



New product, new possibilities...



GNM now distributes a resource similar to the Saber MP3 player. This happens in conjunction with Davar Partners International who recently started manufacturing a new model audio player in South Africa. The new player is known as the AudiBible player. But what about the Saber MP3 player (which replaced the old cassette player – our “plastic pastor”, as we called it)?

Is it no longer good enough? Feedback from people in the field include both positive and negative comments:

- The good quality of its parts and the fact that these parts will always be available makes it a winner.
- The sound is of exceptional quality and is thus also suitable for bigger groups.
- The Saber works excellent in those cases where missionaries or distributors with the necessary knowledge can service and maintain the players.
- Remote places find it difficult to find people who are trained to help with the repair and maintenance of the Saber. Only someone with knowledge regarding the Saber, who has a computer and the appropriate software, can do the work.
- The Saber now boasts with a new battery with much more stamina. That should eliminate the battery problems to a great extent.

AudiBible... easier to handle!

The *AudiBible* is especially recommended for remote places since:

- It is much smaller, simpler to work with and easier to handle.
- It requires no significant maintenance.
- It has a built-in sun panel as power source. The player only needs to be placed in direct, full sunlight for four hours for the rechargeable battery to charge before it may be used for the first time. After that it only needs to be charged after every 8 to 10 hours of use.
- The built-in speaker has good sound quality and approximately 200 hours of listening contents can be stored on it.
- *AudiBible* also has an audio Bible already loaded onto the player which offers one a choice of language medium.
- Anyone who wants to use the *AudiBible* simply orders the required GNM contents. The latter is then loaded onto the player and posted – ready for listening.



Erik van Zyl and Tjise Tjambiru.

How does the new *AudiBible* work?

Erik van Zyl of *Kunene for Christ* was the first missionary to give feedback on the new *AudiBible* used in his ministry area (Namibia). With Erik (in the photo on the front page) is Tjise Tjambiru, a Christian Himba woman of Okaanga with the *AudiBible* that she now uses in a remote place to familiarise herself with the Word.

Erik writes the following: “Okaanga is an ant’s nest of activities with Himbas. They bring their goats and cattle to drink water. On top of the mountain are more pastures for the animals, but they come down to the borehole to fetch water.

“The chief’s wife, Tjise, and three other women ride from the mountain on their donkeys. After their animals had enough water, they come and sit with us. ‘We are thirsty!’ they shout. ‘For water?’ I ask. ‘No, for God’s Word!’ Good News Media’s picture range and



In the photo the women are following the pictures whilst listening to the commentary on the *AudiBible*.

audio text in Herero about the book of Acts was like water of life that refreshed these thirsty Christians.”

John Leach ‘discovers’ the west of Zambia

John Leach and the rest of his research team (two interpreters and other staff members from South Africa) set off to the far western area of Zambia in 2010. This part is close to the eastern border of Angola. All John knew about this area was that it was said to be “primitive” and “neglected”.

The team had the following two objectives:

- John had to continuously plot all the smaller settlements. This information is being processed for future use.
- They had to determine to which extent the inhabitants were exposed to the gospel... and which strategies have to be used in order to help them in an effective way.

The research team realised that there are in fact a lot of religious influences on the inhabitants. Nevertheless, they do not have enough knowledge of the Word. Thus they also do not understand how to implement the gospel in their lives.



Discussing the days work.

John and his team:

- Focussed on the size of spiritual needs.
- Identified leaders within the communities who could work with them.
- Gave attention to leader’s equipment in order for the leaders to understand more of the gospel. Then they can share it at a later stage with their people. With the GNM resources they could help the leaders to start sharing the gospel with the people in a chronological order.



John Leach and his familie.

The team hands out tracts in the settlements. The interpreter help in telling the Bible stories chronologically from the creation in indigenous languages, like Lozi and Luvale.

The researching team gathered valuable information. Flowing from this, John has now approached GNM to take hands with his team. They want to provide the leaders in the settlements with audio-visual gospel material since so many people are illiterate.

Intercession: John Leach and his team did wonderful work. His family supports him in this exceptional work. We can pray that the resources will indeed be found to

Hardworking Saber technician

Last year during October, GNM trained Dallion Chitekwere of Lilongwe in Wellington to repair Saber MP3 players and offer the necessary support to users thereof.

He sees this new responsibility as a calling. He already undertook a journey from the north of Malawi to the southern part of the country. In the process he made a stop at Nkhoma, Mtakataka, Nkhotakota, Nkhata Bay, Kasungu, Ntchisi and Malingunde where he either repaired Saber MP3 players, or trained people in using these players.

Dallion is extremely grateful that he is blessed in his work. He is especially thankful for the support of prayer whilst he is on the road. Some places can only be reached via bicycle and then the weight of the Sabers and tools tend to get very heavy in his backpack!

Dallion and the missionaries don't really give players to individuals. In order to put the material to its optimum use, groups are formed within the different villages. Together the groups can then use the Bible study material and resources in the best way possible.

Enquiries reach GNM's office from all over. These enquiries are directed to Dallion as far as possible. He then tries to contact the correspondents and helps them use the Saber MP3 player effectively. They are also included in a follow-up programme.



Dallion Chitekwere, busy repairing a Saber.

It is a tiresome and time-consuming job to travel like this and to focus one's attention on all predicaments at hand. The audio-visual Bible study material is in demand everywhere. People really want to listen to the gospel and use the picture books. His work is truly bearing fruit – this keeps Dallion inspired and he is pulling through to place as many new players possible amongst groups. The groups can join the follow-up programme.

Now the actual big task awaits Dallion: the recording of the *Look, Listen and Live* series in Tonga starts soon. The preceding work is almost done and then the recording will commence.

Zambia research programme filled with highlights

Jess and James Lucas have a busy year behind them – especially Jess, who underwent training as language recorder during October.

They write:

"Looking back at the whole year, there are so many highlights – almost too many to mention. Apart from the people who were touched by God's word, the research programme was also an exceptional highlight. The six-month long research was done in the Few, Mashi, Nkoya and Kwangwa (another name for Luyana) languages. This research brings us a great step closer to a Bible in these languages. The languages represent four groups in Zambia which includes approximately 611 000 individuals.

"The research brought insight to all co-workers in the needs of the people. They yearn for having the Bible available in their mother tongue. The people do not necessarily understand a second language very well, which leads to a whole concept of the Bible stories not being possible.



James and Jess Lucas. In front lies a GNM picture book and a Saber MP3 player. This material forms an integral part of their ministries in Zambia.

"The provisional plan is for GNM's *Look, Listen and Live* series to become the bridging material to introduce people to the Word in their mother tongue. Bible translation is a tremendous project – it is long and tiring. When the translation is finished, the Bible will be the first written or printed material in these languages."

News items

Co-workers in Mozambique

Frans and Louie Böning live and work amongst the Yaos in Mozambique. They write the following about the latest developments:

“This year we started working at two new villages. The chiefs are always glad to see us and the people are very friendly. We trust that the videos with stories about the Creation, Noah, Abraham, Izak, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jesus and others will have an impact on their lives. The new projector that we’re using works wonderful. We show the DVD on a screen – then the image is good and clear for the bigger crowds. The children are usually very excited – they always push forward to be the first to see.

“Together with this we also use the plastic pastor every day for the children. They even ask for the ‘wireless’! The picture

books are being looked at and studied in depth – to such an extent that they frequently need repair. These resources are still winners when it comes to proclaiming the gospel.

“The Saber MP3 player is more than handy. A few years ago an American missionary set up 68 conversation books about the background and contents of the Word amongst the Yaos of Malawi. These books were recently revised and presented by Yaos and recorded in MP3 format. The conversation books are distributed even further with the Saber MP3 player. One of the security guards close to us, Vinte, enjoys listening to these recordings. We listen with the local residents to the recordings in order to learn the language. Meanwhile we have also recorded sections of the New Testament in MP3 format and placed it on the Saber MP3 player.”

Nacala co-workers write:

“Our Makua missionaries, Basileo and Armindo, visited different villages, made friends with the residents and later put up small home churches. In Mahelene and Janga the congregation has now grown to such an extent that they built a small mud brick church, using their own initiative. Now they have started reaching out to the neighbouring villages. In this way nine new congregations were planted.

“All the leaders receive the same training every week. With this they then go to the home churches. The congregations and groups are equipped with a large amount of Makua Bibles, plastic pastors with stories, picture books and other literature. The need for more Makua Bibles and plastic pastors (or Saber MP3 players) is becoming bigger by the day.



Kotie and Rina



The woman on the chair, left in the picture, is holding a GNM picture book.

Testimony from Pemba

As a result of the testimony below, the missionaries in and around Pemba have one dream: enough Saber MP3 players for all the Mwani villages.

Lien Welthagen sent us the following testimony:

“Lito is a 15-year-old Mwani boy who became a follower/disciple of Jesus. He was led by his mother’s testimony. After that he begged the missionaries for his own Saber

MP3 player containing the Bible lessons. He then got one.

“A few weeks later, when one of the missionaries visited Mwani friends, she heard the familiar songs and tuitions clearly coming from the house next door. She followed the sound out of curiosity and found Lito with his MP3 player – seven Muslim men gathered around him and listening closely to the Bible lessons.”

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