

GLOBAL RECORDINGS
NETWORK



ALERT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

WALKING BY FAITH

Besides prayer, one of GRN's long-time emphases is FAITH. We believe God asks us to step out in faith in Him. He sees the path in front of us before we do; He honors steps of faith with His direction at just the right time. This issue is about two training trips to Mexico made in June and August—by faith.



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GlobalRecordingsUSA.org

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TWO WEEKS, TWO MONTHS, TWO YEARS



*Larry oversees
two new record-
ists working with
a Mixteco
language helper*

If the last two weeks are a har-binger of the next two months and then the next two years - then I will be happy and I know God will be honored. Our mission to Chi-huahua was a recording trip (an orientation to recording techniques for

half a dozen potential recordists) but also a distribution/promotion project with several outreaches and ministry in a couple of local churches. Fifteen of us participated in a great time of team building and shared responsibilities.

Our initial Mixteco: Zoyatlan de Juarez speaker was very reluctant to record but in the end he sang a Mixteco song with his guitar and surprised us with a 500 peso contribution to our expenses. Another Mixteco lady showed up one day with tortillas and fruit – an encouragement of participation by believers who are investing with you in the Lord's ministry. The church that hosted us in Pancho Villa graciously loaned us the use of several guest rooms and the air-conditioned sanctuary. We put diagnostic kits from an earlier trip to work and had enough SD cards to copy language material for distribution. The very man in charge of outreach for the church was a speaker of the new Mixteco speech variety. He proved a capable language helper, well grounded in the Word. One of the recorded messages was his own testimony of leaving Zoyatlan in Guerrero, getting a job, and finding Christ in Pancho Villa.

It was heartening to see the participation of church members in outreaches. At our special service with them, the altar was full of members dedicating themselves to the Lord and His service. One young man named Estefan was especially gifted at witnessing and counselling. He told us that he had no idea how responsive these tribal migrants were. He asked for and received maps to seek out other unrecorded languages in the area. He also indicated interest in visiting our training course in Oaxaca in August. I hope he is a first fruit of a new kind of worker who

Read his blog,
**The Next
Language,**
on our
website.
Larry will
share more
from Mexico!

will be able to do survey work, seeking out and contacting the unrecorded languages and prepare things for recording teams to follow. We are calling these special surveyors *pescadores* (fishermen).

Nathaniel and I drove into Mexico mid-July to meet up with Marcos and spend the next two months contacting and recording unrecorded languages, as well as training and mobilizing six young men who have signed up for training in Oaxaca. Pray that this pattern will multiply over the next two years as we head overseas later to repeat the process in other countries.

For the first time Nathaniel and Marcos and I were able to be in the same place at the same time about the business of seeking out every language. We came away with a sense that God has put us together for a special purpose and we are united in that purpose and excited at what God is going to do.

God Bless,

Larry DeVilbiss



JavaScript programmers needed

GRN Australia's Information Systems team is preparing to use a different platform (Vue) and programming language (JavaScript). They would like JavaScript programmers to join the team. Pray the Lord of the Harvest!

GRN Mexico's Director, Chucho Loyola, wrote in early August, .. **Pray**

1. That God raises up workers to produce Biblical resources in indigenous languages (we have 6 people preparing for this—see photo below).
2. That God will raise up churches that send these workers and support them with finances, prayer, and encouragement.
3. May God open the hearts of those who hear the Gospel in their own language or tongue, for the enlargement of His Kingdom.



A VISIT TO CHIHUAHUA

What a razzle-dazzle of sights and sounds are swirling in my head as I remember the humble village of Pancho Villa in northern Chihuahua State.

The days began at dawn with Mike's coffee bar helping to open sleepy eyes. A hearty breakfast followed, then devotions and prayer. Each day one person gave his testimony, which bonded us closely as we relived with several the pain and wounds endured before becoming a new creation in Christ. We knitted together as brothers and sisters in the family of the Lord. Kindness and helpfulness were quietly slipped into our exchanges -- "Here, I'll carry that;" "Let me take your dishes;" "I can show you how to make that file;" "No, actually, you have the recorder upside-down. Let me help."



Recording lessons took up most of the day. While other more experienced learners asked intelligent questions, my recording partner and I claimed last place in the class, having made every possible mistake (some here-to-fore unknown). We were told kindly that we were becoming the most improved. (No place to go but up.)

Evenings were spent recording one of the Mixteco language varieties we had prayed to discover, then found right there in the church. A young man had migrated due to conflict in his village and found the Lord in Pancho Villa. It was with great emotion that he recorded his testimony and the story of Jesus in the unique language of his village.

Then the Lord blessed us, sending a speaker from the second language we had prayed to find. Those language helpers were to arrive at noon. The hour came and went. We prayed together as we waited. Late in the afternoon we received a message that ten of the Temecula team had gathered at a house to pray that the speakers would indeed arrive. Still, hour after hour passed without word. Messages were sent, calls were made, all without reply. Part of our team left to diagnose languages and distribute micro SD cards, play an evangelistic film, and reach out with an invitation to accept the salvation of Jesus Christ. But how could we leave? What if the Tarahumara came? Ten were faithfully praying. How could the language helpers not come? We knew we would have to tear down the makeshift recording studio by 9 pm to set up for church the next day.

My recording partner and I were told that we would be recording this language if the speakers came. They would trust us, the lowest in the class, to record this precious language? "Please God, let us remember all we need to remember to do an excellent job -- if they come." At 8:15 pm the speakers came through the door. Praise God, the language we had long prayed for was recorded with a senior recordist carefully watching over our shoulder. How could we, the least of all, be so blessed to have this part in God's plan?

And so, the story of GRN recording stories and messages in order to reach the unreached was repeated as it has been for more than 80 years. Some prayed, some gave, some went, and the Word went forth. Praise His Holy Name!

Patti Ediger is a former nurse who now seeks unreached languages for recording teams to capture



ON TO OAXACA!

Those from several countries gathered in Oaxaca City for our Spanish RTC (Recordist Training Course). Aug 2 was the first day, on which they outlined tasks of the *pescadores*, team members who would go ahead to survey an area for a team of recordists. Trainers Gustavo, Larry, Chuy, and Ed helped new trainees Joel, Ary, Stephen, Noel, and the somewhat-trained (Hezekiah, Marcos, Nathaniel) to grapple with machines, peripherals, and paperwork.

Morning devotions and evening outreaches contributed to team spirit. More, the Holy Spirit knit these men together as they struggled ... with language, with new concepts, with felt needs and inabilities, with the "snares of the

fowler." Field work in GRN is first of all a spiritual exercise. If we are not right with God and those around us, how can we share the Gospel with others?

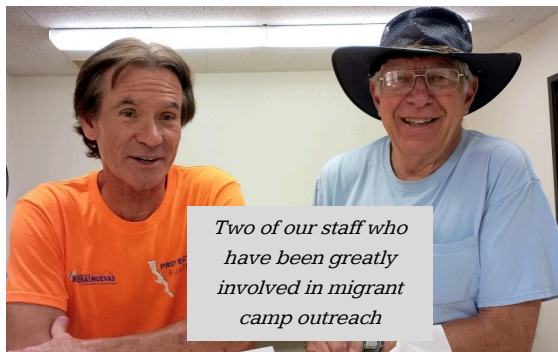
Pray for teams as they go to record in so many languages and variants. Pray for "open doors" for each language or variant to be captured, as each represents a people group hungry for God's Good News of salvation!

Trainees in Oaxaca watch a demo of new technology



COMPLEX IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

“What language do you speak?” That should normally be an easy question to answer. But *not* in the Mexican migrant labor camp we’re visiting today. We’ve been there before and we understand the man in front of us could speak any one of several hundred indigenous Mexican languages. He might answer in Spanish, “I speak Zapoteco,” or “I speak Mixteco.” But, from the research we’ve done, we know there are 73 varieties of Zapotec and 77 varieties of Mixtec. How can we find out which variety he speaks?



Fortunately one of our GRN field staff came up with an effective plan, so we ask a different question. “What state and district are you from?” He knows the answer and tells us, “Cuicatlán Distrito en Oaxaca.” A team member whips out a custom-made Oaxaca map and points to 3 speech varieties in Cuicatlán. Each has a unique code. I play a 30 second sample

of the first variety. The man listens intently, but shakes his head. After the second sample, he smiles and says, “Un poco” – a little. But when he hears the third, he puts his hand to his mouth so we can’t see him grinning. Jackpot!

In addition to Spanish, there are officially 289 indigenous Mexican languages, depending on who is counting. But when you add all varieties there are over 400. GRN has made recordings in two thirds of these varieties. Our aim is to tell the Good News in every one of them. That’s why we’re training more recordists. The migrant camps are a great way to spread the Gospel message because the laborers readily accept the recordings and when the harvest is over they carry them back to their remote villages in southern Mexico. God has promised, “The words that come out of My mouth will not come back empty-handed. They’ll do the work I sent them to do, they will complete the assignment I gave them” (Isa. 55:11, *The Message*).



Allan Starling is GRN's Historian and Speech Variety Research Director

Delays and Dangers: About a dozen travelers gathered in Oaxaca City from several directions. One took a bus down from the southern mountains; two drove a van from Tucson, three joined forces and found transport south. One team braved tire blowouts and border turn-backs; another person has been robbed on a previous trip. The enemy of souls often tries to discourage us, but we know Who has the victory! Pray with us against the “wiles of the devil” in any form. Pray for faith to grow larger in each trainer and trainee.

Talk with the Tarahumara

A white, L-shaped house on a dusty, rutted road; brightly colored ruffled skirts hung to dry on a fence like old-fashioned petticoats; finally, we were finding the Tarahumara people we had been praying for.

Beside the open door sat a round-faced woman with a plump baby on her lap. From the other doorway spilled somber-faced young girls, one with a baby wrapped to her back in a blue shawl. Shy eyes peeked at us from half-turned heads. Toddlers toddled. An old man stepped forward, hands gnarled and calloused. His eyes darted from one of us to the other. One girl ran to wash her hands in the nearby ditch.



“Would they like a *memoria*?” Heads nodded, the round-faced woman flashed a smile. More be-ruffled girls stepped from the dark room behind the green tattered screen. Everyone here wants a *memoria*, a micro-SD card to put in their phone or player. GRN teams have been here before; so people ask excitedly for the Gospel story of Jesus in their own heart language. This time, the Central Tarahumara people would have their turn to receive the Gospel through this fingernail-sized wonder. Praise God!

Now, what of the next person we meet? Will their language be recorded? If not, will we be able to record it and leave it to be played over and over until it pierces the hearts of the listeners with the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ? The answer will be “yes” — if we are praying, sending, searching, going. Let us all do our part that the story of Jesus may be heard in every language for the least, the last, and the lost, to the glory of God. — PE

TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

The last day we were in Pancho Villa was a market day. Our team was really encouraged when they started talking to people in the market and soon were surrounded by speakers of many languages of Mexico, including the Mixteco we had just recorded, and they were eagerly requesting copies. Imagine, it was the first time in history that they had heard anything digital in their mother tongue - let alone the Gospel. Some prayed for salvation right on the spot. The last Sunday we were there we were met by a migrant who had confessed Christ on the first outreach. He had since attended the church twice and was now requesting a Bible. — *excerpt from Larry's Chihuahua report*

JavaScript programmers needed

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GRN Office Number

*We still wrestle with inconsistent phone service.
If you've been frustrated when phoning us, please try
again. Contact us at our new Arizona number :*

520-395-1399



TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

GRN'S motto, *Telling the Story of Jesus in Every Language*, sounds deceptively simple. In reality, it's a devastating, demanding, and often dangerous task. To reach that goal requires an adequate supply of personnel, persistence, and prayer. Our teams need to know that others are upholding them in prayer. Become a Together In Prayer (TIP) partner. You'll receive a monthly *Together In Prayer* with short prayer requests for each day. You can receive TIP through the mail, by email, or via our GRN prayer app.

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