



Ways to pray —with rejoicing hearts—for GRN:

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ALERT

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2021

WITH REJOICING HEARTS

Another long-time GRN emphasis is REJOICING. God asks us to rejoice even before we see His answers to prayer. Since God "inhabits the praises of His people" (Ps. 22:3), sometimes it is our very attitude of rejoicing that brings His power to open doors. This issue is made up of thanksgivings about what we have seen Him DO and rejoicings about what we believe He WILL DO.



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TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

It's pretty unusual that a language goes from discovery to distribution of the recorded materials in one month, but that is what happened for Zapoteco: Elotepec speakers of San Juan this August.

Joel and I recorded in July, but discovered we would not be able to depend on social media for distribution. We hadn't seen any cell phones – not uncommon in the subsistence economy of rural Mexico. So we purchased small SD drive speakers locally for about \$3 each, had 300 1-gig SD cards sent from Arizona, and uploaded the finished Elotepec language program plus a simple Spanish New Testament and Words of Life. We were ready for a distribution trip.

Marcos and I rattled over mountain roads for 5 or 6 hours to reach the village of San Juan de Elotepec by public shuttle service. Unknown to us, a group at the diner Joel and I had frequented was in the process of wondering if we would ever come back. One of the elder Elotepec, Demetria, was really sorry she hadn't connected with us when we were recording. Everyone was amazed when the shuttle van pulled in front of the diner and Marcos and I stepped out. They were very grateful to receive one of the speakers for the diner owner's mother who'd originally recorded the word list for us!

After church service in the next village of Llano Monte — a one-hour hike over the mountain to the next valley — Demetria implored us to come back to her own house. We were welcomed in to enjoy *elote* (boiled corn in the husk). We played the Elotepec for her. She revealed why she was so anxious that we visit by bringing out her very elderly and blind mother. This lady only spoke Elotepec — one of the few mono-linguals in the language. She grasped the little speaker and was obviously amazed to hear it speaking in her only language. (See cover photo.) Her daughter back-translated the message for us — the story of the lost sheep and Jesus' invitation for us to come to Him.

Two times in this project we nearly gave up: once during our first entry into this area, when our van got stranded on a corner that was way too sharp and steep. We realized we had no overnight gear for the extra day to get to San Juan de Elotepec. The second brush with failure was after some people questioned whether this project was even necessary because of a low number of monolinguals and their language being listed as moribund.

Now we know that for years to come there will be hundreds of Elotepec that understand these new language recordings and are grateful to hear their mother tongue. This whole project may bring many into the fold. Praise God He kept us — more than once — from giving up!



Larry DeWitt

Read his blog,
The Next
Language,
on our website.
Larry shares more
from Mexico.

WHAT A NICHE!

Bill Morrison of the Joshua Project communicated recently:

Here's something rather interesting which I hadn't thought of before.

There are 3,662 ISO coded languages without Scripture. Of these: 8 have Jesus Films (JF); 9 others have Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH). 1290 have GRN recordings. Of these, **1278 have only GRN available**.

I think if Scripture has not been published it's very unlikely JF or FCBH will be available. Not sure how that is even possible, actually. JF is based on gospel of Luke, and I don't know how FCBH NT can exist if no Scripture has been published. JF and FCBH depend on Scripture being published, but GRN does not, or at least not to the same degree.

And this shows us how important GRN recordings are. There are 1278 languages for which GRN is the only resource available, with possibly a few more languages where someone has created a resource.

GRN should be congratulated. They are filling an important niche, and it is a large niche.

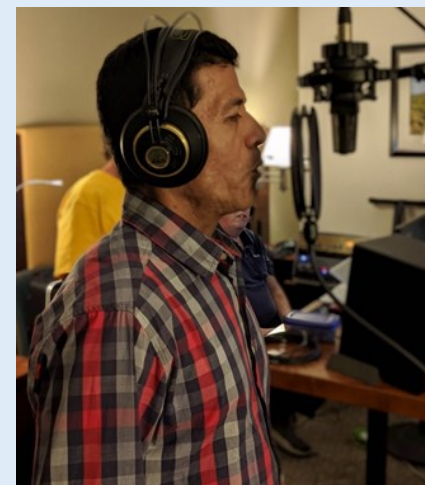
These 1278 languages have more than 100,000,000 speakers.

Thank you and
thank God for
all He is doing
through you all.
— Reader Paul S,
Sept. 2021

REJOICING THRU MUSIC

Staffers Marc & Diane G. share this:

Music, as an integral part of Mexico's culture, helps to tell the story of Jesus. At Culiacan in 2018 Marc saw this and began working on a music CD which could be distributed in various Mexican migrant camps, providing an alternative to worldly radio music. In March we traveled to Hermosillo, Mexico, to finish up the project. One Mexican guitar player and two singers would make recordings more authentic and acceptable to the locals. Recording took place in an extra room in their hotel. We rejoice that this part of the project is finished, and Marc can begin final editing. Pray for the two main singers, Shalom and Mayo, that they would continue to walk with the Lord and serve Him.



REJOICE... REJOICE... REJOICE!

"We have been supporting your ministry since the days of Joy Ridderhof and are honored to be continuing our support and prayers for you." — Mission Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Aug '21

We rejoice to pray regularly for a partner ministry's Vietnamese volunteers, hundreds of whom regularly risk their lives to distribute Audio Bible players and share Bible resources and training to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They have seen God deliver true miracles throughout their special community, and we believe

with them that *He will provide again — for His glory! — GRN USA*

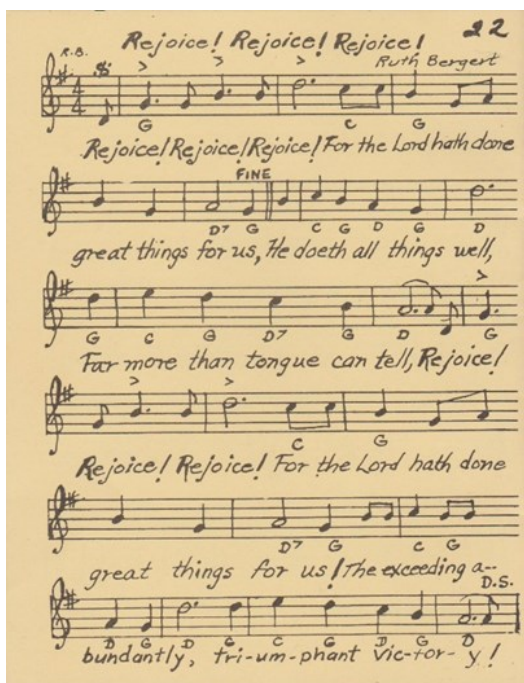
"A dire need for urgent prayer: for the past 4 weeks, Jos [city and community where GRN office and staff homes are located] has not been peaceful. Less than 12 miles (20 km) away from our community, many people were killed, over 500 houses were burned and crops were destroyed in the farmlands by radical Muslim herders. [Because of this violence] we were under a 24-hour curfew for 4 days and it has been relaxed for now from 6am to 6pm. We are saved by God's Almighty hand! Thank you for your continued prayers."

— GRN Nigeria Director (early Sept)

The vision of our center is to see believers in

Pakistan growing in discipleship and missions. God has been teaching us over the years that without prayer this work will not progress. So most of our time is spent in praying for our departments. We rejoice for the privilege to serve our Lord. — GRN Pakistan

Praise the Lord for the work He is doing among 270 languages that had no known evangelical influence and no known Gospel resources. The majority of these now have concerted prayer coverage and the beginnings of some Gospel outreach! Now we are praying for the remaining 40 languages that have nothing and no one (that we know of) burdened for them. The Lord is on the move! — John S



REJOICE ALWAYS!

On September 1, 1977, my family and I rolled up to the front door of Gospel Recordings in Los Angeles, CA, to begin our journey of faith, helping to bring God's Word to the peoples of the world. Having sold our home in Kansas City, KS, and left friends, church, and family behind, we looked forward with joy and excitement to following the calling God had put on our hearts. We were eager to use whatever small gifts we had in the service of Gospel Recordings in their quest to provide Bible stories and teaching in every language.



We quickly learned that the ethos of Gospel Recordings (now GRN) was unlike anything else we had been familiar with. The instructions of Scripture, the exhortations of Founder Joy Ridderhof, and the examples of the current staff in LA, all impressed on us the vitality of living a life of **rejoicing** faith. Even the songs the staff sang at prayer time focused on rejoicing. (*See chorus, p. 6.*)

It didn't take long for us to learn that rejoicing in the good and the bad times is a response to the trust we placed in our unchangeable God. His faithfulness, His provision. His plans and purposes were never thwarted by what we saw as difficulties or impossibilities. A deep abiding confidence in God's grace and mercy allowed us to rejoice when money was tight and support was low, when sickness came, when delays and barriers hindered the work. The challenges both to us as a family, as well as to the work of the mission, caused us to seek God's answers, to see His hand in everything, and to pursue His will above and beyond what we could see or understand.

In looking back over the years, at the times of doubt, frustration, weakness and human failure, we see that God had the bigger picture completely in view. So today we're moving forward, whatever the circumstances around us, recording new languages, seeking the lost, always rejoicing in the challenges of this world's condition. He has done and will do great things for us -- for in Him is the "exceeding abundantly, triumphant victory"!

Irene King is the mother of 4 and grandmother of 5. She keeps busy as Global Prayer Asst. Coordinator and a member of the Communications Team.



REJOICE ... WHEN ALL SEEMS RIGHT, REJOICE ... IN THE DARKEST NIGHT...

We are rejoicing and thankful, knowing that recordings of the Good News of salvation are being heard throughout the world because of many devoted GRN co-workers past and present that have labored and have taken the words of Christ to heart: "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone" in their own language (Mark 16:15).

— Charles and Stella G.

I've visited *Buenas Nuevas* base in Oaxaca many times before. Its first-floor "Ethnic Resource Center" was established to be a resource to all Indigenous people groups in Mexico and beyond. The Recordist



Training Course taught there in August really brought some new activity and vision to all the volunteers and staff. We are SO thankful for God's guiding all of us in GRN (volunteers, staff, and leadership) in these forward steps in the Great Commission! — Mike H.

I am rejoicing in the Lord because I recently went alone on a long-distance, successful recording trip during which the Lord worked out many details to enable good recordings to be made in several languages. —Judy Y.

We are thankful God has continually supplied our needs through our faithful prayer and financial supporters. It is a blessing to work for a mission that is reaching out to people worldwide in thousands of languages. —Allan & Sue S.

Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" In the light of the words of this Psalm of David I am waiting on the Lord and am rejoicing in the fact that He is going to work out wonderful purposes for me through my cancer. The Lord's peace is reigning in my heart. I am confident that He is in full control. **"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thy heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Ps. 27:13,14).** — John B.

The great love of the Lord makes me rejoice. He is love (1 John 4:8). His presence makes all the difference in my life. An extension of His love are my children—two sons and now five grandchildren. I love laughing with them and I enjoy each one's company. — Sandra L

First day in Mexico — I fell backwards hard onto cement, hitting my backside and my head. Shocked, I insisted I was fine, but later I was pretty sure I'd broken my tailbone. Medically nothing can be done for that anyway, and as I spoke to the Lord about it, He impressed on me Joy's urging: *Rejoice!* Bouncing over rutted roads the next weeks gave continual "good rejoicing practice." However, the fruit of those trips into rural mountain villages has proved breathtaking. Meeting villagers, working with language helpers, drinking in the colorful culture of rural Mexico ... all made my spirit soar. Then, recording & editing a language program was thrilling as I carefully picked my way through every beautiful sound wave. Seeing the list of the many languages that have been recently recorded — I rejoice with all my heart. God is so good! Psalm 28:7 — *The Lord is my strength and my shield: My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.* — Patti E.

I am rejoicing in being able to continue to do recording work while not having to travel to the uttermost parts of the world. Refugees coming into the USA have been able to do recordings in their languages. We have even been able to write some new scripts especially for refugees. — Ed Y.



Recent unexpected major medical costs could have caused anxiety, but the Lord enabled me to trust He would provide. Two specific generous gifts plus medicare/az-care have taken care of \$117,000 in unexpected medical bills in June ... and I had no medical coverage at all before April! I rejoice in His foreknowledge and timing. — Deb M.