

WHY DIGITAL BIBLES
FOR NEPAL?

DIGITAL BIBLES FOR
NORTH INDIA

A CHRISTMAS
TRADITION

MAKING SCRIPTURE ACCESSIBLE

WITH DIGITAL BIBLE SOCIETY



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

**THE LARGEST DISTRIBUTION OF
DIGITAL BIBLES EVER UNDERTAKEN**

FALL 2024

GOD'S WORD IS ALIVE

From the CEO, Ken Bitgood



Dear Readers,

Perhaps the title “Why Digital Bibles for Nepal?” got your attention. Some might also ask, “Are Bibles even necessary or relevant in this modern era?” But to those questioning, might I suggest, that perhaps we have forgotten—or maybe have never even personally experienced—the life-changing power that flows from God’s Word? Did not Jesus say “the words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life (John 6:63b)?” I believe that all that is required are ears to hear God’s Words, and a heart to believe them.

This report from Jay working with OrphanShade.org, serves to answer this question:

We are serving vulnerable orphan girls living in rural villages via creation of foster families in southern Malawi. We operate through a local church network based in Blantyre, Malawi. They have approximately 150 church plants that are located in rural tribal villages. A typical village church meets underneath a large tree in the village. They have minimal resources, but continue to thrive and multiply. The majority of the church members are uneducated and cannot read or write.

We supplied 5 of your Pearl audio bibles to our partner in May who supplied pastors with the devices with specific instructions. Each pastor would facilitate Q & A after a group listened to a chapter or two.

Last week I was advised of a healing and a salvation took place as a result of hearing the Word of God. A man in the Mdeka village brought an audio player on a weekly basis to play it for a friend who was lame for a long time. On the last visit, the man got up and walked and danced after listening to the Bible. There was no preaching, worship or prayer for the sick. It was simply a miraculous response to the spoken Word of God.

We are now evaluating how to further help our partners disciple their people by leveraging the audio players. Thank you for making these devices available.

As you read about large Bible distributions, made possible through donors like you, please remember that all it takes is one Bible to bring transformation to one believing heart! God’s Word is alive! Thank you for joining us in “making it accessible”!



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ABOUT THE COVER

Your steadfast support and generosity have empowered women like Rupa to connect with the Word of God in their heart language, thanks to the provision of Digital Bibles on MicroSD cards. Your contribution has been crucial in the monumental distribution of 80,000 Biblical resources to persecuted believers in Nepal.

We are deeply grateful for your role in making Scripture accessible and for your transformative impact on the lives of individuals like Rupa. Thank you for your dedication to spreading God’s Word.

To protect our friends and partners, identifying details throughout this report may have been subject to change. We appreciate your collaboration as we work to ensure the safety and protection of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world.



Pictured above: A Nepali woman receives a Micro SD Digital Bible

WHY DIGITAL BIBLES FOR NEPAL?

One of the central figures in the distribution of Digital Bibles in Nepal is Mahesh, who spearheads the training of Nepalese youth eager to become missionaries within their own country. We spoke with Mahesh to gain insight into the distribution of 80,000 Digital Bibles on MicroSD cards across Nepal. Here is what he had to say.

In my 24 years of mission experience, in the early days, we would go to every village to preach the gospel out in the open and on the streets. We distributed Christian tracts and preached the gospel.

But now, it's very different in this nation. We cannot preach in the open, in the streets, in the villages. We cannot show a drama now. Now we make friends. We befriend villages. We can't do tracts, but we can distribute SD cards and audio Bibles in the villages. And this is very powerful because they are available in their own language. When we give the word of God in their own language, they can feel that, "This is my language, my tribe, my mother tongue," then they are very interested to hear the Word of God.

This is the digital age. People want to hear things from their devices and mobiles. When you put the SD card in, they can see the Jesus film and other Christian movies. They can hear the Word of God in their own language and dialect. This is what is so powerful.

The students we train do outreach, taking all the SD cards to villages. They're the ones that actually do the distribution. They are the live distributors. We don't send them with tracts, but with SD cards. They teach people how to install it and use it on their phones. You can do a lot of ministry with these Digital Bibles.

Please pray that God would grow His kingdom in this nation. Please pray for Nepali Christians to grow in their faith and to stand strongly in their own faith to go forward.

ECHOES OF FAITH: BRIDGING BARRIERS WITH DIGITAL BIBLES IN NEPAL'S HIMALAYAS

Discover the compelling story of a Nepali couple steadfast in their faith amidst intense persecution. Learn about their journey to Christianity and the transformative role of Digital Audio Bibles in their ministry across the Himalayas.



LISTEN TO THE MAKING SCRIPTURE
ACCESSIBLE PODCAST!

Scan the QR code or visit:
go.dbs.org/m/Nepal-Podcast



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

THE LARGEST DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITAL BIBLES EVER UNDERTAKEN

Thanks to your steadfast support, the largest ever distribution of Digital Bibles on MicroSD cards has transformed lives in the Asian nation of Nepal.

Pictured above: A congregation of persecuted believers in Nepal joyously celebrates receiving Digital Bibles on MicroSD cards.

Biren trekked for days along perilous cliffside roads. Arriving at a Himalayan village, he led an entire Tibetan speaking family to Christ. Despite the lack of churches, minimal internet, and scarce electricity, Biren yearned to provide them with spiritual resources. He left the village with a heaviness he expressed to us in 2022: **"I wished I had something to leave with them in their heart language to help them grow in their faith."**

Biren is a young Nepali man in his 20s who embodies the spirit of a modern Nepali youth with a deep love for soccer and all things digital. However, his passion extends beyond the field and web; it drives him across the rocky terrains of the Himalayas, where he zealously shares the Gospel. Biren continues the legacy of his father, Arjun, who was the first in his family to embrace Christianity.

Arjun reflects on his journey into faith: "When I became a Christian, I was the first believer in my family, and since then, our family has grown to include 71 believers. In my village, there were no churches. Now there are six."

Despite growing up in a Christian household, Biren has witnessed the stark realities of persecution firsthand. His father's conversion was met with harsh rejection from their community and family. Arjun recounts, "When my mother discovered my conversion, she wept and disowned me. My brothers and other tribal members ostracized me, banning me from communal meals."

**1.3
MILLION
CHRISTIANS
IN NEPAL**

**123 +
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN IN
NEPAL**

**80,000
DIGITAL
BIBLES FOR
NEPAL**

You are part of a historic distribution of God's Word. A single MicroSD Digital Bible can empower up to 200 individuals with access to Scripture.

The landscape of religious tolerance in Nepal has shifted over the years. Although the ascension of the Maoists and the declaration of Nepal as a secular state suggested a potential softening, the influence of neighboring countries like India and China has been significant. This is notably seen through the pervasive impact of Hindu Fundamentalist groups in India.

The recent re-election of Indian Prime Minister Modi and his efforts to engage the Indian youth resonate deeply with Nepali youth, who have actively participated in shaping Nepal's transition into what many now refer to as the Digital Age.

It is in this transformative era and through your gift of Digital Bibles in MicroSD format that Biren and other young Nepalis are able to make disciples of Jesus Christ by boldly carrying the Word of God to every corner of the nation. The unprecedented distribution of Digital Bibles across Nepal marks a new chapter in its history, characterized not by the violent conflict of Maoist takeover nor traditional Hindu beliefs, but by the transformative power of the Word of God. Accessible in their native languages and in formats that resonate with their cultural identity, these Digital Bibles are changing lives for Christ.

Your contribution is forging a new path in history. By facilitating the largest distribution of Digital Bibles to any country globally, you are playing a pivotal role in shaping Nepal's future.



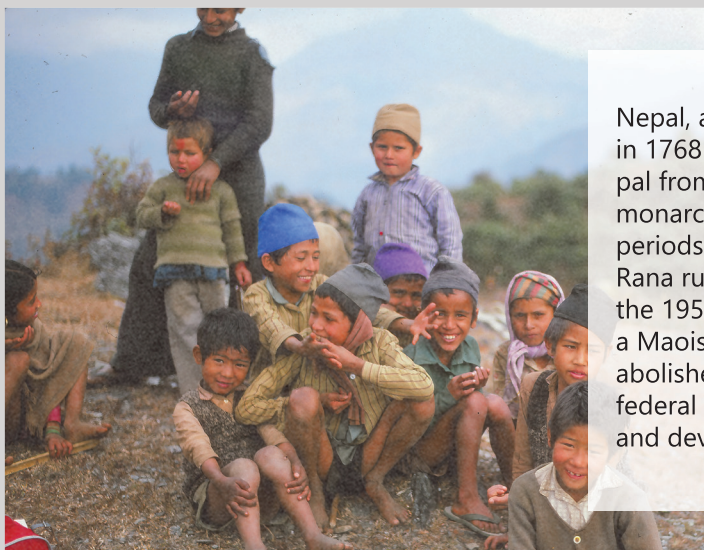
“In Nepal right now, it is very sensitive. You are not allowed to distribute Bibles or tracts in any written form. You will be persecuted right away. But these little microchips are very easy to carry, and many young people like these.” – Arjun

Pictured below: A church leader in Nepal presents a Digital Bible to a woman in a remote village.

**YOU HAVE EMPOWERED
PERSECUTED BELIEVERS
IN NEPAL TO REACH OVER
16,000,000
PEOPLE WITH THE WORD
OF GOD IN THEIR HEART
LANGUAGE.**



THE HISTORY OF NEPAL AS A NATION



Nepal, an ancient sovereign state in the Himalayas, was unified in 1768 by Prithvi Narayan Shah, creating the Kingdom of Nepal from various smaller regions. It predominantly remained a monarchy under the Shah dynasty until 2008, despite enduring periods of political instability and isolation, particularly under Rana rule from 1846 to 1951. Nepal began democratizing in the 1950s, but experienced fluctuating political power and a Maoist insurgency from 1996 to 2006. The monarchy was abolished in 2008, leading to the establishment of Nepal as a federal secular republic with ongoing challenges in governance and development.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN NEPAL


Christianity in Nepal began with a visit from Jesuit missionaries in the 17th century, but it remained largely minimal due to the country's closure to external influences. Significant growth in the Christian Church started in the mid-20th century following the 1951 end of the Rana regime, which had kept Nepal isolated. Postregime, Christian missionaries entered Nepal, setting up schools and hospitals, and the Nepali Church started to grow, though conversions were initially slow due to restrictions. Christianity was illegal until 1990 when Nepal's shift to a constitutional monarchy allowed greater religious freedom. Since then, the Christian community has expanded, especially among marginalized groups.



THE HISTORY OF PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN NEPAL



Even after the 1990 Constitution granted religious freedom, anticonversion laws persisted, subjecting Christian converts to social ostracism and violence. Although Nepal became a secular state in 2007, tensions over anti-conversion laws continued. The 2015 constitution reaffirmed secularism but prohibited proselytizing and actions that could offend religious sentiments, leading to legal actions against Christians for sharing their faith. Persecution has included church attacks, arrests for evangelizing, and community pressures to abandon the Christian faith, posing significant challenges to the church's growth.



“This is the best evangelism tool. We talk and then give a gift. Sometimes when you say the word Bible they don’t want it. But when you say, ‘there is something beautiful for you to discover in the MicroSD’, then they take it.” – Arjun

YOU ARE TRANSFORMING A NATION

Pictured here: Nepali church leaders receive Digital Bibles in MicroSD for their network of believers.

DIGITAL BIBLES FOR NORTH INDIA

MicroSD Cards Enhancing Spiritual Access Among Believers in Assam & Nagaland

In Assam and Nagaland, states in the North of India, while digital connectivity is making progress, communities still face significant challenges that necessitate the distribution of MicroSD cards containing audio, text and video Bible content. In India, where the practice of Christianity can attract scrutiny or persecution, these cards offer a discreet and safe way for believers to access spiritual resources. They allow individuals to explore and practice their faith privately, mitigating the risk associated with public worship or the possession of physical religious texts in areas sensitive to religious tensions.

Moreover, remote areas in these states still have gaps in reliable digital access and literacy, particularly among economically disadvantaged groups. MicroSD cards provide a simple and effective solution, enabling continuous access to the Bible without reliance on internet connectivity, which remains inconsistent in many parts of these regions.

"The community extends their profound thanks to our Almighty God for bringing us together in service. We are also deeply grateful to the donors whose sacrificial love for the Lord made it possible to reach many souls through Digital Bibles. Every gift has enabled us to carry the gospel to perishing souls, and for that, we thank you. May the Lord bless you abundantly."

– Field Partners from North India



Because of your generosity, an estimated **60,000 people** in North India now have access to the Word of God. Your generous gift helped cover the cost of 3,000 Digital Bibles in MicroSD, making this incredible impact possible.



A Digital Bible in MicroSD format can store hundreds of hours of Biblical content in multiple languages, providing everything a church planter needs to establish new congregations. From video resources for children to audio for the elderly and textbased materials for young leaders, this versatile tool equips ministries across all age groups and stages of faith.

INDIA IS #11 ON THE WORLD WATCH LIST OF NATIONS WHERE IT IS MOST DANGEROUS TO FOLLOW CHRIST.

At the heart of our mission is the power of Scripture transforming lives in the most remote corners of the world. We are constantly moved by the testimonies that emerge from the field—stories of faith, resilience, and the incredible impact that the Word of God, delivered through digital media like Audio Bibles and MicroSD cards, has on communities. Below is just one of these powerful testimonies from believers in Assam, India. Even as you read this text, more and more people in India are experiencing the power of God's Word for the first time, coming to Christ and choosing to observe baptism as an outward sign of their commitment despite the brutal persecution they face for following Christ as their Savior.

"Our village is near the riverbank, and visitors rarely come here. When I received the SD card, I was overjoyed. I learned so much about the teachings of the Bible in my own language—something I never thought possible. I've shared the content with my family, and now my parents, cousins, and neighbors all listen and watch with me. The message of the SD card speaks to people of all ages. We are so happy to finally have this resource in our own language."
– Persecuted believer from Assam, India

INSIDE THE HISTORIC ROOTS & PRESENT CHALLENGES OF A FAITH UNDER FIRE

We are joined by a seasoned expert who has spent years supporting the persecuted Church in India. His insights provide a unique window into the history of the resilient faith of our brothers and sisters facing adversity. Join us as we delve into the complex realities of faith under fire and the profound spirit of perseverance that defines Christians in India. This is the first episode in our mini-series on the persecuted Church in India.



LISTEN TO THE MAKING SCRIPTURE ACCESSIBLE PODCAST!

Scan the QR code or visit go.dbs.org/m/India-Podcast





A CHRISTMAS TRADITION



Claudia & Diego Urrego's Mission of Faith and Warmth in California

In the heart of California, Claudia and Diego Urrego are redefining the spirit of Christmas through their profound commitment to faith and God's Word. Originally from Colombia and raised within the traditions of the Catholic Church, the couple's move to California and the arrival of their first child prompted a significant spiritual awakening. They realized that their early religious education had missed a deep engagement with the Bible, leading Claudia to begin a personal journey through Scripture.



This exploration was a catalyst for change, aligning their lives more closely with the teachings of God's Word. In September 2020, a pivotal moment came when they purchased an Audio Bible from the Digital Bible Society website. Inspired by the holiday season, they initiated a Christmas tradition unlike any other—they started distributing solar-powered audio players to the homeless.



For the past four years, Claudia and Diego have dedicated their holiday seasons to this mission. They provide essential items like blankets and sweaters to the homeless, incorporating solar-powered Audio Bibles into these care packages.



*Top Left: The Urrego children in custom-made sweatshirts, proudly display their Audio Bibles.
Bottom left: A homeless woman joyfully receives an Audio Bible.
Right: The Urrego family vehicle, packed with blankets, sweaters, and Audio Bibles.*

These Bibles allow access to spiritual guidance without the need for heavy books or electricity, addressing practical issues faced by those living without shelter.

Their commitment extends beyond mere distribution. The garments they offer are creatively imprinted with Bible verses, hoping to spark meaningful conversations and connections among the recipients. Claudia and Diego's ultimate aspiration is to foster encounters with God's Word, aiming to deepen the community's understanding of the Gospel.

This unique Christmas tradition not only offers warmth and comfort to those in need, but also fosters a sense of community and spiritual connection, reflecting the transformative journey Claudia and Diego have experienced themselves. The Urrego family have already called our office in Conroe, Texas to ensure that their yearly order of Audio Bibles for the homeless arrives in time for the holiday season.

This Christmas, let the story of Claudia and Diego inspire you to consider how you too can share the light of God's Word and the hope of the Gospel with those in need near you and across the world.



THIS CHRISTMAS, YOU CAN SHARE THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD IN MEANINGFUL WAYS:

Sponsor a Digital Bible Project

Make a lasting impact by sponsoring a project that brings the Bible to those who need it most.

Donate in Memory

Honor a loved one by donating in their name. Your thoughtful gift will help spread the transformative power of God's Word.

Support God's Word to the Homeless

Contribute to our initiative that provides spiritual nourishment to the homeless community during the holiday season and beyond.



go.dbs.org/m/Christmas

Scan the QR Code or visit the link above
to take action today.



DID YOU KNOW?

Right now, as you read these words, there are countless individuals around the world fervently praying for access to God's Word. You can help answer their prayers by making Scripture accessible today.



Will you help place the word of God in their hands? Bring hope and give the gift of God's Word today!

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FORUM OF BIBLE
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INTERNATIONAL



CHARITY
NAVIGATOR



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.