

GRN GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK ALERT

February 2023

What Is God Doing?

To kick off 2023, we share with you just a few of the many things God is doing around the world.



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

— Our new USA Director weighs in

On January 16th, God called home a “good and faithful servant” and long-time GRN colleague, Colin Stott. He served for nearly two decades as Executive Director of GRN USA, then continued another dozen years as our Global Prayer Coordinator. Loved by his GRN family and colleagues around the world, his legacy will last.

To honor this friend and to challenge our own hearts, let’s ponder this extract from one of Colin’s blogs on prayer. It is a worthy meditation on God’s Word and our walk.



A good verse to ponder any time we want to take stock of our lives and ministry is 1 Sam 7:14—*“Thus far has the Lord helped us.”* The words *“Thus far”* points to our PAST and the fact that the Lord has helped us every step of the way....

“Thus far hath the Lord helped us...” also has implications for the FUTURE. *“Thus far”* implies we are not finished yet. Our work is not yet done; there is more to come....

God expects us to finish well. This is why He gave us this wonderful promise in Phil 1:6 — **“Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”** He will do it and He doeth all things well!

And so, the Lord, who has been our helper all of our days, will, when our final day arrives, help us take that last step that will take us from the finish line into eternity. There we will see our dear Savior face-to-face. As we behold His glory and the wonders of Heaven, so many things will surely amaze us. Not least, when heaven reveals just how much God did in answer to prayer.

That being so, I’m sure I’ll wonder, why did I pray so little?

All of Colin's blogs are found at www.globalrecordingsusa.org/category/our-high-calling

Amen, Colin!

Skip Adams



Ways to pray for GRN:

For a printed or emailed monthly prayer guide (TIP): email us@globalrecordings.net and specify whether mailed or emailed

For daily prayer app on a phone: <https://globalrecordings.net/en/prayerapp> and type “Mission Prayers app” — into the query box.



MOST CLOSED, BUT “WITH GOD...”

— From an itinerant USA recordist

For some unknown reason, the Lord has placed closed countries upon my heart. I’ve thought about those who have never heard the wonderful name of Jesus and those who might gather around secret fires to listen to the word of God. I’ve shivered at the danger they might face as some could be imprisoned or even killed on the spot if discovered. I began to daydream about secretly entering some dark nation, my recording backpack in tow.

My thoughts often settle upon one specific nation from which only tales of imprisonment and torture escape. I think of missionaries who braved starvation and death to take the Gospel to far-off lands. Why not me, Lord? I look down at my wrinkled hands and glance at the cane resting, as always, nearby. Not the best specimen, I fear. But I remember: *“With GOD, all things are possible.”*

Last year, while visiting a nearby ethnic congregation, I found a pastor who prayed with me about this country, perhaps the most closed on earth, that we would find someone from there willing to record with us. He started contacting other area pastors to help locate this person. Weeks passed, then months, with no word of success.

Then, one Sunday when I returned to visit the congregation, the pastor rose to begin his sermon. Glancing up, he spotted me and waved with a big smile. *“I would like to welcome today, a young lady who has just escaped from ____.”* And yes, he named the exact country I’d been praying for! Thrilled, I turned my head and marked where this answer to my prayers was sitting.

After service, the pastor smiled as he shook his head. *“We couldn’t find her, so God brought her to you.”* The young woman even brought along her own interpreter. After speaking with her, I asked the young lady if she would help record the story of Jesus to be sent back to her country. And she agreed.

In due time, the recordings have been made and are now in the editing and processing phase. It turns out that her language variety had never been recorded before! These precious recordings will be able to introduce Jesus to several million speakers. How humbling that God not only heard our prayers, but performed a wonderful miracle to bring this about.

What a kind Father we have. How generous to allow us to participate in His plans. Plans that He could accomplish without us, yet He allows us the joy of witnessing His faithfulness, power, and love. Praise His Holy name!



BEGINNING MY JOURNEY

— By another itinerant USA field worker

I'm a single man in my 30's from the northwestern USA, and about 18 months ago was part of a group looking for unrecorded languages in northern Mexico. I traveled with a GRN team who had the unified practice of committing our plans to God in prayer. We crossed the border to our work in Chihuahua state. The local church loved us as eternal family, providing us with places to sleep, to cook, and to do our work of learning how to record Gospel stories. They also partnered with us in the spreading of the Gospel in this area. What a blessing it was to spend time together with these brothers and sisters.

Larry and other veteran recordists taught us aspiring field workers basics of recording and editing. He led us daily in prayer to trust God to bring together His plan for recording the Gospel in unrecorded languages. In God's timing, pieces began coming together. The first answer to prayer in this regard was a brother from the local church who had grown up in a town some 1,400 miles away. He spoke a previously unrecorded language, and God used him and a relative of his to help us record Gospel messages, a conversion story, and a song in their language. A few days later in a nearby town, God brought a stranger off the street to help us to record more in this same language.

Brothers and sisters also went to migrant camps at night to show Gospel films and play music and distribute previously recorded messages to many people in need of this eternal hope. People gave their lives to Christ according to the will of the Father as the Holy Spirit touched them and gave them understanding, and the local church was there with open arms. After having worked in north-west USA, the openness to the Gospel among these people was refreshing.



I am thankful to God for opening my eyes to the need and impact of Gospel recordings in the world today. I have pursued outreach opportunities among refugees in my local area with a small team, and will seek to be trained more fully into recording soon.

I have just visited the GRN team in an Asian country, assisting field teams forming there. Long-term I am most interested in capturing Gospel recordings among the Muslim world, but would like to be available to assist wherever there is need. Our Father has the perfect plan, and will open doors for me as I look to Him.

INDONESIAN OPPORTUNITIES

— From Sr. Recordist Larry

Pray about our collaborations throughout SE Asia with like-minded ministries. Larry is now in planning meetings with Lembaga Rekaman Injil (GRN Indonesia) and others, as we will work with any group to promote the Gospel. Josh is busy learning the language, and has gone with the team on a trip to Kalimantan.



One group of churches has quickly become involved in a variety of ways. Pak S. is its local congregation's head pastor. Pak P. is their youth pastor, language coach, and the team's driver. He and his wife have good English and a desire to get the Gospel into minority languages. We are excited about one recent Bible school graduate, Miss S, who the Lord has called to come alongside our team. The plans are to teach many such graduates to take word lists; the interested and able ones could be given further training. A Mr. C. is willing to get back to recording languages and already has a recording kit. Pray he'll be able to get to the Papua provinces (formerly Irian Jaya) to scope out needs and possibilities.

Larry himself has been given a one-year visa. He will build on past experiences to make contacts regarding language needs in various out-lying areas. Do pray for God-given opportunities for the whole team to find new languages. Pray for the Lord to open doors on all the islands of this huge country, for His glory!



HOLDING THE ROPE

— By a visionary volunteer

William Carey's famous quote to others as he deliberated about going to India: "Well, I will go down if you will hold the rope." Do we remember the names of those who vowed to hold the rope as Carey descended into the dark, almost bottomless well of India? No, those names are lost to us, yet we remember the name of Carey. His work in the 19th century stands as a pinnacle of mission outreach. Many books about him grace our bookshelves. Yet — could he have gone without the prayers and provision of those faithful people who vowed to "hold the rope" for him? No. the story of William Carey's mission to India might never have been told had it not been for the saints who God called as his partners.

Just so, GRN has partners, both home base support workers and friends all over, who make field work possible. Recordists on the field, spokesmen in churches, and representatives at conferences, are the "Careys" of our GRN family. We see them, we love and admire their willingness to "go down the well," to deliver *The Story of Jesus in Every Language*. But are there some who sit on the edge of the well, unable to proceed with their calling? Perhaps because they have nobody to hold the rope, nobody to support them and pray diligently for them.



Then there are those who labor quietly in home offices, unknown and unsung, sitting long hours at computers, opening your precious mail and praying over your prayer requests, staying late to finish financial reports and see that your vital contributions are sent correctly ... they stand alongside, guiding the ropes, as the more-recognized Careys are sent to their work places. Home staff also leave their states and families, give up the security of a weekly paycheck, and look to God to move the hand of others to pray for them and provide needed support. And all this they do quietly but with joy unspeakable in order to serve their Savior.

Is God perhaps asking you to "hold the rope" for someone else who is heading overseas? Or could you yourself be a "Carey"?

How about you and I? Are we doing our part by holding the rope for our present-day Careys? I pray it may be so, for without us, they could not go. And the Careys must go — countless souls await a saving message. Lord of the harvest, we ask for laborers: those to go, but also those to "hold the rope."

STRANGERS AMONG US

— Excerpted from *Along Unfamiliar Paths* (Marlene Muhr, 1982), p. 44-47

Immigrant populations have shaped GRN's work during its 8 decades of existence. Marlene and Ann were the first team to scour much of Europe and the Middle East for such groups, who usually had been un-observed and under-served by churches in those countries. Here Marlene shares their experience in Germany one Christmas:

In God's Word we are instructed to love the stranger and not to oppress him, "...for you know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers in the land of Egypt." We are to gather strangers within our gates, "that they may hear, and learn, and fear the Lord..."

"According to the law of the desert, there is a crime worse than murder or stealing. It is to know where water is to be found, and not to mention it. It is our responsibility to bring the Water of Life to those who are thirsty."

A couple who spent time visiting the homes of foreigners in Germany told us, "It is amazing to see how, through your recordings, we found the way to their hearts."

The way to their hearts! As we drew close to our Savior's heart, we seemed to hear their hearts throbbing. And as we saw Him in His stable, and His strange surroundings, we saw their bewilderment. He was peaceful, but they were gripped with a type of anguish known only by those who have been uprooted and transplanted into another world. He was a stranger; so were they. He had come to love them back to fellowship with God, but they were ignorant of it.

The late '60's saw an ever-increasing flux of laborers into Germany, exceeding 50,000 people per month. Christian leaders started calling to the Church, "Wake up, Christian world! The mission field is at your doorstep! Never before have we had such an opportunity..."

As a response, witnessing in the streets and markets was organized. Hearts were encouraged and vision became reality. "It is our desire that no guest worker in our town will go back to his country without having heard the Gospel message." And many did hear the Word.

What about America today? Ethnic groups stream into our country. Is this our "great opportunity"? Will you help share the Living Water with the "strangers among us"?

Pray for Christians here to learn about www.5fish.mobi and to use this free tool to tell the story of Jesus to any speakers of other languages who are now our neighbors.





GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK

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STAMP

GRN USA supervises sponsorship of recording projects in GRN sister offices around the world. Your gifts support recording projects in many nations. We give priority to reaching unengaged, unreached people groups of the world, those with few if any Christians and little or no Biblical material available in their language. Go to: <https://www.globalrecordingsusa.org/give/browse-current-projects/>. Questions? Email US@GlobalRecordings.Net

