

# 1 piece of the puzzle: mobile phones on a g-string

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With the growing popularity of social networks like twitter, facebook, and others, the internet has become a key part in developing community. These venues also become opportunities to connect people with God's word. Of course it first must be available in their language and in communication art forms that are relevant. Yet, what greater opportunity than to have relevant Bible stories available on the internet, accessible by mobile phones, MP3 players, and computers, which then also can be distributed beyond this technology on paper, CD, DVD, tape, any digital players or which ever media fits best. It is a unique piece of the puzzle that demands relevant distribution venues through localized sites, stimulates community growth and fosters engagement with the creator of the universe and His Word.

While many people ministering are eager to utilize the internet, the challenge is to engage them at the right level and integrate this piece of the puzzle in their work early while not have them think that this is the golden bullet that will solve everything. For example, what greater beauty than to see one relevant Bible story at a time crafted in the heart language, tested, shared locally, but also documented, recorded and posted as part of the larger story, like a panoramic Bible, adding more pieces each cycle of the story to draw people to God and His love for them. With this early step by step exposure, community can be developed from the beginning of a project, increased feedback can help improve quality of each successive story, and all materials remain easily accessible, so others also easily can start their journey through the stories.

As people in remote areas increasingly are starting to access the internet with their mobile phones and other technical devices, internet distribution is becoming a key piece of the puzzle, for orally oriented and literate peoples alike. Even when people cannot have local coverage, they download things while in town and then share them at home. Rumors of some remote people groups wearing mobile phones on their g-strings are becoming reality and for many it will their computer and internet access for the near future. Satellite systems will eliminate the need for landlines, 3G networks are popping up all over the world and mobile units are priced to fit the market everywhere. Besides being a phone, it will be used for surfing the web, taking and viewing pictures, recording and watching video, recording and listening to audio, participating in a community (like through facebook), and sometimes also as gaming platform, radio, television, clock, calendar, address book and agenda. Even though this will not be able to replace any other form of ministry, it is one new piece of the puzzle that has enormous potential.