stories.

God has truly performed a miracle in Moroto, Uganda, and the Digital Bible Society team is honored to play a part. The Digital Bible Society Village Players have become powerful tools in a movement that is transforming lives, igniting hope, and spreading light where there was once only darkness.

As we continue to serve the people of Uganda, we remain committed to equipping them with the life-giving truth of God's Word. With every Village Player sent, new churches are born, new believers are discipled, and new possibilities are unlocked. We trust that the hope of the Gospel will continue to travel across Uganda, transforming lives and generations to come.









# Meet Our Audio Players



**Each** audio player is thoughtfully crafted to meet the diverse needs of evangelists in the field. More than just devices, they are vessels for the Word of God, designed to overcome illiteracy, poverty, and scripture inaccessibility. As we continue our mission to provide Scripture to every nation, we invite you to partner with us. Missionaries, consider how these players can equip your ministry in the field. Donors, your support can place the Word of God into the hands of those who might otherwise never hear it. Together, we can amplify the reach of the gospel, one player at a time.

Our solar-powered audio Bible players are intentionally designed to support disciple-making movements by providing accessible, field-ready tools. The players come in three sizes: the Mini Pearl, Pearl, and Village Pearl.

## The Mini Pearl

The Mini Pearl is a compact, personal-sized player, capable of being easily and discreetly concealed in high-risk areas. With both solar and USB charging, it functions reliably in urban and rural settings alike. Its 8 GB of storage holds multiple Bibles and resources in various languages, and a headphone jack allows for private listening. As the smallest and most affordable model, the Mini Pearl is a vital resource for the mission field.



## The Pearl Player

The Pearl player builds on the Mini with additional features and a slightly larger body. Its LCD screen displays titles in vernacular script, enabling easy navigation through content and languages using intuitive buttons. Available in 16 or 32 GB versions, it supports more languages, offers advanced MicroSD capabilities, and features a fixed-frequency radio for additional flexibility. Like the Mini Pearl, it is equipped with solar and USB charging and a headphone jack, but adds a flashlight, particularly useful in rural areas and helpful for drawing community interest.



## The Village Pearl

The Village Pearl, our largest model, includes a powerful speaker suitable for groups of up to 100 people. It retains all the Pearl's capabilities, adds a larger flashlight, and includes an extra port for use as an MP3 speaker. In the field, the Village Pearl is a reliable choice to support listening groups and church services.



## MicroSD Cards

DBS offers Bible libraries on microSD cards, including text Bibles, audio Bibles and discipleship resources are available in many languages. To find out more specifics on audio players, microSDs and the many Bible resources DBS offers, visit our webpage at [dbs.org](http://dbs.org).





# Malawi

## Winds of Change Sweep Across Malawi as Thousands of Chiefs Follow Christ



Malawi Chiefs with audio Bibles

In the heart of Malawi, beneath the sprawling branches of ancient trees, something extraordinary is happening: a movement to Christ unlike anything the country has seen before.

The story begins in 2009, when WoodsEdge Community Church in Spring, Texas, sent a team, including Senior Pastor Jeff Wells and Mission Pastor Tim Martin to Lilongwe, Malawi. They partnered with a local pastor, Bishop Charles Tsukulusa, to train pastors in the mission of multiplying disciples. Over the next four years, several hundred pastors completed the training, but something was still missing. The vision of disciple-making through the village churches wasn't taking hold.

After prayer and reflection, Tim and Bishop Charles sensed the Lord leading them in a new direction. They decided to invite 30 village chiefs, who were showing openness to the Gospel, to attend the next discipleship training. What happened next exceeded anything they had imagined.

*"When the first chiefs started hearing about Christ," Tim recalls, "they couldn't wait to share it with other chiefs. It wasn't just good news—it was great news."*

### Breaking the Bonds of Fear

In Chewa tradition, most village chiefs are initiated into the Gule Wamkulu—a powerful and secretive ancestral order. Its masked dancers, believed to embody spirits of the dead, appear during funerals, initiations, and judgment rituals, reinforcing control through fear, secrecy, and spiritual bondage. Chiefs serve not only as civil leaders but often as spiritual gatekeepers of this system. As Tim explains:

*"When a chief comes to Christ, it frees the whole village. Instead of living in fear, the people are free. They begin to take care of the widows and orphans, and the people are singing and dancing."*

The transformation is nothing short of miraculous—as darkness is replaced by the light and love of Jesus.



Gule Wamkulu Masked Dancer





Chief Chapsynja



Chief Chapsynja, a Senior Group Village Headman, emerged as the point man in this growing effort of evangelism and discipleship. He established centers across the rural area where chiefs could gather regularly to disciple and encourage one another. Over the next few years, the numbers steadily grew—village by village, chief by chief.

### **A Movement in Motion**

By 2016, momentum had grown so strong that a special disciple-making event was held for chiefs across an entire jurisdiction. Organizers were stunned by the turnout. At that single gathering, 1,000 chiefs received the gospel and followed Christ.

In response, Chief Chapsynja expanded and strengthened the discipleship centers across the region. The vision was becoming reality: a grassroots, chief-led movement focused on bringing the Gospel to every Chewa village in Malawi.

### **Equipping with the Word**

Back in Texas, Tim reached out to the Digital Bible Society in 2017 with a critical request: audio Bible players in the Chichewa language. Within two years, 500 players were delivered through WoodsEdge Church, offering the Word of God to rural leaders in a form they could hear and share.

But the work was far from finished. In 2018, Pastor Charles and Tim agreed that 43 oral discipleship lessons should be recorded in Chichewa to equip the chiefs as they met together to grow in their faith. Pastor Tsukulusa traveled to Conroe, Texas that November and recorded the lessons at the DBS offices.

One final challenge remained: they still needed a way for the Bible to be heard by an entire village.



# Malawi continued

## Enter the Village Player

In response to this need, WoodsEdge partnered with DBS to create the Village Player—a solar-powered Audio Bible Player with a bold 10-watt speaker, capable of reaching up to 100 people at once. The first shipment of 500 Village Players arrived in Malawi in January 2022, and a DBS team returned in October to distribute another 500 to eagerly waiting chiefs.

These “Talking Bibles” have since become a cornerstone tool in village evangelism and discipleship.

## A Nation Touched by Truth

To date, over 3,000 audio Bibles, including 2,000 Village Players have been delivered. Since that first training in 2013, over 3,000 village chiefs have decided to follow Christ. Chief Chapsynja—with the help of Pastor Clement from a neighboring village—is now leading the effort to expand the Gospel to the Yao and Tumbuka regions, where the message of Jesus is still new.

The transformation is undeniable; villages once ruled by fear and spiritual darkness are now marked by joy and peace in the Lord. Singing replaces silence. Reconciliation replaces suspicion. Chiefs are leading their people not in ancestral ritual, but in Biblical truth.

And the vision? It’s bold—and yet beautifully simple:

*To see every village in Malawi reached with the great news of the Gospel.*

With every new Village Player, another chief hears God’s Word. And with every chief, an entire village gets the chance to walk in the light of Christ.



Village Player Audio Bibles



Tim Martin & Pastor Clement



Village Chiefs with Audio Bibles



# Partner Spotlight

## WoodsEdge Community Church, Tim Martin



Tim Martin

In 2007, after a speaking event featuring U2's Bono, the elders at WoodsEdge felt a stirring within their hearts for the people of Africa and entrusted Tim with gathering a team to visit several ministries, evaluate them, and recommend one location and ministry for a partnership. After visiting ministries in South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi, the team of 10 unanimously decided to adopt Malawi, beginning a legacy of ministry still advancing today, reaching thousands of Chewa chiefs with the gospel. Tim, now a retired Missions Pastor, is gearing up for a trip this summer back to Malawi, marking his 18th visit to Africa. Tim describes the disciple-making movement across Malawi as monumental and tangible: "You drive into a village, and you know right away if the gospel has reached them or not".

The blessing extended past Malawi. Across WoodsEdge, several hundred church members also became involved, raising \$100,000 in just two weekends for audio Bible players. Donors were given the name of a chief to pray for, tracking the exact village reached by their donation, and several church members travelled with Tim to Malawi, helping distribute discipleship materials.

In Malawi, through regular trips and training, the Holy Spirit has moved mightily, showing the power of disciple-making movements. Tim reminds us that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, especially in areas like Malawi governed by occult religions. Tim told us the story of a chief who began playing an audio Bible in his home, starting in Matthew. As Scripture played, his home began to shake, as demons flew out of the windows and the doors, and the chief experienced the liberating power of God and His mighty Word. He began traveling, playing the Bible as lives were transformed and true joy began spreading across Malawi.

Thanks to WoodsEdge's support, the mission of providing audio Bibles has spread further north to Tumbuka chiefs and the Muslim Yao people, reaching Mozambique and Zambia. The Word of God remains powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing hearts across villages, countries, and continents. We are continuing to praise and thank God that He "is able to do more abundantly than all that we ask or think..."



# Join us in our mission!

## 4 Ways you can get involved:

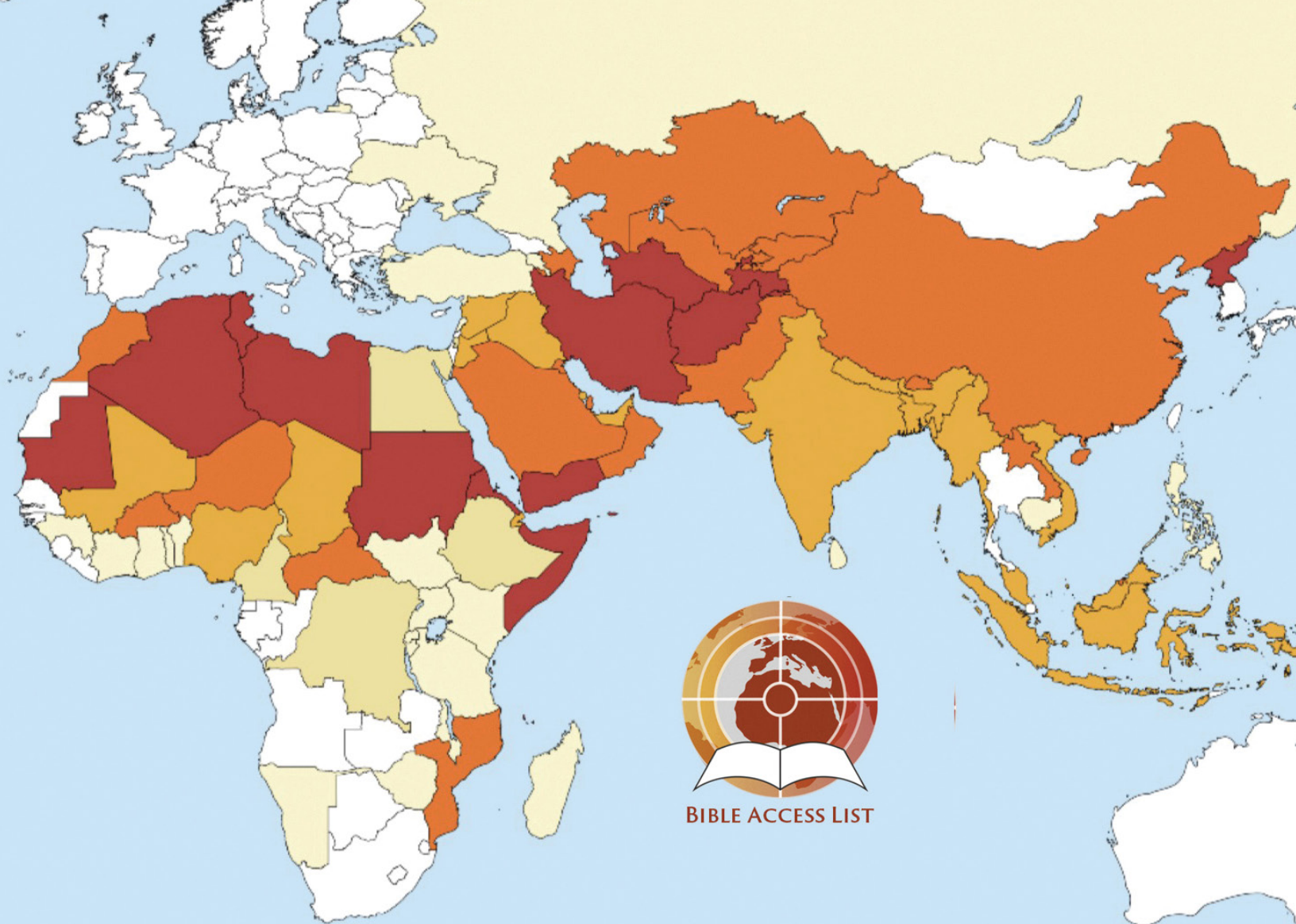
- **Go** - serve the nations and your local community. Consider those in your area and overseas that need the grace, mercy, and freedom of the gospel, whether that's a nursing home across the street or a remote village overseas.
- **Bring** - audio Bibles and MicroSD cards with you as you travel and serve. Whether you're overseas for missions, business, or the joy of adventure, you can place God's Word into the hands of people wherever you go, in their native language.
- **Give** - We have an ever-increasing list of projects currently awaiting funding. Join us in enabling God's Word to go out, even to the unreached. Whether you are an individual, church, or funding organization, we would love to invite you to browse our upcoming projects at [dbs.org](https://dbs.org). To give, reach out to us at [info@dbs.org](mailto:info@dbs.org). Some of our projects are for nations too sensitive to publish online or publicly, please reach out to us to coordinate details if you are interested in a specific country.
- **Pray** - We believe that God delights in our prayers and longs to answer. Join us by using the neighboring page of requests to pray for DBS and our partners as we advance God's kingdom by making God's Word accessible.

Together, we can empower God's people to share God's Word everywhere!

Your partnership and generosity enables DBS's mission to make Scripture accessible to all peoples. Scan the QR code provided to access all of the DBS resources available on our webpage.







# Coming Up Next

Our next issue will be dedicated to a groundbreaking initiative that is set to make a significant impact on the Bible and Mission community. **October 2nd** marks the launch of the Bible Access List, a re-search-based tool designed to provide global data that answers two critical questions:

- **Where is Bible access the most restricted?**
- **Where is Bible shortage the greatest?**

DBS has partnered with leading researchers and strategic Bible and Missions organizations to develop this powerful resource. Be sure to watch for our upcoming publication, where we'll provide an in-depth look at the **Bible Access List** and explore how it will advance the cause of missions and Bible distribution around the world.







Donate at: [www.DBS.org](http://www.DBS.org) | (936) 494-4442



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As a registered non-profit 501(c)3 ministry, Digital Bible Society is dedicated to Making Scripture Accessible to all. By fostering collaboration among Bible publishers, translators, content creators, donors, and Christian workers globally, we ensure that God's Word is easily accessible to those who need it most. Harnessing the power of the digital revolution, we believe God is equipping the Body of Christ with unprecedented resources for advancing discipleship, evangelism, and church planting. Join us on this exciting journey of making Scripture accessible to everyone.