SOUNDS OF GR

An Open Door

Behold, I have set before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have...followed My word, and have not denied My name. Rev. 3:8

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2022

Telling the story of Jesus in <u>every</u> language

Global Recordings Network USA

Open Doors

Because of our calling — to provide every language group on the globe with the Good News found in God's Holy Word — we take very seriously Bible verses

like those that tell us to obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29), that prompt us to spend our lives for the sake of the Gospel (Acts 20:24, 2 Cor. 4:15), and that challenge us to dare mighty deeds because He says so (Acts 2:7-11). Along with all of you, we've faced unique challenges in the past two years. Plans for travel, for recording work, for outreach these all have had to be laid aside or modified severely because of governmental or health department restrictions.

Yet we feel strongly the pull of Rev. 3:8. "I have put before you an open door which no one can shut." There are many forces – cultural, religious, governmental – that would slam doors in our faces. But if God Himself opens a door, no human, or even demonic, force can shut that door. Our current recordists, supported by much prayer, have seen doors opened by God. As you'll read in Mike's story, a scary road mishap led the team to exactly the right language helpers. Another recordist set out, by faith, simply to back-check a previous recording ... but God prompted her to take recording gear and scripts, and He led her to the only woman who could translate and record messages in that language.

We've also seen our fielders travel to Mexico, to Colombia, to central Asia ... God opening doors even though those countries (as well as our own) post website warnings that travel is impossible. So how do we obey our God in these days? How do we walk through, or throw a spear – really a lifeline – through a door that He has opened? How do we trust Him for what we cannot yet see? Every door, open or closed, leads us further on a faith walk with our mighty God.

Opened Doors for Partnership

One of our US department directors shared with a recent conference's organizers how a one of our Central African centers had partnered with the organizer's own mission in Africa:

> "A local church members team partnered with Jesus Films and YWAM to do an outreach that included nightly film screenings, visiting homes, and giving out materials. Around 7,000 villagers viewed Jesus Movie and Mary Magdalene. Teams shared Christ's message one-toone in homes, answering ques-

tions and doubts in many hearts. Many people asked God to forgive their sins and accepted Jesus. Also, we distributed GRN audio messages including 72 memory cards in four dialects and 65 MP3 commercial radios. Hearers were overjoyed to receive Bible stories in their own dialects. One woman excitedly related that while she had not been privileged to go to school, she was now able to hear God's word in her own language. The team also gave out 35 Good News Bibles to young people."



After hearing this, the conference organizer responded...

"Thank you for being a part of the gathering this last week and representing Global Recordings Network! We are so thankful for what you guys do and for your partnership. We are excited to see how we can partner together even more in the future. Thank you so much for sharing this testimony – this truly made my day! Let us know how we can be a part of future outreaches."



Dedication

This issue of the GRN Magazine is dedicated to our former Director, Colin Stott. He and his wife Patti have been with GR/GRN since 1974. His directorship took us from our original location in downtown Los Angeles to the beautiful office building in Temecula, CA, the recent sale of which enabled GRN to buy our new campus here in Arizona, and will fund many future ministry projects. Despite having Parkinson's, Colin works from home as Global Prayer Coordinator. He is an inspiration to us all by his continued involvement in GRN through his faithful presence at zoomed prayer day and his regular, inspiring blogs ("Our High Calling"). We know his and Patti's steadfast prayers have "opened many doors" over the years. We love you, Colin and Patti!

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

Our Vision

For all people groups to hear and understand God's message of salvation in their heart language, especially those who do not have Scriptures in a form they can access.

Our Mission

In dependence upon God, to communicate the Gospel message by means of recordings to all peoples in their own languages.

Executive Director	Larry DeVilbiss	
Site Director	Dan Rulison	
Editor	Deb Marcusse	
Contributors	Larry DeVilbiss	
	Patti Ediger	
	Diane Guiett	
	Mike Hendricks	
	Allan Starling	
	Ed Young	
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For address changes, write, phone, or email Global Recordings Network USA 16131 N. Vernon Dr, Tucson AZ 85739 Web: GlobalRecordingsUSA.org

Web: GlobalRecordingsUSA.org Email: US@GlobalRecordingsUSA.org Phone: 520.395.1399 Toll Free: (in US) 888.444.7872

The Symphony(

By Patti Ediger

Dear Lord, take my steps and make them a mile. Take my words and make them a book. Take my life and make it a symphony of love to You.

When I read these words in a book of my grandfather's writings, it touched me so deeply that tears slid down my cheeks. I imagined the exquisite beauty and majesty of swirling, cascading notes floating heavenward as a worship offering, and heartfelt praise to the Creator and King of us all.

The words reminded me of the boy with the fishes and loaves. He placed his small offering in the hand of the Master and the Master fed thousands. He took the small and insignificant and did the great and wonderful to benefit the hungry people on the hillside that day.

Yes, there are hungry people throughout the world today as well. They hunger for freedom from fear, shamans, spirits, drugs, anger, bondage to what people think about them, and so much more. We hold the key. We have the answer. It is said that "Whatever the question, Jesus is the answer." We long to share the story of Jesus in EVERY language.

So, I rejoice in the fact that it does not depend on our own efforts. You see, the Master is making our steps a mile, our words a book, and greatest of all – He is making our lives symphonies of love to Him.

Note to the online

version: AFTER printing this we were informed we could use the name "Sounds of GRN" - which is the perfect name for our little publication because our GRN Internať llogo, which we are again using, is made up of sound waves! Editor apologizes for any confusion this name change has caused... we hope never to change again!

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For current updates, check out https://www.globalrecordingsusa.org/category/the-next-language/

My growing suspicion that things are different in Mexico today were confirmed at our first visit to the Zapoteco: San Juan de Elotepec, an unrecorded language that had never had a New Testament. This August our team went directly to the mayor (the highest elected official) and asked permission to record Bible stories. Within an hour he had called a *junto* or village council. Some 200 people convened under the shadow of a huge Catholic church. We were told that we could not attend the *junto*, but that we might be called to answer questions.

Through the next six hours I thought back to 1966 when our GRN recording team had attempted to enter Zapoteco villages. Often we were forced to leave, but realized a very real possibility of a mob lynching. Traditional village power structures (normally including a protective Catholic priest) were used to preserve the status quo and keep unwanted people and ideas out ... and sometimes the process was fueled by alcohol. Praise God! This was not the case now. At the end of the meeting the mayor asked for ten volunteers to work with us to record their dialects. We were doubly blessed because the first to step forward was a very timid man named Martin from a neighboring village called Llano Monte. He grilled us to ascertain that we were evangelicals like himself. Martin was willing to help but needed permission from his pastor, also a Zapotec speaker. We asked if we could worship with them the next day, but he said his pastor first would need to agree with our doctrine.

Sunday morning Martin showed up at dawn with a notebook in which he had already started translating creation stories. He and his brother led us by foot about 5 kilometers over the mountain ridges to their church, where we endured our second "trial by jury." After service and a meal together we agreed that Monday we'd begin to record.

The economy of this region is almost entirely

subsistence farming. Staples such as corn, beans, and goats are raised on thousands-year-old terraces up among the pine trees. Families told us the only way for them to earn cash is to go out and work in commercial agricultural camps in northern Mexico. This is the norm for rural Mexican areas.

We were blessed to see the result of decades of GRN outreach efforts, at Culiacan and others. Over the years the Gospel has been getting back to the villages. We learned that just about 50 years ago the first believers here were shot and beaten ... but due to their faithfulness Christians are today a majority in Llano Monte. Few other evangelistic efforts have taken place in these villages. Areas where GRN messages have been introduced have maintained their own languages robustly. Others, like the Elotepec, are suffering from linguistic termination. Monolingual speakers of this indigenous language are all over 80. Fluent speakers are over 70. Most of those over 40 understand the language, but none of the children are learning the language.

However, after two years of the ravages of covid, including no schools open, people are very sympathetic to what will preserve their language. (All this helps explain the 6+ hours of talk at the *junto* where people discussed these trends.) Soon the Elotepec will have the Gospel published in their own language. Some would say they don't need it any more ... but at least three communities that still speak the language might disagree.

Our visits with the survey teams to acquire word lists indicate



that the situation in Elotepec is not unique or merely anecdotal. This illustrates a new day in Mexico when people are more open than perhaps any period in time to compassionate, sensitive, outreach in their mother tongue.

We have visited this area twice since August and much recording continues. Praise God a new day has dawned here, Pray that such doors will soon be opening all around the world.



Remarkable

This blog of Larry's is remarkable. First, that God has let us know, years after the fact, of how recordings given out long ago at Culiacan outreaches were brought back to a remote area... so remote it has never had missionaries come to minister to its people. Yet these recordings bore fruit—there are believers in these remote mountain villages today — believers strong enough in their faith to grill gringos who wanted to share a message!

Secondly, that the very fact these old recordings had been used for decades has caused further OPEN DOORS in this area! The people have noticed that where recordings have been made, heart languages are valued, even by younger generations. Areas without these treasures have seen their own languages dying.

God has used our recordings, not only to open hearers' hearts and make a difference in villages, but to OPEN DOORS for further recordings! This causes us to praise the King of Heaven.

Pray earnestly for recordings in use today, that they will not only open hearts to the Good News of salvation, but will cause goodwill in unexpected places and bring about the OPEN DOORS we are praying for everywhere.



The Tip of the Spear

The international director of a well-known mission once called GRN "the tip of the spear" of global missionary activity. We appreciate this analogy. However, we would like to draw a slightly different analogy of the spear. For as we pray for open doors, we are conscious that we ourselves may be prevented from walking (or flying) through doors that once were easy to enter. But what if God has prepared a weapon of His own choosing to slip through doors that seem closed to regular traffic?

Meet Larry, Nathaniel, and Marcos. Different ages, different nationalities, different life experiences and skill sets... but three men called to come together by a common passion for serving God by recording Bible messages for the last, least, lost language speakers. They teamed up in Mexico, but have plans to wander far afield as well. Australia, Europe, Indonesia, on to Africa... for at least two years, they are committed to travel the globe seeking out un-recorded languages,



partners in ministry, and opportunities to share the Gospel. We see these men as the spear that we at GRN are aiming at many open doors during the months ahead.

Think of a spear. It is fashioned for a purpose, aimed divinely, and has great effect on its mark - like this team. The tip of our imaginary spear is the Holy Spirit Himself. Made of other material altogether, the spear tip is what enters a person's heart, changing him or her forever. Like the Word itself, this spear tip is "quick and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit," and discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Pray for our team of three travelers. Pray for the ministries they come alongside of, and the partnerships that are formed to train and equip

young people all over the world for end-times ministry. Pray for the survey, recording, and follow-up teams who go out. The goal is the making of audio recordings that will share the Truth with hearers. both where they are recorded, and (by God's grace) all over the world to immigrant groups, students, and displaced persons from that group. Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare hearts to hear His message. Prav!



Learning technical skills

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Puerto Escondido Santa María Huatulco

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Surveying an area with 3 unrecorded languages

Open Doors for Recording

By Patti Ediger

Imagine a squad of men and women standing on a threshold gazing at a horizonless world sprinkled with small red and yellow dots. They each carry a heavy black backpack filled with new recording equipment purchased by individuals and churches back home. They are armed with the prayers of countless prayer warriors. The world of red and yellow dots seems endless so they are eager to step through the door and one by one turn each dot green.

The green dots are shown on recordists' maps as languages and villages where the Gospel has been recorded and given to the people. The yellow dots show that a small amount of recording has been done, but more is needed for discipleship training. The red dots are what drive the squad: they represent the hundreds of languages where the Gospel is yet to be recorded and played back to waiting people.

The squad has worked tirelessly to learn the mountains of cultural, linguistic, and technical information needed to produce a quality translation and recording. Now, it is time to step out into the world: some to Mexico, Brazil, Columbia, Nigeria, Thailand, or other countries. (Some countries are never named due to persecution or dangers.) They place their lives in God's hands and look entirely to Him for their protection, provision, and direction. Through the open door they go, and smiles are seen from all who witness it. It's happening: The Story of Jesus in Every Language!



Watch <u>https://globalrecordings.net/en/culiacan</u> then email US@GlobalRecordings.net

Check out our website and let us know you're interested in coming alongside. See www.globalrecordings usa.org/serve/moreways-to-serve/



How can I b

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 download free recordings in over 6,400 languages for free.

We look forward to connecting with you online today.







You may be able help us out with Language Tracki or Mapping proj See "Getting on the Map," p. 13.



Does this tug at your heart?

PRAY

IT'S POWERFUL

e involved?



e to

ng ects. Send out boosts on social media from your own device. See www.globalrecordings usa.org/serve/become a missionary

Feel a personal calling by God?

> OUR HIGH CALLING

Colin Stott has a few thoughts to encourage us in our prayer life

Have a look at GRN's newest blog, "Our High Calling." Former Director and current Global Prayer Coordinator, Colin Stott, posts it regularly to encourage us as we uphold this work (and others) in prayer. Find it at www. globalrecordingsUSA. net/category/our-high-calling/



Whose Responsibility Is It?

When speaking to Bible schools or churches in Mexico, I often asked, "Whose responsibility is it to share the Gospel with indigenous groups here? Must German or Canadian missionaries come here to do that? Or those from Australia or the USA?" After some thought, they would always answer, "No, it is the responsibility of Mexican Christians to do that." They were right.

We ask the same question of the USA Christian community: whose responsibility is it to tell new arrivals to the USA about the Christian heritage of this nation, and of the salvation that is available in Jesus Christ? Is it the responsibility of the government or the public school system or the immigration office? Will unions that represent the workers do it, or the Department of Economic Security, or the penal or medical systems? Who should do this?

The answer is the same – it's the responsibility of the Christian community already here. However, there are often barriers to cross, linguistic as well as cultural/prejudice barriers. In Mexico, I would say to a Christian community, "We can help you cross the linguistic barriers." GRN has audio Bible stories available already in many indigenous languages of Mexico, and we are working hard on those still unrecorded.

In fact, using our materials helps cross barriers. Mexican Christians who used GRN indigenous language materials found that they worked like a magnet. Listeners would ask, "How can you have this talk in our language?" A sub-conscious feeling of value would erupt within them: "Someone cares for us!" They heard the recordings and many responded to a Gospel message clearly presented in their heart language.

In the USA we can say the same to churches, Bible schools, Christian agencies, and individual believers: "We can help you with linguistic and cultural barriers." GRN has Christian audio Bible stories in the languages of most people coming into this country—not only major languages, but also minority languages found in the countries from which immigrants are coming.

For over 80 years Global Recordings Network has been recording Bible stories in culturallyrelevant terminology for the languages of the



world. GRN now has Christian material available in more than 6,400 languages and variants. Some of these were recorded when audio technology was not as advanced, so by today's high-tech audio standards, some think this older-sounding material is a disadvantage. However, we find it is actually an advantage. Many of the world's people groups highly value hearing words of their forefathers and elders, and respect what has been said. These outreach tools can all be easily accessed and downloaded free of charge from our website or from <u>www.5fish.mobi</u>.

While we have messages recorded in their homeland for people coming to this country, we are also in the process of developing and recording new material especially for refugees, many of whom may have experienced recent trauma. Two of these scripts are "The Refugee" and "The Refugee's Journey." They talk of some of the refugee conditions that Jesus understands because He experienced them while living here on earth, and how He wants to help people now experiencing such conditions today.

Another new script is titled, "Welcome to the United States," and is intended to offset some of the rejection refugees may be feeling from Americans they meet. It gives a very brief history of the Christian background of this country. Up until recently, many outsiders thought that this nation was a "Christian nation." There were good reasons for thinking this, but today our culture seems to be doing all it can to erase such evidence.

Currently another new script, especially developed for anyone who is acquainted with stress or anxiety, tells how to have peace in your heart while having difficulties in your life. It is my desire to see these new scripts recorded soon in many more refugee languages here in the USA. These new scripts are already recorded in English, so can be listened to on our website or phone app. In fact, we have many intermediate-level English recordings which could benefit English learners.

Do you know of Christians who are currently working with refugees? They could benefit from using the tools that GRN produces. Possibly you or they know of refugees who are already Christians living here in the USA, who could help us to put these new scripts into their own languages. You may know people who have audio skills, who would like to assist us with some of these recording projects.

Do contact us if we can be of help to you or your group. Opportunities to share the Gospel message abound at this time. Remember Pentecost, when people heard of the wonderful works of God *in their own languages*. There is something very special about the mother tongue. That is why it is called the heart language. Do you want to speak to people's hearts? Try sharing the Gospel with them in their heart language. 11



Messages of Hope

There is a woman who lives just south of a certain border. She has been ministering to immigrants from many countries who are unable to cross the border after making the long, dangerous journey from home. They are separated from home and culture, are weary of endless waiting, and have been taken advantage of by many. They often feel downtrodden, depressed, and hopeless.

Our team took recordings to where this woman ministers and she saw listeners hearing God's Good News in their heart language. She saw faces change instantly from depressed to delighted, from hopeless to hopefilled. She asked our team, "Why didn't you come earlier?"

None of us can change the past, but we can change the future by our actions. Will you bring messages of hope to hopeless people? Will you watch faces brighten as people start to feel worthwhile again because someone cared enough to bring them the Word of God?

Messages of hope are accessible at <u>www.5fish.mobi</u> in over 6,400 languages. Links to free apps for your phone are also there. Many are still waiting to hear the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Will you join us in taking this priceless message to them?

Summer in Mexico

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priest -hood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ... "he who believes in Him will not be disappointed" (1 Pet. 2:4-6).



Global Recordings Network has been established in Mexico for many decades. As with most ministries, there have been seasons of much investment, sacrifice, and building for the network of partnerships, evangelism, and distribution of Christian recordings. Recently our senior leadership has focused our efforts on completing the task of investigating the remaining linguistic groups who have no Christian recordings yet, so that every ethnic group in Mexico will have a Gospel message in Biblical stories and testimonies. This summer GRN and Buenas Nuevas have held two extensive recordist training sessions, to fulfill this need.

It has been a great blessing for me to take part in both of these very practical events, supporting the groups in hosting and transportation logistics. The sessions were held for English speakers in June and Spanish speakers in August. Many young adult friends we've met over the years in the evangelistic projects, now have been offered the opportunity to train as recordists. There is much detail involved to produce recordings that are accurate and saved to a professional standard. These will soon be put on

our 5fish app, for anyone to access without cost. Before recording happens we send surveyors to research and compile various pieces of information, visit communities where we hope to make recordings, set dates, and find the right people and adequate sites (which are often very improvised). Afterwards back-translations and filing data sheets must be completed as well.

By Mike Hendricks

Traveling out and exploring for open doors brings many unique experiences to those of us doing this pre-recording survey work. We are now nicknamed pescadores ("fishermen"). We meet people in small businesses, hotels, or walking along roads in the course of daily work. We even contacted some helpers after getting stuck in a VERY sharp hairpin curve on a hillside, with one wheel of the van 12 inches off the ground. We had to ask local men to get a tractor to pull us backward a few feet in order to make the turn and go on. It turned out that this community has speakers in one of the very priority languages we had hoped to reach. An open door resulted from getting so stuck!

Personally I have visited the Buenas Nuevas base in Oaxaca many times, with its "Ethnic Resource Center," established to be a resource to all the Indigenous people groups in Mexico and beyond. The Recordist Training Course in August brought new activity and vison to all volunteers and staff of Buenas Nuevas.

We are SO thankful to God for quiding us through these many stages toward the fulfilling of the Great Commission. Even what seemed a bad situation. He turned into a good one.



Teams go door to door

Getting on the Map



I looked at my computer screen and my mouth dropped. "I'll never be able to sort out all that information and get it into our GRN database." It seemed as if a door had slammed in my face.

Our GRN motto is *Telling the Story of Jesus in <u>Every Language</u>. But if we aspire to fulfill that lofty goal, we need to know the <i>Where, What, Why, How, and When* of all those languages. How can we reach out to each of them if we don't know who they are and where to find them?

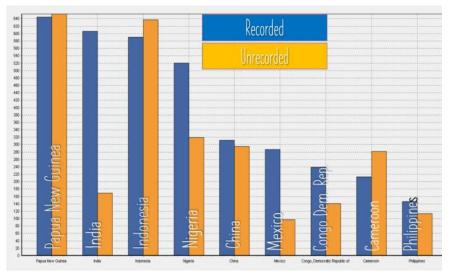
Over the years, GRN has made recordings in thousands of languages. We've kept track of their names and locations. But what about those unrecorded languages that represent countless people who have not heard the Good News in their own speech variety? That closed door creaked open a crack when I discovered an SIL publication called the Ethnologue. It identifies thousands of languages, each with a standardized code. I knew God wanted GRN to link our recorded language names with those names so we could get a true picture, but most languages have multiple names, and the task was overwhelming. A coworker made a computer program to help speed the process, but it still took me months to complete the entire project.

Over time, research revealed more and more languages and the *Ethnologue* added literally thousands of speech varieties. That's when the door seemed to close. I was working at home because of covid and the idea came, "Why can't others who are locked down in their homes do the same?" I sent a letter to my mailing list and prayed that there was someone out there who could help.

Robert responded. "Send me a list. You can show me over Zoom what to do with it." To my surprise and delight, he was followed by Tom, Dianne, Patrick, Cathy, and Phil, who told neighbor, Susan about the project. Together, the team has input many many entries into a growing database.

The door was now half-way open. A list of

names is essential, but its usefulness will be multiplied when those names are located on a map. GRN had the mapping software but nobody who could use it. My wife Sue and I were flying to Colorado Springs to visit family, and I remembered that Loren worked there. He not only helped, but introduced me to Mark, a professional map maker. Now we are on the way to having interactive



maps. Green points represent recorded languages, and red points reveal those still needing recordings. (Blue indicates another entity recorded something.) Clicking on any point gives you more detail. These maps will be a huge help to our planning, praying, and programming.

But as we examine the glowing points on the map, we see other doors closed by religion, politics, prejudice, hostilities, the pandemic, worldviews, technology, and many other factors.

At the same time. we see open doors. as in the words in Rev 3:8, "I have opened a door for you that no one can close." We pray that God sends us those who are willing to trust Him and walk through those open doors, taking with them the Gospel message, changing the red points on the map to green.



Opened Doors for Training

Getting the Good News to those who have never heard about Jesus is the heart of Global Recordings Network USA. But 2020 changed every aspect of our operations, including field training.

In the past, training involved many different subject matter experts (SMEs) coming together from different parts of the world, to provide the best resources for teaching new recordists what is necessary to make a great recording. Bringing people together enabled students to draw on the SMEs' expertise as well as to learn from one another.

Since travel was limited or nonexistent due to COVID, we needed a different approach. A training course set for August 2020 in Tucson, Arizona, would provide the opportunity to try something new.

There were two different ways to learn during this course. Staff in Arizona were able to teach students face to face, as it has been done in the past. But with the use of Zoom, SMEs from many parts of the world came into the classroom and interacted with the participants, providing content that students would need to make a good recording.

In addition, students were able to use the Learning Hub, our online learning management



By Diane Guiett

system, to prepare them for their face to face training. This concept was first used with training in Thailand in 2018 and was highly successful.

With the world slowly beginning to open up, we are not sure if or when training recordists will return to what it once was, but with the adaptations we have made during the last year and a half, we know that new ways of learning will soon be ready for use.



An Opened Heart

Story and pictures courtesy of Junia Schauer, Wycliffe Bible Translator in Colombia

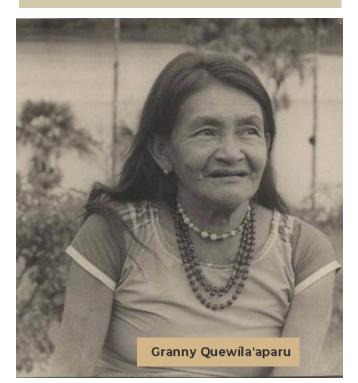
In May of 1970, Larry DeVilbiss of **Gospel Recordings** spent a week with a Bible translator couple working in the Yucuna language. They prepared texts for recording and hoped that an old wise woman, Quewíla'aparu (affectionately shortened to Granny Que) would narrate



the Creation and Noah stories. However, when she came to go over the texts, she told the missionaries that those stories were not how their people believed. Sensing her resistance to narrating them, they prayed harder. Soon Granny's daughter Aurora said, "Mother, maybe there is only one God." Within moments Granny agreed to tell the stories. Many Yucunas listened to those recordings, and those done by Granny Que were always their favorites.

The translators had many opportunities to share more about the Lord with Granny Que and her daughter's family. A grandson reported that before she died Granny told them she was going to God's place. After her death, no devil spirit noise was heard, as is common at the time of death. Those missionaries believe they will see her in heaven! [See box to the right for Junia's dream.]

Scripture is very clear, that the Holy Spirit is the One who prepares (and opens) hearts to receive the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Jesus clearly said "I am the Door" and told us there is no other way to enter into God's Kingdom but by Him. Pray with us that hearts around the world will be opened by this loving God whom we serve. In a dream over 40 years ago I saw a huge swath of the Amazon rain forest cut down, leaving a large clearing, full of bright daylight. Out of it walked a large group of redeemed people. Many shared their testimonies, including Granny, who said that the Holy Spirit had convicted her of the falseness of her former beliefs. The evil spirits tried to resist, but Jesus won out! — Junia





GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK

16131 N. VERNON DR. TUCSON, AZ 85739





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