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West Africa

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Distributing Solar  
Bibles to Muslims  
in Morocco





My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

**JOHN 10:27**



# Global Recordings

A PUBLICATION OF GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK USA

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**GRN, MegaVoice, Courtesy of IMB  
and Jim Haney**

## Thank You

Through the stories and recordings of our missionaries, churches, ministry partners, and friends, Global Recordings USA is able to continue:

## Our Vision

That people might hear and understand God's Word in their heart language, especially those who are oral communicators and those who do not have Scriptures in a form they can access.

## Our Mission

In partnership with the Church, to effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ by means of culturally appropriate audio and audio-visual materials in every language.

Global Recordings Network (founded as Gospel Recordings, Inc.) is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States of America.

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**Looking for Spoken magazine?** Last fall, we published this magazine under the name Spoken, but as a professional courtesy to another international ministry, Global Recordings USA elected to change the name of this publication. We are thankful for all the ministries around the world that seek to build the Kingdom of God and tell the story of Jesus.





# Quite a Yield:

## 520 Decisions for Christ in West Africa

**T**he Gambia River is a long way from Arizona, but that's not stopping one church community in Flagstaff from introducing West African people to Jesus.

Flagstaff Christian Fellowship was born out of a railroad chapel car that rolled into town in 1926 to evangelize and provide opportunities for worship and Christian fellowship. That beautiful initiative — to bring Christ to those who otherwise would not know him — continues today as this generous church family shares the love of Christ locally and globally.

One such effort to share Jesus' love globally takes the form of a Christmas campaign to sponsor the Global Recordings Network (GRN) team telling the story of Jesus in Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Typically this annual effort begins in December, but this year great enthusiasm and extra resources enabled the missionaries based in Gambia to begin their outreach a month earlier than scheduled.

**That extra time in the field produced quite a yield for Christ: Thousands of West Africans heard the story of Jesus for the first time and 520 individuals decided to follow Christ. Four small churches were established, too.**

Augustus McJohnson, a missionary serving full-time with the GRN Gambia team, says the prayers and financial support of Flagstaff Christian Fellowship was critical to this success. "Their prayers were of great help to us, as God intervened a number of times on our behalf when the devil tried to attack. Their finances helped us to reach people."

GRN recordings were a vital part of this evangelism. Augustus reports that their team distributed 127 mp3 players and 152 memory cards containing

FLAGSTAFF CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP

123 S Beaver Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

[FCFonline.org](http://FCFonline.org)



**Mission** | Flagstaff Christian Fellowship exists to show how great God is by helping each person and family grow in fervent love for God, love for one another and love for those without Christ, both locally and globally. We seek to accomplish this through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and through the careful teaching and practice of God's word of truth. One of our main goals is that our church families would be a lighthouse to the nearby university community, including the international students.



GAMBIA, AFRICA

**Gambia** is the smallest country in mainland Africa. With borders mirroring the meandering Gambia River, the narrow country is less than 31 miles wide at its widest point.





## Augustus McJohnson

REPRESENTATIVE

GRN Gambia (known locally as Gospel Recordings Gambia)

Augustus graduated from Sierra Leone Theological College in 1994. In 1999, during the Sierra Leone civil war, he migrated to Gambia. He has served with GRN as a full-time missionary since 2002. Augustus and his wife Annie have two children, Keryl and Cheryl.



### PRAY

One villager shared in private that she had been having terrible dreams. In a series of recurring nightmares, a man rapes her. In another, she is fighting with animals for her life. She had been waking up in pain from the intensity of these experiences and sought out a marabout, or Muslim monk, in desperation.

He gave her a set of charms, but none of these helped her. The GRN team offered to destroy the charms on her behalf, but she chose instead to return them to the marabout out of fear.

Our missionaries prayed for God to deliver her. Just before the team's departure, the woman testified that she was no longer having these terrible dreams. Please join with us in praying for her complete deliverance and conversion.

To receive our team's prayer requests via email, visit [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray](mailto:GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray)



In Gambia, English is the main language used for official purposes and in education. But among the people, it is not typically spoken in daily life.

The Mandinka language, or Mandingo, is spoken as a first language by 38% of the population.

Listen to the story of Jesus driving out evil spirits in **Mandinka** at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](http://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)

GRN audio recordings in eight languages and dialects: Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, Mankanya, Balanta Quenthole, Papel, Manjaco and Portuguese Creolo. Small mp3 players can be purchased for about \$3 there, so the memory cards are an ideal format for distribution.

The missionaries also showed films that portray the power of Satan as a weaker power compared to God's power and demonstrate the consequences of offering sacrifices for the dead and receiving spirit gifts from idol priests. "We felt the need to show these films because of the high rate of idol worship and animal sacrifices in Guinea-Bissau," Augustus explains. "We estimate that about 7,000 people watched these movies during our outreach campaign."

The ministry of GRN is enhanced by partnerships that allow us to go places we otherwise cannot go, record languages we otherwise cannot record, and serve people we otherwise cannot serve. In addition to the support of Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, the president of the Evangelical Church of Gambia donated 100 mosquito nets to this outreach, enabling our missionaries to minister to the body, as well as the soul.

While this project produced some incredible immediate results, other seeds sown will take more time and prayer to grow.



The GRN Gambia team has been visiting the village of Panchang for the past three years, and the people there are always happy to hear and receptive to the good news. During the most recent visit, an entire Muslim Fula family became Christians together, asking God to forgive their sins and inviting Jesus into their lives. Plans are set to start a house fellowship there, but tremendous challenges lie ahead. People have volunteered to go there every week from Barra, a 99-mile journey each way that involves crossing the Gambia River.

GRN is honored to be in partnership with Flagstaff Christian Fellowship, a church that provides consistent financial support and prayers for our missionaries and international outreach. Partnering with GRN to help tell the story of Jesus in every language is just one way they fulfill their mission to show how great God is by helping people grow in fervent love for God, love for one another, and love for those who do not yet know Jesus. ■

# Treating Trauma with Tigers

A few years ago, our GRN team and partners realized how our recordings could impact children suffering from trauma. When a South African man named Claude entered our lives, opportunity struck.

One of our South African missionaries, Dalene Joubert, knew Claude through her work as a writer. For years, God had been using Claude's experience as an army chaplain to soften his heart for people who have experienced trauma. When the idea to record a trauma script came about, Dalene knew she had finally found the man uniquely equipped to write it.

It took Claude a couple of years to write the script, which consisted of 38 stories totaling about four hours in length. The stories address different causes of trauma, including bullying, sexual abuse, loss of a family member and others. **Claude designed each recording to help children heal from trauma and relational issues by introducing the gentle love of Jesus.**

The script was written in South African English and Afrikaans, and adapted to fit the unique issues faced by the two different groups. A professional voice actor was hired to read the scripts, and did a masterful job.

Although these unique scripts could be successful just as audio recordings, the opportunity arose to implement them into Tumi Tigers, cuddly stuffed tigers that our GRN team and partners have used to minister to children for the better part of a decade. Claude's audio recording now lives in a special pouch on every Tumi, allowing for volume control, advancing to the next story, and pausing.

As children in Cape Town have been experiencing the friendship of Tumi, care professionals and even a full police department have been asking for more tigers — because the children they work with can't get enough of the cuddly talking animal. When a 6-year-old girl who suffered burns to more than 80 percent of her body was distressed, nothing hospital workers did could calm her down. In desperation, the head of the ward allowed her to be given a Tumi. Not only did the young girl calm down when she received Tumi, but also in time she insisted upon being taken to church and having her TV changed to Christian channels.

Tumi also proved helpful for a child who had reverted to a 1-year-old state and wouldn't respond to adults. After some time with Tumi, the child began to open up to the tiger — then to adults. When another child was given a Tumi while in palliative care, Tumi stayed on the hospital bed until the child's death a few days later.

Through the simple gift of a stuffed animal with a special recording, God is using Claude's beautiful words of hope and healing to spread the gospel and introduce children to the healing power of Jesus' name. ■



## PRAY

Please join us in praying for all children whose lives are altered forever by trauma of any kind, particularly those who do not yet know the authentic and unconditional love of Jesus.

To become one of our prayer partners, visit us online at

[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray)



## PROVIDE

Do you know someone who has experienced trauma and might benefit from having a Tumi Tiger of their own? Or would you like to donate Tumi Tigers to a hospital or shelter near you?

Discover all the ways you can provide God's healing truth by visiting

[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)



Listen to a sample of Tumi Tiger introducing the love of Jesus to children suffering from trauma.

Listen at

[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)

“

I have a special folder on my phone and whenever I meet someone from another country, I can hone in on their language and let them hear the gospel.

**Dr. Jim Haney** | Director of Global Research  
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

# From Shoeboxes to a Mobile App: Carrying the Story of Jesus

“

In my 37 years with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), our focus has been engaging, then establishing churches, and then enlisting the churches that are established in the Great Commission.

I wear several different hats related to Global Recordings Network: one is how Global Recordings can be used in Scripture impact through IMB and with many other ministries and partners globally.

But I also have the personal side — the way I used it when I was in the field myself and the way I use it today.

## “Load me up!”

I was first introduced to Global Recordings in 1984 when I transitioned from Nigeria to northern Ghana. **I was told I was going to be learning a language — and that there were probably 80 to 100 languages in the country. And as a church planter, I really wanted to have some way to sort that all out.**

I found out that I could get cassettes in the language of the peoples of Ghana and I could get free copies in each of those languages. So I said, “Well, load me up! Give me one of each.”

I put them in a couple of shoeboxes and took them to Ghana. As I met people who spoke other languages, I always had something to share with them.

## Taxicab Evangelization

Today, when I know I’m going to a certain restaurant or I’m going to be in a particular neighborhood, even in the U.S. or in an airport or anywhere else, I can use Global Recordings Network’s 5fish app to access recordings of Bible stories. And I can let somebody listen to one of the recordings in their own language.

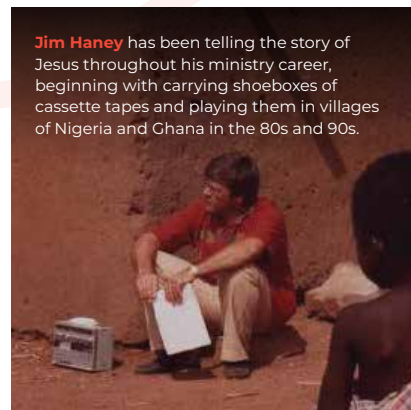
A couple of years ago, I was attending a meeting in San Francisco and we asked a taxi driver to take us back to the airport. He was there very faithfully at 4:00 in the morning. I got in the front seat and I had a couple of my other colleagues with me and they got in the back seat.

I noticed that the driver had an African accent. So I began to talk to him and try to find out where he was from.

When he said he was from Ethiopia, I asked, “Oh, well do you speak Amharic?”

“No I don’t speak Amharic.”

“So, what language do you speak?”



**Jim Haney** has been telling the story of Jesus throughout his ministry career, beginning with carrying shoeboxes of cassette tapes and playing them in villages of Nigeria and Ghana in the 80s and 90s.



## Jim Haney

DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL RESEARCH,  
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

Jim Haney has served with IMB since 1981 — first as a missionary and church planter in Nigeria and Ghana for 18 years, and then in the Global Research department from 1999 to present, including 12 years and counting as director. He has degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, including a doctorate in Ethnic Theology.

Jim served on the field with his wife, Donna, and they have been married for 42 years. Jim has two grown children, Heather and Rachel.



"Well, just guess," he joked with me.

"Well, first of all I'm doing pretty good just to know that Amharic is spoken in Ethiopia. Most Americans don't know that. But ok, I will guess. My second guess is that you speak Oromo."

He was shocked. "You know about Oromo?!"

"Yes. Do you speak Harar Oromo?" By now, I was already into the 5fish app, and this was the first dialect that I saw on my mobile phone.

After confirming he was a Harar Oromo speaker, I had a recording from 5fish downloading on my phone right away. I began to play it, and he took my phone out of my hand. He looked at it while he's driving down the road, which was probably not a good idea, and said, "This is wonderful."

I replied, "Well, you know what? The rest of us in the car don't know why it's wonderful because we don't speak Oromo or Amharic or Harar Oromo. You are the only one in the car who can speak that language. Would you mind just telling us what's on there?"

And he began back-translating it to me and to my friends. He told us the story of Noah, which of course was what was playing on the recording.

(CONTINUED)

After confirming he was a **Harar Oromo speaker**,  
I had a **recording from 5fish** downloading **on my phone** right away. I began to play it, and he took my phone out of my hand. He looked at it while he's driving down the road, which was probably not a good idea, and said,  
**"This is wonderful."**

If you think about those days when missionaries had cassettes, crank tape players, things like that — no matter how many you had, you always needed about a thousand more.





**Sometimes carrying the story of Jesus gets heavy.** Here Jim is loading a basecount — a census of churches in Nigeria — when he was serving in the field. When he finished printing this report, there were tens of thousands of pages of data, so he packed it all into steamer trunks to transport it to the national Baptist partners. The young missionary had no idea just how much research still lay ahead of him at that point.

So that was pretty exciting to see this guy sharing what he was hearing with us. After the 10-minute drive to the airport, he was looking at my phone and writing down what app he could download so that he could go back that night and share it with his family.

These are opportunities we all have, if we just think ahead a little bit.

## Closing the Gospel Gap

I have a special folder on my phone and whenever I meet someone from another country, I can hone in on their language and let them hear the gospel. I can share this with people, and they get really excited — and I can do this even though I don't know their language. It really helps me to have something I can share.

If you think about those days when missionaries had cassettes, crank tape players, things like that — no matter how many you had, you always needed about a thousand more. We still have that gap today between Scripture stories that have been completed and what's actually been distributed and is making an impact on people. **But Global Recordings Network has the recordings and the equipment — with mobile hotspots and other ways — to go about trying to bridge that gap.** ■

”

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD  
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**imb** INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD

**Mission** | IMB partners with churches to empower limitless missionary teams who are evangelizing, discipling, planting, and multiplying healthy churches, and training leaders among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

A Global Recordings Network partner since 1981



## PRAY

Through GRN recordings and the ministry of International Mission Board, **PRAY** that those who hear Bible stories may be open to receiving Christ and to carrying his story to their friends and family.

Sign up to receive Together in Prayer, our team's ongoing prayer requests, at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray)



## PREPARE

Not all missionaries travel to foreign countries. **PREPARE** for your next cab ride to the airport with GRN recordings that tell the story of Jesus in every language.

Visit us online to learn about resources for personal and ministry use at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Resources](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Resources)



## PROVIDE

The recordings of GRN are given as a gift to churches, ministry partners, and people around the world *free of charge*.

GRN has the economic provision to continue this work only because of people like you that **PROVIDE** ongoing, generous financial support.

You can donate securely online at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Donate](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Donate)



Hear **Jim Haney** tell the story of his taxicab evangelization at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)





## Missionary: Elizabeth Chan

GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK USA RECRUITER/STUDENT MOBILIZATION



GRN produces an app called 5fish that tells the story of Jesus in 6,091 languages. It's available in the App Store and Google Play.



### PRAY

Please join us in praying that more schools in Asia will permit open dialogue about Jesus Christ on their premises. We also thank God that this child introduced her mother to Jesus and that 5fish can support this family's first faith encounter.

A friend of mine is a missionary who works as a principal at an international school in Asia. Her school is legally registered with the government, so any child with an international passport can enroll. This means that the school can talk openly about Jesus Christ and who he is as long as they're on the premises of the school. I think that's incredible.

My friend started telling me a story about a child in her school who went home singing, "Jesus Loves Me." The child's mother immediately asked the child, "Who is this Jesus?" Her child responded, "I don't know, but I know he loves me, and he loves you too."

This mother came to the school and asked my friend if she could have any resource like an app where she could learn about this Jesus in her own language—in order to be more involved in her child's life. Sadly, at that time, my friend wasn't sure what kind of resource she could share.

But later when I found out about this, I started getting excited. I told my friend about GRN and the ministry that we have. I told her that we have an app called 5fish that tells the story of Jesus in 6,091 languages. It's available to use anytime, anywhere, with anybody.

**My friend turned to me, looked me in the eye, and said, "You are the answer. Thank God. Now I have a resource I can give to parents."** And she was so grateful that GRN has so many dialects too, because people come to her school from all over the country. She had finally found a way to communicate the gospel to them.

I was just in awe of how awesome God is. He allowed me to be a part of this amazing story. I can only imagine how many people will be hearing the story of Jesus in their own language and be touched by the Holy Spirit because of this little connection. It was just very exciting and, really, a divine appointment. ■



Hear **Elizabeth Chan** tell her favorite GRN story at  
[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)

# Worth a Thousand Words

## The intentional choices that have defined and refined GRN's visual resources

The heart and soul of Global Recordings Network's ministry is audio recordings that tell the story of Jesus. But whenever possible, GRN offers culturally appropriate visuals to complement the audio recordings via pocket booklets, handheld books, oversized flip charts, and digital formats for projection or slideshows.

While these visuals may seem outdated or perhaps even childish at first glance, extensive research has gone into developing these images to serve a wide variety of cultures.

Here's a look into just some of the intentional choices that have shaped these key ministry tools:

- Deliberately simple, the uncluttered pictures concentrate viewer attention on key elements of the story.
- High-contrast colors and thick outlines help viewers clearly identify objects and people. This also makes them useful even in low-light conditions such as around a campfire or in a dimly lit hut. Colors are carefully selected to avoid cultural misunderstandings.
- Missionaries in the field discovered that some viewers did not realize that the rest of a figure existed behind a foreground object, which led to unusual beliefs and questions about disembodied spirits and ghosts. So when an illustration includes people, you will almost always see complete figures whose bodies are unobstructed by other elements in the image.
- Some research indicates that people are able to reproduce black-and-white line drawings from memory more easily than images with colors. But when asked, people almost always respond that they prefer colorful imagery. GRN makes sets of both black-and-white and colorful images available for missionaries to use at their discretion.

If this style doesn't seem like fine art to you, that's intentional, too.

**Every culture has its own artistic traditions and expectations — and these illustrations are thoughtfully crafted to be received as educational images, not works of art.**

GRN is indebted to the artists and missionaries who have championed the development of these illustrations in the past and present. For oral communicators around the world — those who cannot read or may not even have a written language — GRN's visual aids and recordings are essential tools to access the truths of God's Word. ■



### FACT

#### DID YOU HEAR?

The late Graham Wade of Sydney, Australia did the original line drawings for picture sets to accompany GRN's three core programs: Good News; Look, Listen, and Live; and The Living Christ. Helen (Johnstone) Gerner did the original color work, as well as re-coloring them for digital use years later.



### RESOURCE

Might our visual aids help you tell the story of Jesus in every language? To learn more about our recordings and products, or to inquire about how we can support your unique ministry needs, visit [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)



Listen to a missionary named Ian explain how helpful it was to have a GRN flipchart on his short-term mission trip to Asia at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)



From the  
**Visual Aids Library**

**Bible Stories:**  
Cain and Abel



# The Joy of the Gospel

**I**t's taken 79 years of focused, intentional efforts to grow GRN's recording archive of more than 6,300 languages. Without Joy Ritterhof, none of that would have been possible.

When Joy returned home very ill after missionary work in Honduras, she found herself disappointed, sorrowful, and questioning. Why would God let her get sick and remove her from her beloved Honduran friends, who had just accepted Christ? How would they be able to further spread the gospel when many could neither read nor write?

A thought occurred to Joy: **if only she could have left behind recorded messages to nourish their newfound faith.** It didn't take long for God to press on Joy's heart and turn that thought into action. With the help of some friends, Joy produced the first gospel recording in Spanish in 1939. As soon as some of her Honduran friends got a taste of the Bible stories, news spread and Joy received requests for more recordings — not just from Honduras, but from Spanish-speaking countries throughout Central and South America.

Soon a Navajo community in Arizona also requested recordings, and Joy began to realize how quickly she could spread the message of Jesus in the heart languages of his followers around the world. Now restored to health, Joy got back on the road with recording equipment in tow—traveling to remote villages, larger population centers, and everything in between. Joy encouraged the communities she visited to follow in her footsteps and spread the story of Jesus through ministries like hers.

Joy's vision helped to catalyze a movement. Churches began to notice the truth that she had tapped into: **More than two-thirds of the world's population are oral communicators, preferring to learn and communicate orally rather than through written methods.** In time, a loose alliance of several dozen independent audio recording ministries came together in the early 1990s to minister to that unreached portion of the world.

What Joy started long ago is now in the hands of our capable missionaries, partners, donors, and 50-plus offices and bases around the world. More than 15 international organizations use our audio and visual materials to enhance their important work and assist them in fulfilling their missions.

As the champion of telling the story of Jesus in every language, Joy's legacy lives on. ■



By producing hand-crank audio recordings, Joy Ritterhof brought the Bible stories to people in remote villages—many of whom didn't have written languages.



## PRAY

**PRAY** that the ministry Joy started will continue to grow and that GRN's missionaries will display the same courage Joy did in reaching the unreached.



Devastating illness and even multiple assassination attempts couldn't stop Joy Ritterhof's desire to share the gospel.

Hear **Joy** tell her own inspiring story at [GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories](https://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Stories)



# Dear friends,

Recently my wife, Valerie, and I had the opportunity to visit a church near Marseille, France, while we were attending Global Recordings Network meetings of the International Leadership Team. This church happens to be the home fellowship of our GRN France and GRN Switzerland directors, Daniel Oddon and Philippe Tapernoux.

Valerie and I were blessed to meet a man named Gabriel, who approached us after the service and told of a recent visit he made to Morocco. During his time in the 99 percent Islamic nation, he distributed GRN gospel recordings on Solar Bibles—solar powered audio players—which were developed through a partnership led by Daniel Oddon.

Making their way through the cities and mountains of Morocco, Gabriel and his group distributed Solar Bibles to families and couples. Spreading the gospel in this setting involves great risk—to the team handing out the Bibles and to the Moroccans receiving them.

Gabriel told us of one couple who routinely journey into the Atlas Mountains, leaving their children behind, just so they can listen to GRN recordings without fear of being turned in to authorities by their teens. For Muslims and people of Islamic background in North Africa, the dangers of following Jesus are immediate and real.

Gabriel also met a group of former Muslims, now followers of Christ, who regularly meet in a mountain hideaway for fellowship.

Our brethren at this French church bear a great burden for missions worldwide. Please pray for them as they live in the midst of a changing European environment where Christianity is often despised, but opportunities to reach Muslims flourish.



As the sun would rise and fall on the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, Gabriel and his friends would risk their own lives to spread the light of truth to Muslims throughout the region.



Your generous financial support makes it possible for us to be an active part of stories like Gabriel's. Thanks to your partnership, we're able to introduce people to Christ in their heart language all over the world.

Peace of Christ,

**Dale Rickards**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK USA



## Sometimes your mission field is a cab ride to the airport.

Are you ready to tell the story of Jesus in every language?

Download the 5fish app to hear Bible stories in **6,091 languages** and access free audio and visual resources today.





(Gospel Recordings, Inc.)

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[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org](http://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org)



Visit **GlobalRecordingsUSA.org**  
to continue experiencing how we tell the  
story of Jesus in every language.

On our site, you can listen to GRN recordings and magazine interviews, get to know our missionaries and partners, discover all the ways you can pray with us, learn about our resources, support our ministry financially, and so much more.

**We look forward to connecting with you online today.**