



April 2023

HE MAKES ALL THINGS NEW



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# NEW SEEDS PLANTED

## A Fair for the Nations

Patti Ediger

*Ask me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance (Psalm 2:8).*

Imagine two large wedding tents bustling with representatives from every Christian mission you can think of, then double that for those you've



yet to learn of. The reps chattered excitedly, setting up their colorful displays, banners, and flowing streamers. It was a Fair, a joyous gathering of missionaries come to meet the next generation. A chance to pass the baton, educate, touch hearts with the Great Commission, and pass on the wonderful inheritance of taking Jesus Christ to the nations.

We were at Biola University for this Missions Fair. Our bright banner read "Sharing The Story of Jesus in over 6,500 languages! – 5fish – Global Recordings Network." Our table was spread with 5fish cards, brochures, a Card Talk, Tumi Tiger, and other attractions. We were ready and excited to share the mission of GRN with the flood of eager students who would soon come bounding through the entrance.

And eager they were. The crowded aisles were visions of bright-eyed enthusiasm packaged in jeans, hoodies, and Nikes. However, what God soon showed me was His future army was right here in front of us, asking, searching for His direction. Each with a story; each with a way to use exactly the weapons (tools) we had brought along to arm them.

One student was a tiny bundle of questions from Indonesia. She started the conversation as many of the international students did. "I don't think you have MY language!" It was a pleasure to see her amazement as we

brought up the language varieties we have from Indonesia and found her very own. "But do you have Mandarin?" She asked. She smiled when we opened 5fish to the plethora of resources in Mandarin. Her face softened and she told me of her grandparents who spoke nothing but Mandarin. Her grandmother had indicated an openness to Jesus, but she was unable to tell her grandmother about the Savior because she did not speak Mandarin. "I'm going back to Indonesia this summer. Now I will be able to tell my grandparents about Jesus."

Next a tall young man from India challenged 5fish to produce his language variety. Again, 5fish came through, showing teaching available in his heart language. He was so excited he beamed and threw his head back in amazement. I noted that there was much more that could be recorded in his language and he leaned forward with enthusiasm. "I know many dialects, and I would be happy to record for you." We exchanged contact information and look forward to even more people hearing the saving story of Jesus our Lord.

Some even approached the GRN table hesitantly as they had previously decided to join Frontiers, Send, or another wonderful mission. What a privilege to tell them that whatever mission they joined, and whatever country they went to, we have tools for them to use. It is our honor and privilege to assist them in their ministry. All hesitance fell away and so very many eagerly learned more about Global Recordings Network and downloaded 5fish, sharing it with friends who also came to hear.

May God bless those many who have gone before in the recording of languages from the people of the world that His name and salvation might be known. And may God bless these who now take the fruit of that work and carry His name to far off places in this and future generations. We give thanks to God for this precious opportunity and the divine appointments He provided.





## Highlights From Biola Missions Conference

Roland Heck

In March, several from GRN USA staffed a table at Biola University's annual Missions Conference, the largest student-led one in the world. For this 93rd Missions Conference, classes were cancelled for three days "so that students could focus on finding their part in bringing the Glory of God to the nations."

At the GRN booth we invited all the students to download the 5fish app to their phone by using the 5fish QR code: It was a great opportunity to equip these students with a tool that puts over 6,500 languages in the palm of their hands! Some highlights:



It was exciting to speak with several people coming from overseas that could serve as language helpers for future recording projects.

One student was interested in volunteering with our IT department. He knows Java Script which is vital for a new project.

Both singles and families with children enjoyed the presentation of how media has changed. We demonstrated the CardTalk (hand turned cardboard record player) and on to 5fish app and our Tumi Tiger which holds a solar charged mp3 player in its tummy.

I was thrilled to meet with my wife's nephew who was part of the worship team that played from 1 to 5 am! It was so encouraging to see students seeking the heart of God.

*Let all that I am praise the Lord. May I never forget the good He does for me (Psalm 103:2 NLT).*



## Rainbow of Grace

God set His rainbow in the cloud as a token of the covenant. It speaks to us not only of assurance, but of a memorial of a new relationship which God has entered into with His creatures. In the rainbow, we see all the array of the lights of perfection in harmonious blending. Yet the primary colors, the blue, red, and yellow, are a trinity in unity from which all the others are produced. Nature knows nothing more exquisite than the rainbow, even as heaven knows nothing that equals the wonderful grace of our God.

The rainbow is a union of heaven and earth spanning the sky and reaching down to the ground. So grace in the One Mediator has brought together God and mankind. The rainbow is a public sign hung out in the heavens, that all men might see it. So too, the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

*Dear Father in heaven, please help us to reflect the glorious light of Your grace to all who cross our path. Amen.*

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dr. Skip Garmo

April is one of this year's most special months! It is during April that we are seeing the newness of spring as sunshine and rain help plants give birth to new flowers and fresh greenery.

It is also the month during which we particularly remember, ponder, and celebrate the redemptive work of Jesus Christ through His sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

GRN USA is also thankful to celebrate new seeds planted during the recent missions conference at Biola University. As you read the articles herein from Patti Ediger (p. 2-3) and Roland Heck (p. 4), you can see a new awareness of GRN ministry. Many attendees began to envision ways to use GRN tools. For some students and faculty, it involved downloading, exploring, and sharing our 5fish app with friends and relatives living in other countries. For others, it resulted in their offer to collaborate with GRN in one way or another.

Another cause of praise to our Father is the development of our Interactive Global Map. As Allan Starling explains so well (p. 6-7), this new map is a giant step forward from what has been available for mission leaders, translators, church planters, and evangelists around the world.

We prayerfully anticipate new spiritual births through the use of current and future GRN recordings by many mission agencies. Likewise, we prayerfully anticipate renewed spiritual hearts and minds. I am deeply encouraged and personally challenged by recent reports across the USA of revival—often in the hearts of young adults.

Renewal. Think of it. Alleluia!



# NEW TOOLS EMERGING

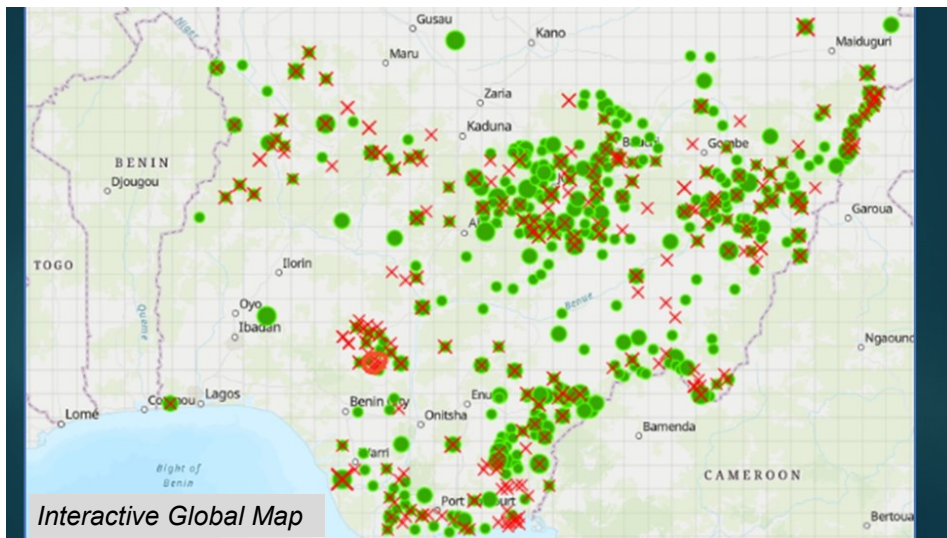
## How We Got on the Map

Allan Starling

I love to watch a symphony orchestra play on YouTube. It's a picture of teamwork. Each performer looks different and may play a unique instrument or even a separate melody, but all perform in perfect harmony to produce a beautiful piece of music. Our GRN mapping project team is like a symphony orchestra. Each team member "plays" their part and contributes to the big picture (or map.)

### Thousands of Languages

GRN's motto is *Telling the Story of Jesus in Every Language*. I thought about thousands of language varieties spoken worldwide. I asked myself, "Wouldn't a **language map** be a tremendous help in locating these groups?" *Of course, it would, but I don't have the training or skill to make one.* After prayer, probing, and patience, God led step by step.



### Out-of-date Maps

Years previously we obtained permission to use language maps created by Wycliffe Bible Translators. Now they were out of date, so I asked Loren, a mapping specialist from another mission, to show me how to update them. It proved to be overly complex, but Loren offered to do the job. Instead of a static map, printed on paper, he proposed an interactive global map showing the location of recorded and unrecorded languages. This was far bigger than my original idea.

### The Pieces

Several pieces needed to come together – the electronic base map, a point (dot) showing the location of each cluster of language varieties, and the GRN-related info about each language. Don't forget the players.

### The Players Come Together

Loren recruited more mapping experts. I trained several data-entering volunteers. Others searched documents for pertinent information. Another volunteer produced a code to harmonize data with the mapping software. We sought to avoid any sour notes or "dis-chords" by obtaining permissions and keeping within copyright restrictions.

### Click and Listen

Now, anyone can use this link to find information about any language. They can click on a green dot and listen to recordings in that language. A red X indicates a language that needs a recording.

You're invited to the concert. Actually, it's more like a rehearsal than a performance because this map is a work-in-progress. You can help. Tell us how well each instrument is playing. To do so, enter the link below into your computer browser. (If you don't know how, ask a teenager.) Here's the link - <https://gis.lightsys.org/grn> - and the QR code.



### You Are the Audience

When the Interactive Global Map comes up, first **click on the question mark** in the left-hand column for a video explaining the functions. When you are ready to give your review, **click on the gearwheel** in the left-hand column.

Another way you can help is to pray that those red exes will soon turn to green, indicating that the story of Jesus is now being told in another language. Let's make music – and maps – together.

"And what do *you* do?" somebody once asked me. I grinned. "I wave my arms around like the conductor, but I can't play any of the instruments!" But the truth is, God is the conductor, and He has brought all the players together, for which we praise Him.

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GRN USA supervises sponsorship of recording projects in GRN sister offices around the world. Your gifts support recording projects in many nations. We give first priority to 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/project/recording-fund/>  
Questions? Email [US@GlobalRecordings.Net](mailto:US@GlobalRecordings.Net)



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**Ways to pray for GRN:**

**Through a printed or emailed monthly prayer guide (TIP):** email [us@globalrecordings.net](mailto:us@globalrecordings.net) and specify whether to be mailed or emailed

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