



Telling the story of Jesus in Every Language

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Recording in East Africa

A new recordist finds the challenges and joys of recording tribal languages

10

Teamwork in Papua
New Guinea

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What does it take to
become a recordist?



They are speaking of the powerful works
of God to all of us in **our own language.**

ACTS 2:11

Global Recordings

A PUBLICATION OF GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK USA

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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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GlobalRecordingsNetworkUSA

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Global Recordings: Winter 2019, Vol. 4

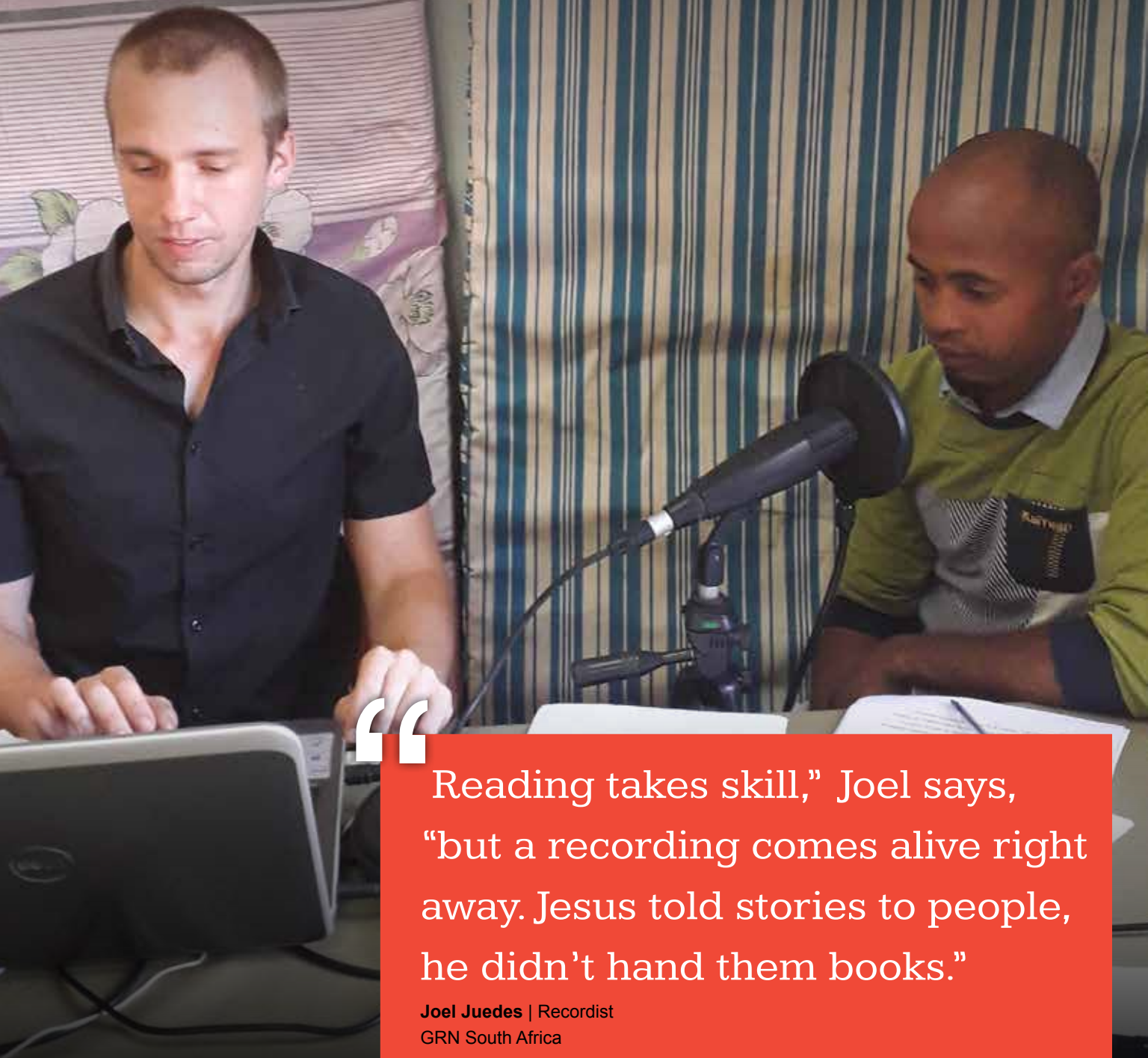
Published biannually by Global Recordings USA and provided free of charge for the benefit of ministry partners, donors, and friends.

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Recording the Gospel in East Africa



“Reading takes skill,” Joel says, “but a recording comes alive right away. Jesus told stories to people, he didn’t hand them books.”

Joel Juedes | Recordist
GRN South Africa

FEATURE STORY

Joel Juedes never saw himself going to Africa, but God had other plans.

In three years of service, he has recorded gospel messages in nine African languages in Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, and Madagascar.

“I like seeing new places and cultures,” says Joel. “Recording allows you to meet normal people in their natural home and bond with them. The speakers are often very passionate and excited about reading the Bible in their own language — one man in Zambia insisted on recording until midnight.”

While editing takes time alone to do, Joel adds that, “I can edit the recording in such a way that the story comes alive, and I like imagining my listeners enjoying it and hearing the Word in their heart language for the first time. Reading takes skill, but a recording comes alive right away. Jesus told stories to people; he didn’t hand them books.”

Travel in southern Africa is often long and adventurous. Madagascar is not far from Malawi but requires a 24-hour trip by plane via Ethiopia. Travel to remote places requires three-day bus trips over precarious roads. Sometimes there are perks such as a stop at Victoria Falls on his way to Botswana.

Local village hospitality and internet connections are now both part of a missionary’s life. “I can find helpful locals, transport, restaurants, and cell phone service almost everywhere. There have been missionaries who treated me like a special guest.”

GRN recordings help correct misunderstandings and false doctrine. New Christians may have little or none of the Bible in any form. GRN’s Look, Listen and Live set includes Bible stories from Genesis to Acts, which allows locals to understand the basics of both the Old and New Testaments. **Many people have portions of the New Testament, but very few have any of the Old Testament.**

Joel has found small ways to meet practical needs of the people he serves. He paid school fees for some students, helped families rebuild homes after floods, and mentored beginning African recordists who are not affiliated with GRN.

The future recordist was interested in missions before he heard of GRN. He had taken short and long trips to Malawi, Kenya, and Europe. God drew him back to Malawi. He could not find a mission agency which sent people to Malawi until he met Roland Heck of GRN who shared the need for recordists.

Roland recalls, “I was excited to hear Joel tell us that he had some recording background and was interested in work in Malawi. After introducing Joel to the Director of GRN South Africa and inviting Joel to our office, it was not much longer that he took off to Africa!”



Recording in Chavuma, Zambia



Hanging out with students and families



Malawi is a landlocked country in southeast Africa that was formerly known as Nyasaland. It is bordered by Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the northeast, and Mozambique on the east, south and west.

Joel wanted more than a short mission trip: “I was attracted to becoming a recordist because it seemed like an important work. Many short-term missions consist of youth who go for two weeks. **I wanted to do something more substantial for God's kingdom.**”

Dalene Joubert of GRN's South Africa office, recalls, “the USA office referred Joel to me — they knew we were desperately looking for a field recordist here in southern Africa.” She gives him assignments, connects him with partners in the field, and advises on travel. “I help to pace and strategize Joel's recording work, arrange pre-translations, am on standby during his trips, and supervise his editing work.” Dalene says, “We care for our missionaries’ needs both logistically and spiritually.”

Joel has recorded in diverse places, from a hut along the Zambia River where crocodiles threaten swimmers, to a religious retreat center in Madagascar's capitol. Partners usually translate scripts and find the speakers and listeners who will check for mistakes during recording. Joel is seldom on his own, but adds, “It helps to learn at least a few words in the language you're recording so you can bond with the people and follow the script.”

Recording has both joys and challenges. “It's hard being away from home,” Joel says, “but I have established something like a home in Malawi with Fishers Trainers Senders. I join FTS for morning devotions, and they are my friends.”

Cell phone and internet service is available in much of Africa, enabling Joel to stay in contact with family and friends. “My sisters and friends all text me on Whatsapp when I'm off on a recording trip, so I can share my travels with people in America and Africa.”

The church in which Joel was raised serves as his base of support. The church records contributions that come in for his work, helps plan a budget, and verifies that funds are used for ministry. People from the church, Joel's friends, Bible study groups, and other churches also support Joel's mission. “I used to attend a lot of Bible studies, so I now visit them once or twice a year and let them know how I'm doing. I also send email newsletters with photos.” As with thousands of other missionaries, Joel can confidently say, “God provides.”

About 3,200 languages are yet to be recorded, so more recordists are needed. **“An adventurous person should consider becoming a recordist.”**

Joel says, “Anyone who likes detail-oriented computer work, but also enjoys interaction with people, and likes stories.” Recordists are one kind of laborer God sends into His harvest.



A recordist in training in South Africa



PRAY

Pray that God will increase the number of recordists in Madagascar and the recording of the 12 languages will go well.

Sign up to receive Together in Prayer, our team's ongoing prayer requests, at GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Pray



Recording in Botswana



Joel's home base is the Fishers, Trainers and Senders (FTS) center in Lilongwe, Malawi, an all-African group which evangelizes, disciples and trains leaders. www.y-malawi.org



Read some of Joel's newsletters and see photos of his mission on GRN's South Africa website: GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/stories

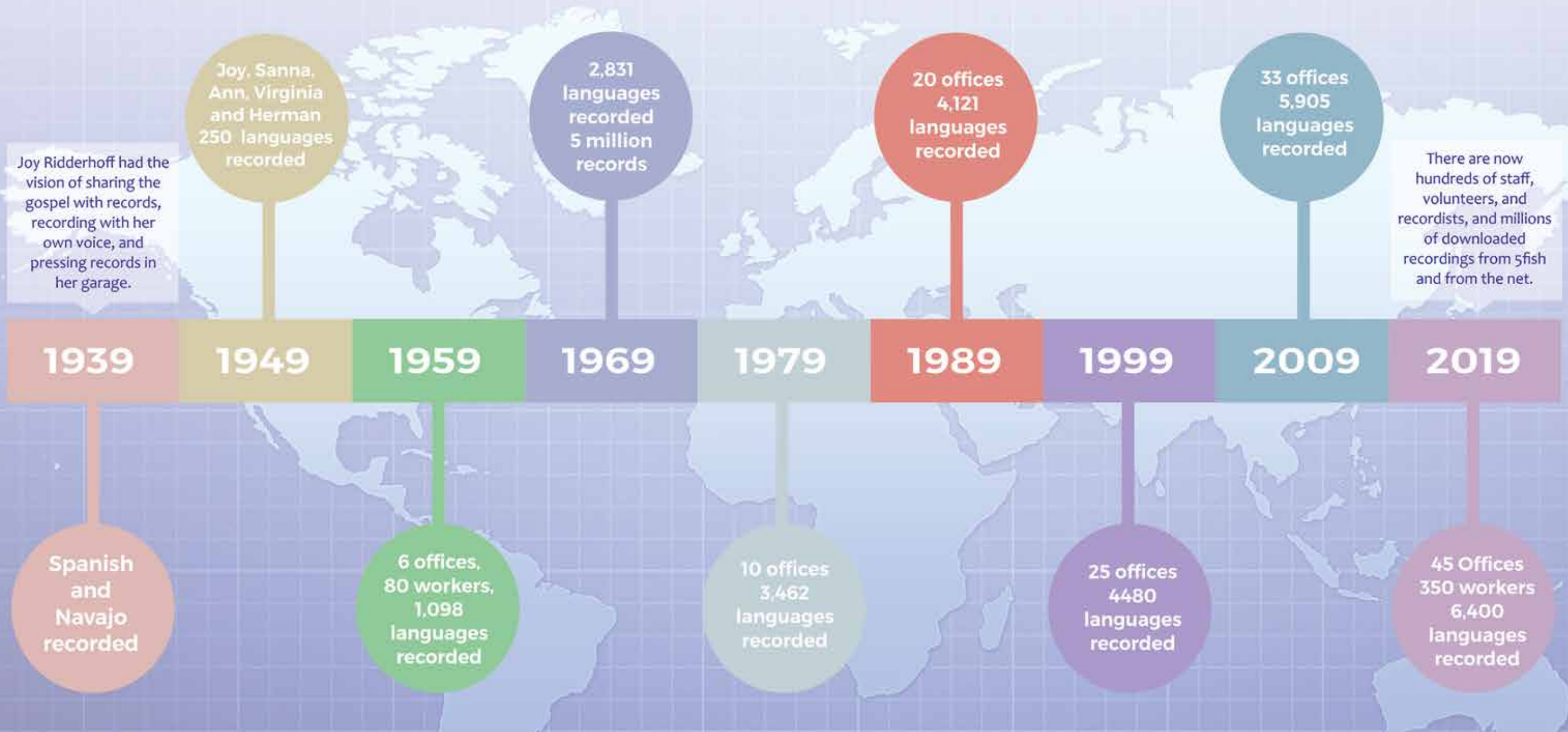
Is God Calling You to Record the Gospel?

You could probably be a good recordist if you...

- Want to help tell the story of Jesus in every language
- Want to do something that makes a difference
- Have traveled outside the USA
- Are a bit adventurous
- Can learn to record and edit audio
- Can live and work in other cultures
- Are willing to invest 3 - 5 years for training and service
- Would ask family, friends and churches to support your mission
- A bonus would be some knowledge of Spanish, French, Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, Indonesian, Swahili, or Russian

Using your cell phone, text "recordist" to 31996 or email usrecruits@globalrecordings.net to start a conversation about becoming a recordist.

80 Years of Telling the Story of Jesus in Every Language!



Adventures of a Recording Team

In the mid-1970s Deb was a rural West Michigan college student, Pam a well-traveled nurse from Sydney, Australia. Little did we know the plans God had for us: that total opposites — an introverted Reformed dreamer and an extroverted Baptist nurse — would become a team under Global Recordings Network. **We simply answered the call of the Lord to serve millions of people who still live and die without ever hearing the name of Jesus.**

We had joined our respective branches of GRN and went through theological, linguistic, and technical training. We met in Sydney in 1979 and eventually spent six years recording in 75 languages of Papua New Guinea, that equatorial half-island holding speakers of over 800 languages. Sure that God and the Bible were absolutely trustworthy, we both had churches that sent letters, prayers, and financial support. Though so different, we saw the Lord knit us together like He did David and Jonathan. In a rugged, distant setting your partner is your cook, porter, assistant, boss, nurse, barber, comforter, sounding board, and best friend. Only God is closer. Pam was tops at machinery, more knowledgeable about anything practical, often choosing the recording side and always the photographer. Deb was the script adapter, fact checker, form filler, letter writer, and language researcher. Pam was better than Deb at rough living. Deb had a better ear for the language. But everything was done together — 24/7 — in the same canoe, on the same jungle path, under one mosquito net.

PNG is 5 degrees south of the equator. We were mostly in lowland swamps and jungles, hot and muggy 360 days a year. Most mission stations had an airstrip, and we got to know those 6-seater mission planes well. But to get to villages we often trekked or canoed, so we couldn't take much gear. Typically, it was 75% recording equipment and 25% personal. No electricity or indoor plumbing (on good days



Papua New Guinea is a country in Oceania that occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands in Melanesia, a region of the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of Australia. Its capital, located along its southeastern coast, is Port Moresby. The western half of New Guinea forms the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua. It is the world's 3rd largest island country with 462,840 km².



Deb Marcusse discussing a script with language helpers



Pam Whitley recording on a reel to reel tape recorder



Recording the first Christian messages in a language of Papua New Guinea



Hear an audio version of a longer interview with Deb at GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/stories

someone dug us an outhouse; if not, we went bush). We bathed in rivers or streams so we'd rotate our three sundresses by bathing in one, washing yesterday's dirty one at the same spot, and changing into the last dry one up on shore. The villagers were great, providing baked sweet potato or sago and forest greens, a sapling/thatch house (no walls) to put down our sleeping mat, and talks around the nightly fire.

Our distance from home and lack of almost any communication (no phones, no internet, snail mail) meant we missed siblings getting married and having kids, parents having health or accident issues, and even our country having major political or cultural movements without our knowing anything about it. Health concerns of our own such as heat rash, stitches, reactions to drugs, risk of malaria or snakebite, dicey liver (Pam) or surgery (Deb) meant trust was a must. The Enemy is always active also, and we had doubts about the quality of the work we were doing or whether anyone would ever take the recordings back to that people group.

What did we accomplish? **Like all recordist teams, we contacted missions, surveyed languages, and traveled out on recording trips,** coming home with stacks of reel-to-reel tapes to edit (yes, by hand with tape and scissors) and then to program onto master cassettes for fulfilling future orders in PNG. The reels went back to Sydney. We learned a LOT about animist peoples, about packing for travel, about survival in ceaseless heat, dirt, and change. We learned that short hair is easier, that no dieting is needed in constant heat and humidity, and that Neo-Melanesian (Pidgin) is easy to pick up but hard to understand fully. We learned to jump over death adders and ignore weevils in rice, discovered that mail from home is sweeter than mangoes, and that people are people everywhere, simply facing different sorts of dangers and challenges. **We learned that Jesus NEVER fails,** though we often did. Sometimes in itinerant missionary work you never really know what you've accomplished for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. You simply pray and believe God is using the labors of your hands for his glory.

Whatever visible results, the blessings of missionary life are many. The challenge of travel, the adventure of learning new cultures or language, the thrill of sitting with those of such different backgrounds and discussing meaty bits of the Bible and of praying while they discussed the best way to express truth in their own language, the joy of making impossibly exotic friends, the peace that passes understanding when the Lord answered a prayer need that no human could, the fellowship in the Spirit as you unite in purpose with Christians of other cultures, the cool fizz of green coconut water after a six hour jungle walk, floating above brilliant sea corals and rainbow fish, inhaling gardenias on night air, the unutterably sweet tones of an unseen forest bird... would we give up all that and so much more to have had an easier life? Should we have stayed home and never experienced the life God planned for us? No way.

To young women considering being recordists or to anyone contemplating doing overseas missionary work we'd say: GO. worked in your life to see He has a place for you to serve him, if he gives you faith to believe **he'll take care of you and be there with you no matter what. . . then GO. By all means GO.**

A Recordist in Training

Sunday, November 1 – I begin Recordist training tomorrow.

There are nine trainees, plus trainers, from Australia, England, USA, Thailand, and Kenya! All those accents! I hope I can understand everyone's English. Thankfully, a lot of the training is hands-on.

Thursday, November 5 – Jumping right into using recording equipment.

Every day, trainers demonstrate techniques and then we handle the equipment and practice skills under their guidance. We use a compact, solid state recorder/mixer called MixPre6. We're also learning the cultures and worldviews of the people for whom we'll be making recordings. We go out to the street markets for local food in the evening, YUM!

Monday, November 9 – So much to learn!

Right now, we're learning characteristics of sound, microphone placement, creating a temporary recording space, and Adobe Audition software for sound editing. We also practice research skills and how to choose scripts which best fit a culture's lifestyle and beliefs. We learn which scripts will grip the heart of a specific people, figure out what style would interest the audience, and use Bible stories in creative ways – It's all so fascinating! GRN's scripts can be adapted for particular groups. Writing new scripts is usually done in teams and partnership with other missions and churches (that's a relief, writing isn't my strong point).

Tuesday, November 17 – All day trip by bus and a long hike tomorrow.

We travel all day tomorrow to the village to make recordings which will be used in an evangelism outreach next month. This is a "technical" recording experience which doesn't include writing, because the arrangements were already made for us and the scripts chosen and adapted. We'll put our research and script adaptation skills to use on the next trip. I expect we will sleep on the floor and bathe in the river.

Friday, December 3 – Editing and paperwork

Two weeks have flown by! We've been busy with editing and logging the details of our village recording. Not crazy about the paperwork, but it's important for a mission handling almost 6,500 languages. Recordings and paperwork will be sent to the studio where they will be checked for accuracy and quality.

Friday, December 10 – Finally, I am an assistant recordist!

This training's been great. I am confident with the recording equipment and understand the editing process. I'm still learning how to choose and adapt scripts. That takes experience to master, but there are senior recordists around to help. I feel like I've been given a special tool to bring Jesus' salvation to the ends of the earth and I'm eager to start using it.



A recordist in training



Who do you know who may make a good global recordist?

Someone who...

- would like to help tell the story of Jesus in other parts of the world
- has traveled outside the USA
- could serve Jesus Christ in another culture
- you would be willing to support on a mission in another country
- give him or her this magazine and suggest they visit us @ GlobalRecordingsUSA.org



Recording Scripture portions



View a video of Director Larry DeVilbiss speaking to a group of potential recordists. GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/the-next-language-post-3/

It Takes A Team To Make Recordings

Recordists are the heart of making gospel recordings. Some are a "jack of all trades" who handle everything from scripts to digital recorders to partnering with local Christians. Others have specialized roles within a team and work with partners. These are some of those who are helping tell the story of Jesus in every language:

Language Researchers identify language groups, plot exactly where these groups live, determine their familiarity with Christianity, what other missions have done to reach them, and which people groups need our recordings.

Translators help by taking scripts written in English, Spanish, Hindi, Swahili or other major languages and translating them into smaller tribal languages if it is a written language.

Missionaries in the field may request recordists, help them understand the cultural and linguistic nuances, develop scripts, find speakers and places to record, and then use the recordings in their own ministry.

Local Guides lead recordists to the right people group. Travel can vary from rough roads and hiking trails to canoeing by river or flying in small airplanes to remote places.

Speakers from the language group narrate as recordists record. If it is a written language, speakers often read from scripts, but if a language hasn't been put to writing, this is done verbally, line by line, with several bilingual speakers.

GRN staff duplicate recordings on various kinds of media or upload them onto the internet. They distribute recordings and booklets, and supply and repair equipment.

Churches and individual supporters pray for recordists and their partners and give liberally to the work of recordists and GRN offices.

Neighboring Christians and missionaries are key in doing outreach and using the recorded gospel messages to spread the gospel in that particular group of people.

Recording is the core of the process, but **the body of Christ works as a team** to make disciples of all tribes and tongues



Greg Litzenberger edits one of the thousands of recordings in our archives.



Pray for mission partners to accelerate the recording process by translating, finding speakers, etc.



Native speakers record programs with correct pronunciation and accent.



Links to some of our partners are on our website, GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/partners/

A Multipurpose Tool for Mission



The Envoy 2 is a portable, solar powered audio player for those who want to provide a rugged media player for proclaiming the gospel. This series of players is produced by Megavoice in a partnership relationship with us.

A multipurpose tool combines screwdriver, blade, and pliers to do many things well. Gospel recordings are also multipurpose tools which effectively makes disciples and expand God's kingdom in various ways.

GRN records native speakers in their own dialect, assuring listeners that the Gospel is for them personally and that Christianity is not a foreign religion in a strange language.

Recordings use people's heart language, which helps move their emotions and mind, not just their intellect.

The International Orality Network estimates that 5.7 billion people in the world learn by hearing, because they cannot read, or prefer to learn by ear. Recordings enable them to learn by hearing, as Christ's first disciples did.

God's Word has been translated into an amazing 3,350 languages. However, only a few portions of the Bible are available in 1,133 of these, and only 683 have the Old Testament. Readers lack Old Testament stories they need to know in order to understand the New Testament. GRN's **Look, Listen and Live** series begins with Genesis to provide broad-based understanding. Matching pictures help people learn both audibly and visually.

Missionaries use recordings for everything from evangelism to discipleship. New missionaries are likely to find ready-made material in local languages. Or they can partner with GRN to record local languages using GRN scripts. All denominations can use GRN recordings without revision, because they are basic Bible stories.

Missionaries and churches use recordings to multiply workers. Indigenous workers may not know much of the Bible, but can play recordings to teach their people. Recordings can also be used to teach English to refugees.

Recordings multiply ministry, because one speaker becomes a dozen or thousands, and amplification enables recordings to reach groups of any size.

Recordings are available anywhere, by copying or downloading them from the internet. GRN provides them free on the website or low cost in physical form. Recordings play on many platforms including phone, wireless network, CD, memory stick, tablet, and solar players.

Secular linguists use recordings to analyze little-known languages and speakers use recordings to help keep waning languages alive.

People continue to find new ways to use GRN recordings to tell the story of Jesus in every language.



See a video about how missionary Dan Haynes used GRN recordings in Niger: GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/stories

Our Passion: To Record Every Language

My passion is to record the story of Jesus in every language. I crisscrossed Colombia and the Amazon many times between 1966 and 1975, recording in over fifty languages. Those records were the first sound of the gospel that had been heard in most of those languages. I wanted to finish the languages of Colombia and move on to Brazil, but health issues plagued my wife Norma and me, and we returned to Alaska.

Forty years later I felt strongly that God wanted me to go back to recording. I received training in new methods and returned to Colombia to finish the task, carrying a business card that said, "Have mike will travel!"

When GRN USA called on me to be Director, I accepted with the understanding that I was still a recordist at heart and would make recording GRN's central goal. Instead of focusing on Colombia, I could focus our mission on the world.

It is amazing that in just 80 years this small mission has recorded the story of Jesus in over 6,400 languages. This happened because thousands of people like you and me have had the same passion to record the Gospel.

My passion is to raise a new generation of recordists and develop a strategy to record the next 3,000 languages. You can follow our progress on my web blog, **The Next Language**, and you can also play an important part in bringing this about.



We need young people to answer our Lord's call to be recordists. We need people to pray for projects, country by country, to help us find recordists, and to fund their work. Will you join me in carrying out this mission?

Larry DeVilbiss

Larry DeVilbiss

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK USA



PRAY

Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send more laborers — especially recordists — into his harvest (Luke 10:2)



PROVIDE

Will you help fund the work of recording and distributing the story of Jesus in the next 3,000 languages?

You can donate securely online at GlobalRecordingsUSA.org/Donate



Whether you find yourself serving in Malawi or downtown Los Angeles, we have your back.

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

Download the 5fish app to hear Bible stories in **6,400 languages** and access free audio and visual resources today.



A product of Global Recordings NETWORK



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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 download recordings in over 6,400 languages for free.

We look forward to connecting with you online today.