



Summer 2023

SHARING THE VISION



Global Recordings Network
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TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

DIRECTOR'S DESK

"The Main Thing . . ."

"The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing." Decades later, I still recall it. I was a young college professor. A pastor spoke at our morning chapel time that day. I remember nothing else he said, except this timelessly timely proverb: "The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing."

Pondering again that powerful proverb, I am profoundly thankful for guidance from God's Spirit through the pen of Paul. One key theme—prominent in Paul's epistles and throughout the Scriptures—is God's call for us to focus on His "main thing":

And above all these [other Christlike character qualities], put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col. 3:14).

Paul did not challenge that church to grow in attendance, or build a building, or increase its budget, or even develop an attention-getting children's ministry. Helpful though those supporting elements might have been, they were not—and are not—God's "main thing." Contrary to today's culture, God is more interested in our hearts than our activities! Do you recall His rebuke of superficial worshipers through the pen of Isaiah (1:11)?

This radical truth applies also to GRN USA as we pursue the ongoing process of growing staff, raising support, producing recordings, distributing recordings, and developing teams: The principle God gives us in that verse (and others) is this: While *whats* and *hows* are both important, *how* we pursue those processes *matters even more* to Him than *what* processes we pursue. For many, this reality is ignored. But to courageously embrace it is transforming.

That's why our frequent prayer in GRN USA is this: *Father, please help us honor and please You in what we do and how we do it.*

Is this your life prayer as well? It's a worthy challenge.

Skip Adams



SMALLER CHURCH, GIANT VISION

Irene King

How do you raise \$100,000 for missions in one weekend when you're not a mega-church with thousands of members? This question might daunt many pastors, but leadership at a medium-sized church in Temecula, CA, is very creative and innovative in their approach to mission fund raising.

They proposed: *Let's have a "Party with a Purpose" and invite our friends and community to donate gifts we can raffle off, or auction off. Let's inspire our congregation to give gigantically.*

So they threw a two-day party with games, food, and give-aways. Eight invited ministries staffed information tables. These eight organizations would receive any party donations collected.

GRN was blessed to be one of those eight, and four of our staff participated in the "Party" which followed church services both Saturday evening and Sunday morning. The particular focus for GRN's booth was the Tumi Tiger Project. Kings and Garmos handed out books and brochures about the ministry to everyone going past, with special gifts for kids. They had many meaningful conversations answering questions about what GRN does. The hit of the day was Tumi himself. Many party goers caught the vision of providing the cuddly guy with his message of hope, comfort and the love of God to Ukrainian children. One grandma said, "Can I get one in English? My granddaughter needs this" and another said, "Here's \$30, an anonymous gift to the Tumi fund." Over 50 people took a flyer with the QR code so they could read more about it.

What fun it was to see so many believers truly excited to give to missions in this creative way. The children's department sponsored a bake sale. Even little ones went around, showing off goodies and gathering money for the missionaries.

What about your church? What creative ways could you come up with to become co-laborers in God's Kingdom work? Or to grow the young and old at your church? Getting young adults and even children involved in the kind of teamwork it takes to support mission endeavors reaps an immediate harvest, as well as benefits the future of your church and the cause of the Great Commission around the world.



WHY VISION MATTERS

Recent responses to hearing the Gospel from Venezuela...

May 4

We were able to find the “Five Fish” files we were looking for and they are now on the Torches (simple players) we are distributing. I thought you would find this story, not only interesting, but fulfilling as well.

...This morning, in our early morning Bible class a young man from another village was there. After the class he spoke up and told how he had just gotten in last night. While visiting and staying with a relative here, he listened as they played someone talking in Yanomamö. “I grew up knowing that long ago, my uncle, my father’s real brother, had given his voice to talk about God. I realized I was listening to my uncle! At first it made me sad to hear him. Then, I listened to the words he was saying. My heart got so excited. How I wish my father could hear his brother’s voice and hear his message. We do not live in peace at all. But my uncle spoke of peace in knowing Yai Bata and his son JesuCristo. I am asking you now to give me one of those devices so I can take it home and let my father and mother hear this. I think my whole family is going to accept the message my uncle is telling from so long ago, but it sounds like he is still alive and talking now....” His voice trailed off and I detected tears in his eyes. I also had tears in my eyes! Wow! God’s Word truly never returns void!

May 21

Now, I don’t know what the young man’s father and mother did when they heard the recordings, but a few days later another young man from that area, showed up at our door saying he was the grandson of the man speaking on the device. His mother is the daughter of the man speaking. He begged us for a Torch so he could take it home and let his mother and her sisters who live in another village hear this too. Join us in praying that God is going to use these recordings to break the villages of the Ocamo River area wide open for the Gospel. By the way, it is almost a two day paddle to get here from the village he came from. So we had someone take him home from here with one of our motors. We not only gave him a Torch but sent one for his mother as well.

The recordings are new to the Torches, [but] the funny thing is, it is material from the early 60s that my parents had helped worked on. Our prayer is, God is going to use these recordings, done so long ago, to open hearts to HIS love for them. Pray with us about this.

We have been almost overwhelmed with visitors coming wanting the Torches. I had to smile as I listen to our Yanomamö team telling people to “just wait in your villages as we are going to be bringing and placing Torches.” Later on, alone with them, I tried to gently remind them that if

someone is willing to paddle so far for one, (I am talking days and days of paddling one way) they just might be the person that God has been preparing their hearts for the messages on these devices. But, all that to say, our days are full of taking care of all these visitors.

— emails from Michael, Venezuelan Amazonia 4



Michael and his wife

...and Mexico

November

Staff traveled to Chihuahua, Mexico to train missionaries and equip them with resources for the Pima Bajo, one of Mexico’s most forgotten indigenous people groups. Armed with audio Bibles and microSDs in the language of the people, the team set out for Ciudad Madera. Once at the village, they saw firsthand how the audio Bibles are an incredible tool. They would play portions of Scripture for the Pima Bajo people, who would respond with amazement.

Since this people group is usually mistreated, even by government officials, they have great distrust of outsiders. As one of the lesser known indigenous groups from Chihuahua, they are often competing with the Tarahumara Indians, who the government endorses due to their touristic appeal. The Pima Bajo, on the other hand, do not receive the same help nor protection from the government. Even so, the audio Bibles created an entry point for this team to begin sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the elders of the village, Don Paulino, was 90 years old and had never learned to read. The team played him the Gospel of John and asked him what he heard. The man responded by saying, “I heard that Jesus loves me and forgives me.” His eyes filled with conviction and peace. Don Paulino heard the words of Jesus and believed. Two months after their trip, the team received news that Don Paulino had passed away. — sent by Bere of Digital Bible Societies



Words and photo: DBS

"Since Global Recordings Network does not depend on Scripture being published, GRN [is] filling an important niche — a large niche. Worldwide, there are more than 100,000,000 speakers of 1278 languages [that only have GRN resources]."
— Bill Morrison, Joshua Project

April

Good morning, I was given the link to [your recordings] from an IMB missionary who works with Nahuatl people near the Gulf of Mexico. Our church has been working with the Temascaltepec Nahuatl, which is about 3 hours west of Mexico City. They were an unreached, unengaged group in 2019. ... We have seen God work in some mighty ways, including seeing people from the tribe come to Christ, and a paralyzed girl be healed and walk.

I want to thank you for these recordings! I have given this link to our Mexican partners from the city of Toluca. I am very hopeful that our people will be able to understand this other dialect of Nahuatl and that we can use it to further the Gospel work in Portrero de San Jose.

Is there a way that our church could send you a donation so that you can continue your work? Thank you for what you do!

Grace and peace, Scott

COLLEGE VISION SPECIALISTS

Ed Young

I had taught at Arizona's Indian Bible College 1975 – 1979 when it was called South-western School of Missions. It was a deep privilege to be one of the speakers at their recent missions conference. I saw the Lord bless our time there.

Mike Hendricks was the lead on this, as he had been on staff before as well. Both of us have spent considerable time recording or doing outreach in Mexico and elsewhere. We were accompanied by Noé, a young Mexican Christian who has worked on our outreaches there.



We were given three 45-minute sessions with the faculty and students. I took the first session and shared with them about the very positive impact the school had on my life. Prior to going onto staff at the school I was on staff with Gospel Recordings in Los Angeles. This was in the days of records, and my wife and I were thinking of going to Liberia to start up a record-pressing facility for West Africa. While I was learning boiler operation and press room management, I started doing some record distribution in the USA among Native Americans. I had taken IBC students out on school witnessing trips using GRN materials.

When I came onto staff at Indian Bible College, along with teaching Bible classes, I was usually in charge of the Spring outreach trips. After four years of teaching at IBC I went back to GRN, but instead of going into record production I decided to train as a field recordist so I could record and distribute GRN materials. Because of my experience with Native Americans, working with Native Americans in the USA and Canada was my first assignment.

In this May Missions conference, I spoke at the first session. After reminiscing a bit, I went on to explain a little about the Great Commission, and the need to put basic

Christian materials into the heart languages of people that they want to share the Gospel with, and how GRN does that. I also shared about the 5fish app, and how to access and use that on their cell phones.



The second day, Noé gave some of his testimony. He spoke in Spanish, although he is a native Mixteco Indian, and Mike translated for him into English. Noé shared that his parents and he and his siblings are fruit of the Culiacan Project way back when I was involved in that outreach (1990 -1995). He was an infant when his mother responded to the Gospel preached at Culiacan. Noé has taken the Great Commission seriously himself, and has been on many mission trips with and without Mike, even overseas.

His testimony was well received by students and staff. The director of the school, Jason, was very much promoting the idea of Native Americans moving from being the mission field to becoming a mission force, and Noé is a prime example of a humble Native American stepping up and out.

Mike pulled it all together on the third day with a little history of GRN, more about the GRN materials, and some of his experience taking people on mission trips. Mike has a real gift for discipling young men on missions trips and encouraging them to consider missions as a part of their lives. I believe that he talked with the director of the school in regard to possibilities for the future.

We had meals with staff and students, which included some potential students for next fall. The last evening we were there for their Alumni Dinner. Overall, I believe it was three days well spent, and only time will tell what God actually brings into reality as a result of our sharing the vision at this unique Bible College.

Novel way to share GRN messages:

For locations with poor internet service, or none at all, request your own "library" of messages specific for your area. It will be individually loaded with messages in languages that are spoken in your province, country, or continent.

Discuss with John at 951-691-3353 exactly what you require and other details. Operate with prayer!



Please Contact Us

...if someone you know hasn't gotten our mailings, if you've received double, or if you prefer another method of reception (mail/email/text). Thank you to those who have emailed or called. We enjoy hearing from you. Send us your own stories of using 5fish during an outreach!

VISION FOR THE MINISTRY

Bill Cornthwaite, Board President



Proverbs 2:6 is an excellent reminder of Who is most important in life and what is most important to Him:

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Recognizing these realities, we begin each meeting with prayer. We ask our Heavenly Father, as the above verse says, for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. And we have the promise of James 1:5-6 that if we ask in faith for wisdom, He will give it freely.

We also ask Him for grace and discernment. Our God is utterly dependable and cares so much for our mission and our work! While our board deals with routine matters at times, we are often faced with some very difficult issues. It is during these discussions that we sense the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us in a supernatural way. There are times when we stop in the middle of a very hard topic and simply pray. We have seen wonderful breakthroughs when this occurs.

We are deeply grateful when staff and others pray for us leading up to and during our meetings. It is during these times we truly know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has intervened and led us.

Please continue to pray for the board. We are very dependent on the prayers of our people. Please pray specifically for:

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Humility
- Gentleness

The principle of one body and many members (1 Cor. 12:12-14) within the church also applies to our mission. Working together is what we are all called to do – sacrificially.

Thank you for your care and concern for us. Rest assured, we care and are concerned for you.

Our Board — Bill, Tim, Mack, Preston, Mark, David, and Skip (*ex officio*) — meet quarterly (and often by phone in between) and we ask you to uphold them before the Throne. Pray for several new Board Members to be found and voted in.

VISION FOR THE WORLD

Graydon Colville, International Director

GRN's International Leadership Team (ILT) comprises representatives from five continents of the world: Africa, Asia, Europe Oceania, and North America. Members met in Thailand at the end of April for this year's in-person meeting.

The team reviewed reports from around the global network, assessing the organizational and spiritual health of our centres, bases, and ministry departments. We thank God for enabling good GRN ministry. At the same time, ILT accepts the responsibility of coming alongside to address various challenges, such as helping our international ministry teams plan, manage, and lead ministries into the future that we believe God has for this global network.

While looking back, we paused to thank God for the life and ministry of Colin Stott, who served our Lord through GRN in important leadership roles until his home-going earlier this year.

We were delighted to receive an application for "Centre" status from GRN South Africa. We are also encouraged by the increasing commitment to recording in Franco-phone Africa and the rising number of French-speaking recordists. Recording activity has picked up again since the COVID pandemic.

Other encouragements are the increasing opportunities to train recording technicians from other organizations, the great increase in audio and a/v material now accessible through 5fish, and some new ministry possibilities in India.



Measuring ministry impact is always a challenge. Our focus on technical quality has led to good results in that area. We are now reviewing and, as needed, refining the quality of our training with regard to content preparation (script choice and adaptation) and translation. Part of the solution will be to focus on and further develop recording teams – rather than 'lone ranger' recordists. It is rare that a single person has all the skills required to produce good effective recordings. We are also evaluating ways to better measure ministry impact.

Thanks for your prayers for the leadership team and for the wider fellowship and global ministry of GRN.

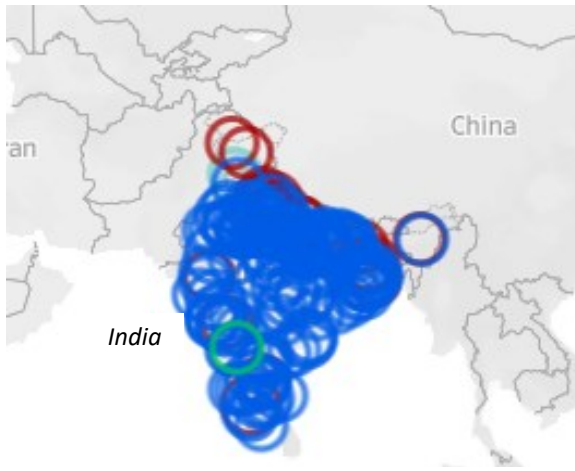
NEW VISION FOR INDIA

Patti Ediger

"This is a Code Blue!"

The computer screen was filled with small squares, each containing a small smiling head. We were "Zooming" our weekly GRN prayer time. The then US director, calling in from somewhere across the globe, held up a large poster as he indicated small blue dots across the outlined countries of the world. "These dots are unreached people groups," he explained. He then pointed to India, which had a different appearance from any of the other countries. "This," he said, "has so many unreached people groups it just blew up into blue."

I missed the rest of his presentation as that phrase, "It just blew up into blue" stopped my world. I stared at the vivid blue that filled the country of India. How could that be? How could so many people be so utterly without the Lord? My ICU nurse background kicked in: "This is a CODE BLUE! During a Code Blue, all staff drop what they were doing to answer this most urgent call. No one ignores it!"



All data from <https://joshuaproject.net/frontier/interactive>

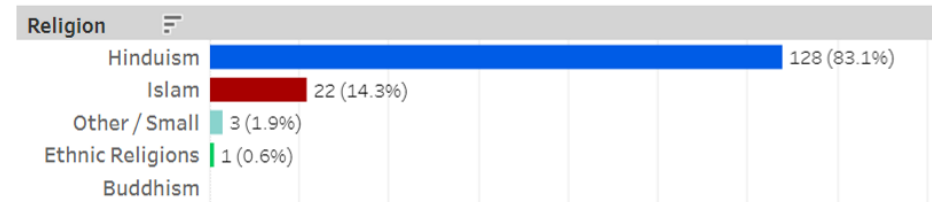
Joshua Project, one of GRN's partners in the Great Commission work, collects data of the sort I was looking for. On one of their blue – yes, it was honestly blue – posters was the following information. "96% of laborers work in REACHED people groups, while only 4% of Christian laborers work with UNREACHED people."

A full 40% of the earth's people are considered unreached and 25% have less than 0.1% Christian and no Jesus movement. I wondered as I thought of that one tenth of a percent valiantly trying to address all of their two billion (that's 2,000,000,000) spiritually dying neighbors.

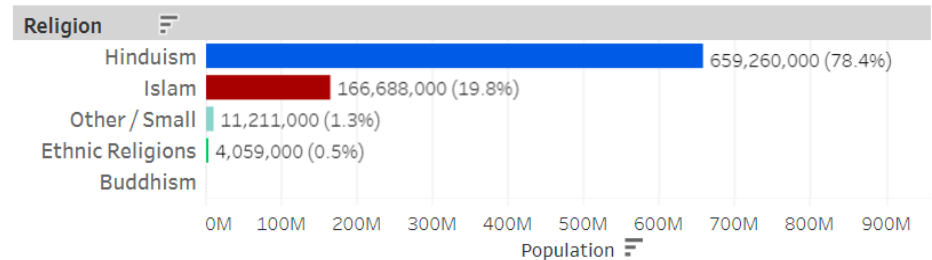
What? Is the hospital so short-staffed we can't attend to a crisis? Can we not break away from passing dinner trays to those sitting up in bed long enough to grab a crash cart and save those who are actually perishing?

I slept fitfully that night, praying as I struggled to understand. Yes, there are a billion people in India, and yes, ministries are stretched very thin. Yes, there are severe persecution, famine, and pandemics of biblical proportions. But, what is that compared to even one man's eternal soul? How could so many groups be still unreached? But I thought, perhaps I am wrong, and more is being done than I perceive. So I began to research. But that only supported the seriousness of this situation.

PEOPLE GROUPS: 154



POPULATION: 841,218,000



Then God reminded me of something very comforting. Called "the tip of the spear" by other agencies, GRN creates the Gospel in simple audio form for people who many times do not have an alphabet to even begin to read. The goal here is to produce tools for all other agencies and individuals to use in taking the story of Jesus to ALL people in audio format. Yes, thank you Lord, ALL PEOPLE.

Won't you pray urgently with me that the Gospel will sweep over the earth like a wildfire? That the dots on the poster, representing pockets of unreached human beings, and the nations so deluged with dots that they turned their own picture blue, will have the mercy of God fall upon them as people step up and step out, and run - yes, run - to the Code Blue?

Let us, as God calls each individual, "share, pray, give, send, and/or go in His grace and power alone and for His Glory among the nations," as that very blue poster says.

Many have been praying for GRN ministry in India for a long time. Several attempts have been made to restart ministry there but with little success. Details cannot be shared at this stage, but ILT is currently exploring two new proposals which may prove fruitful. Please pray for God's leading and grace to allow GRN to resume ministry in India.

— GRN's International Leadership Team (ILT) prayer request in May

Ways to pray for GRN:

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

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

Value Added—Because of extra space in online versions, we thought we'd offer you a bonus!

Possibilities

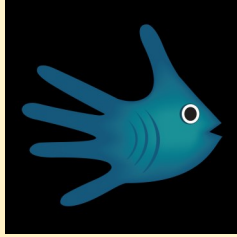
Patti E.

Sometimes it makes us wonder to see what looks like God putting beautiful things together right in front of our eyes. Pray that He will help us to see those connections and then do our part.

I recently researched lists of completely unreached peoples: no church, no Christians, no Bible, and no Christian resources of any kind. I was so taken back by the fact that in one difficult country there are only 39 languages left in this category. Amazing! This is doable! We could see every language reached in that country very quickly.

When I mentioned this to my small group at church they were so excited that one of the elders asked me to contact GRN to see how the church could support this work. Amazed that the cost is only \$1000 per language, my elder wants our church to be part of this valuable endeavor. He's taking the idea to the Board.

\$1000 is such a tiny price to pay anywhere around the globe for souls to hear how very much Jesus loves them. Tell somebody about this idea and pray for God to change the world!



**GLOBAL RECORDINGS
NETWORK**

16131 N. Vernon Dr., Tucson AZ 85739

Global Recordings Network produces and distributes audio recordings of Bible stories in more than 6,500 languages. Together with mission partners and local bilingual speakers all around the world, we have been blessed to share the basics of the Gospel and to introduce people to Jesus Christ since 1939. Learn more at —

GlobalRecordingsUSA.org