

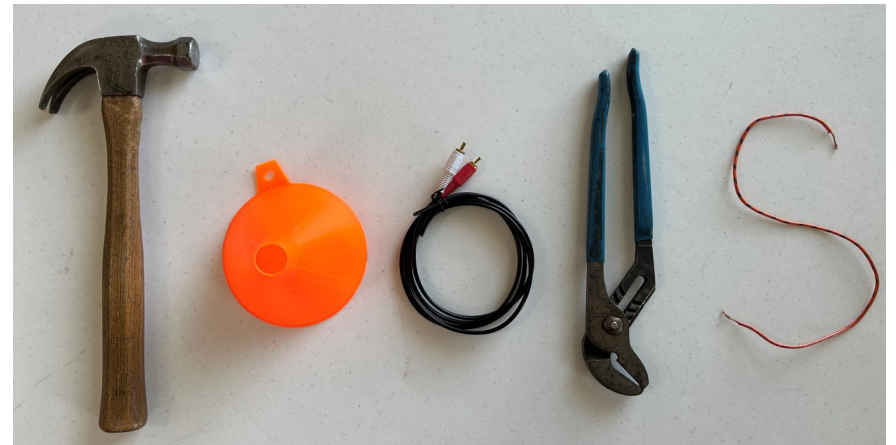


ALERT

Autumn 2023

Recording TOOLS and CHALLENGES

As mentioned last year, challenges we face include world belief systems holding millions in their sway, materialism and disasters that distract or prevent people from considering Jesus as Lord, widespread political powers that keep them from listening to the gospel, and general lack of Biblical knowledge even in the Church. Pray against these powerful “closed doors.” Thank God for tools which assist us and our partners.



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DIRECTOR'S DESK

Living Tools



We generally think of “tools” as inanimate instruments, such as those made of wood or metal. That very normal perspective is thousands of years old. 1 Kings 6:7 (ESV), for example, uses that word in describing the construction of Solomon’s temple in the city of Jerusalem:

When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built.

Another word that the Bible uses similarly is “instruments.” Genesis 4:22 says:

Tubal-cain . . . was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron.

The New Testament shows us a new and broader perspective on “instruments.” God adds life to that term in Acts 9:15 as He describes Saul to Ananias just after Saul’s blinding encounter with Jesus:

Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine before the Gentiles and kings and children of Israel.

God then leads Saul, now the apostle Paul, to make that term come alive again when he writes in Romans 6:13:

. . . Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members [your (mind and) body] to God as instruments for righteousness.

So what? So as you and I read this issue of *Alert*, let’s each reflect thankfully on God’s creative use of, and blessing on, various audio tools and training that GRN has used over the years and is continuing to develop.

But can you and I go deeper than that? Yes, we can. Let’s also reflect thankfully on God’s creative design of, and purpose for, ourselves – individually and collectively – as His *living tools*: in His hands, enabled by His Spirit, and commissioned to serve for His honor and His pleasure. Alleluia!

Skip Arnold



REAL AND POTENTIAL “INSTRUMENTS”

When a church youth leader contacted the Wycliffe Center director here in Catalina and told him that their summer youth group project was to travel around the West seeking to learn about various missions, he readily agreed to host them and then asked if they’d be interested in touring GRN as well. The leader had not heard of GRN before, so was curious to check us out. This group, writing back to their Midwest home church, later described our approach to missions as “unique.”

Their leader reported: “Around the world they seek bi-lingual people who are willing to record Bible stories in their native tongue. The missionaries tell the stories, section by section, in a shared language and then the native speaker translates the stories into their own language. GRN recordists record it.

“On our trip, after the folks at GRN office finished their presentation, they had snacks for us and spent time getting to know the high-school aged kids and answering their questions. It was a neat, personal touch.

“Here’s a picture of the kids using something called Card Talk - it’s an ingeniously simple piece of corrugated cardboard, a metal grommet with needle, and a vinyl record which allows people to hear Bible stories in their own heart language. The kids loved it!”



We add to his report: in this picture, Diane is demonstrating how tools change over time—from our original, creative hand-wound record players to later hand-wound cassette players. She went on to demonstrate a newer “tool” — 5fish, which is

accessible to anyone with a phone, and doesn’t need to be mailed in heavy parcels around the world as the records and cassettes used to be.

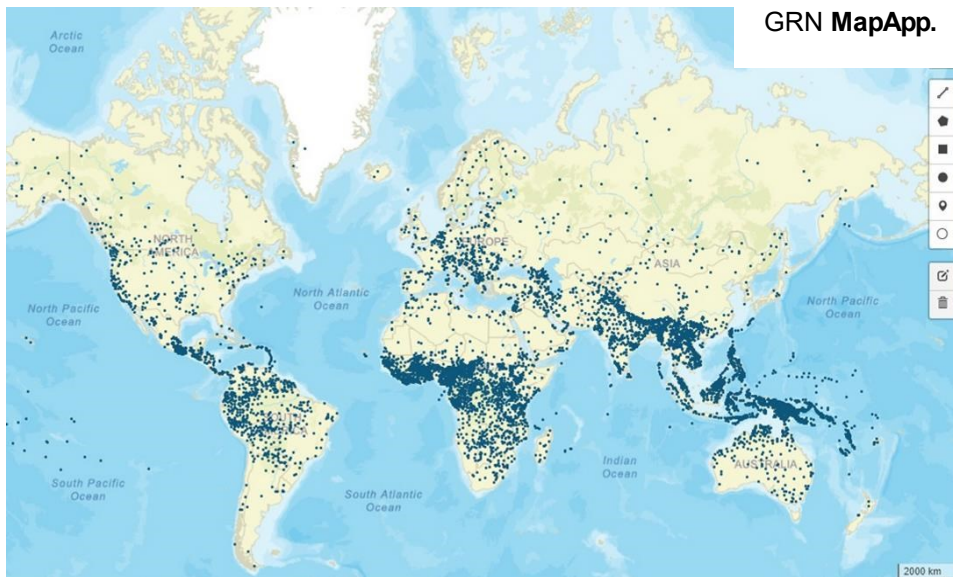
We would like to apply Skip’s analogy (p. 2) of “living tools” for the Lord’s use to our hopes for many young people like this group who came to visit us this summer. They were intrigued to realize how many different kinds of work go into what is called “missions.” We’re not all preachers!

We pray that the Lord will lay it on the heart of many young people to be willing “instruments” in His hands, for His honor and glory as the word about Jesus is spread to every last people group on this globe. Pray with us! And, if you’re young and seeking adventure, ask the Lord where He could use you.

FIND THAT LANGUAGE!

Allan Starling

Most people have trouble wrapping their minds around a statistic like 7,150 total languages worldwide. Now you can see those points and much more on a map and appreciate the immensity of it all. After two years of research, consultation, and programming, GRN USA is happy to announce the release of our new



“Nice,” you say. “But what does it do?; Who is it for?; Who made it?; and Can I see it?” Some of the answers may surprise you. Let’s check them out.

What does MapApp do?

MapApp is Informative. MapApp will show you the location of 14,000 clusters of language varieties worldwide, and discover those with Christian media available, as well as those that have nothing. You can also find at a glance thousands of UN refugee camps housing people from countries we often can’t visit.

MapApp is Interactive. Unlike a paper map that just sits there, you can interact with MapApp like search for a specific language or country. It’ll even highlight them and show you an informational page, and/or link you to a website with more details.

MapApp is Interchangeable. You can use MapApp on your computer, phone, or tablet. If you plan to travel to a location not served by the Internet, never fear. MapApp will print out your information ahead of time or save it on your device.

MapApp is Intelligent. Do you like drawing on maps? You can encircle an area on MapApp, and it will give you a report of all languages and resources in that circle. Or you can place a marker on the map and submit a report about a language or a contact found there. It will also tell you exactly where you are anywhere in the world.

Who is MapApp for?

We’ve designed MapApp to help a wide variety of users.

Our **GRN Recordists** can quickly locate those languages that have no GRN recordings.

Our **Distributors** can easily find those languages that have some audio recordings.

Our **Planners** can spot concentrated areas of need or opportunity.

Our **Prayer Partners** can visualize locations as they pray for languages.

Our **Supporters** can see the extent of our GRN work.

Missionaries and **churches** can find media resources for spiritually needy language groups.

Unreached peoples who find MapApp will be able to hear the good news in their own languages.

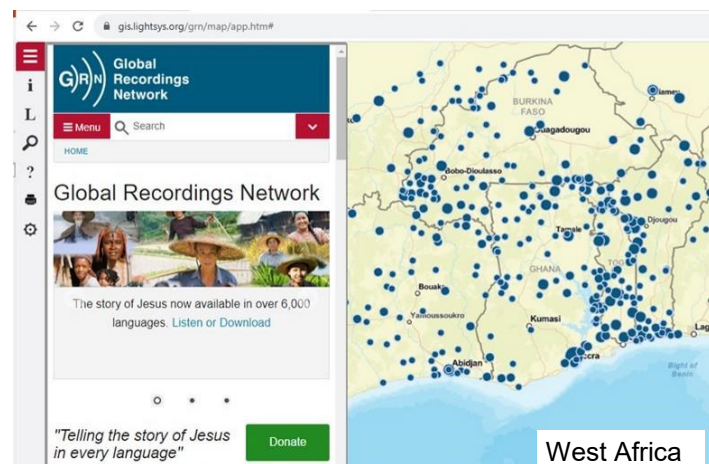
WIDE
VARIETY
OF
USERS

Who made MapApp?

It took a team effort. Retired volunteers scattered around the USA helped to put MapApp together! In addition to the three mapping specialists with LightSys in Colorado, our team comprises programmers, researchers, and data entry helpers, working from the comfort of their homes.

Can I see MapApp?

Yes, you can. Take a quick tour of MapApp to see all of its features. The help section also has numerous Quick-Help videos and frequently asked questions (FAQs). There’s also provision for sharing your comments or feedback.



See **MapApp** by using this link:
<https://gis.lightsys.org/grn>

Although you can use MapApp on your cell phone, we recommend that you first check it out on your computer and get acquainted with the many features. We’d love to get your feedback.

Can I help?

If you’re saying, “*Have computer – don’t want to travel – but want to help,*” please contact us at MapApp@globalrecordings.net

You don’t have to be *retired*, but if you’re *tired* of sitting in that easy chair, watching TV, we’d love to have you on the team.

STOPS AND STARTS

A Roving Recordist Team

Recording in Mozabite

Recording is very often not an easy task. Sometimes it is actually shocking how much spiritual opposition there can be in getting that job to the finish line.

GRN had advertised that people could sponsor an unrecorded language for a thousand dollars. An Ohio Sunday School had gone to work, babysat and held work days and bake sales, and specified that they really wanted the Mozabite language recorded. This is spoken by a Berber tribe in seven oasis towns deep in the Sahara desert. So our team flew over to France to look for them.

We found some Mozabite merchants had come over to Marseille to sell their wares. "Would you be willing to record some Christian messages in your language?" one of us asked, as we went around the marketplace looking for potential language helpers. "We would rather die than say things like that! Even if we were dying of hunger and starvation and needed the money, we would not say things like that!" we were sharply informed.



We sent word back to the Toledo church about this state of affairs. "You need to pray!" we told them. So not just the Sunday School, but the whole church, got on their knees and had all-night prayer meetings to intercede for someone to step up to the job. Meanwhile, we made friends with an Oasis Bible study group for immigrants, recorded a few other things, and flew back to USA.

After 5 months, we received a message: There is a Mozabite believer! A young Mozabite man, "N", had been walking down a street in Marseille, and he had heard some music floating upwards from a stairwell. He thought it sounded a little like his own kind of Berber music. It was Kabyle, sung by Christian believers also from Algeria, and it attracted him. He went down the stairs to check it out. He was greeted by two Kabyle believers who said, "Oh! You are Mozabite? We are fellow Berbers. Come, have a pretzel. Have some tea. Come in and join us." And soon, he prayed to receive the Lord. They knew we were looking for Mozabites and sent word about this young man, N. An answer to prayer!

So, we flew back the second time to Marseille. N agreed to record some Bible stories in his language. A pastor said that he would help to translate, as our French was practically non-existent and N didn't know any English. They came down to the basement recording center we had set up, and we got to work. We recorded the first 13 stories of the Good News program, which has 40 stories in all. Then everyone was tired and decided to call it quits for the day. (Little did we know that no matter what, this would be all we'd ever get in that language.)

What arose was a whole series of big problems. First, the pastor said to us, "I'm busy. Get someone else to help with this recording. You can get anybody to go from English to French to tell him what to say." But it was not that easy to find "anybody" who was a Christian, who knew English and French well, and who had time available to help with the recording.

In the market-place, we found a Mozabite who said he would help us back-check the messages. He did indeed listen, and said it was all good, except that the speaker had made "one big mistake." At the very end of story

13, when Jesus was born, it said that He was the Son of God. Now, that was clearly not correct, thought this Muslim. We suggested "repairing" that by referring back to the story about Isaac, "who was born by a miracle." He thought, hmmm, maybe that would fix it. "Who made this recording?" he asked. We said, "We aren't going to say, because he doesn't want to become famous." We asked him if he could tell which of the seven cities of the desert the anonymous speaker was from. He wasn't sure. He guessed at one, which was wrong — we were glad that N's identity was safe. "Would you like to also be a speaker on this recording?" "Well, I don't want to become famous either" he said, politely declining the offer.

We received an invitation to lunch by a Mozabite woman, a friend of a friend. In Algeria, she would have had to wear a long white robe with one hole in it, so



only one eye could see out. But in Marseille, she could wear normal Western clothes — and so could our team members! On a small coffee table, she put a large bowl of soup, and handed out some soup spoons. Chairs were placed around the small, short table. All shared the soup by just dipping in to it.

After lunch, we played the Mozabite recording for her. She thought it was fine, and very interesting, but it seemed to be cut off. (It ended with the Christmas story, the point at

which we had finished recording with "N"). So, she said, the Baby was born, and that's the end of the story? We told her that it seemed that we could tell more of the story of what Jesus did (beyond picture 13 of the Good News program) if we switched languages, since we didn't have any more Mozabite recorded. Which would be better, Algerian Arabic, or French? She decided that Algerian Arabic would be better. Our Kabyle language helper agreed. (And that is how you can hear it on the 5fish website to this day, the Good News begun in Mozabite, but finished off with Arabic).

(A more complete accounting of this story [can be found on our website](#) under the same title.)

NOA'S ARK

Patti Ediger

It was a long, dusty ride on rutted roads to the church our team was searching for. There, perched on the side of a steep hill was an ark-shaped, bright blue building proudly proclaiming itself to be Noa's Ark, a church offering the salvation of God in the mountains of southern Mexico.

After a wait, an old blue pickup rumbled in filled with laughing people who jumped out of the truck bed and came to embrace us. They were returning from evangelizing a local community and were bubbling with joy at the experience. We were introduced to the pastor, taken to his home for refreshments, then to the small block building that would be our home for the next few days.

I had arrived to church early after hastily pulling a skirt from my suitcase. The women we'd met earlier all wore hoodies and skirts so I had pulled my hooded sweatshirt over my skirt and thought I was good to go.



Twilight brought work-hardened men and long-skirted women from each of the three roads intersecting at the church yard. The women all draped head coverings over their hair as they entered the church. I kicked myself that the bandana I always carried "just in case custom required it" remained pressed and folded in my bag. Embarrassed, I did the best I could with the hoodie pulled over my head and went inside.

I sat near the back, pressed against the wall on the handmade, time-smoothed pine benches. Women sat on the left, men on the right in the large chapel. As each woman came in her eagle eyes spotted the visitor, head and shoulders above their tiny Mixteco statures, sporting the ridiculous sweatshirt hood. Each woman came to me with a smile and greeted me in the traditional way, with a two-handed handshake, then both hands on my shoulders, saying *Dios te bendiga* (God bless you).

The women knelt between the benches then pressed their faces and bodies to the spotless floor in prayer. A muffled sob could be heard from here and there as they poured their hearts out to the Lord. Whispered prayers rustled like soft bird wings until one by one they rose to their seats.



The service began with raucous praise music, tambourine clinking time to the singing. A guitar and some unseen drums nearly shook the Ark with typical Latin enthusiasm and volume. The praise time is long, ebbing into soft worship. There are no song books or words projected on a screen. Everyone simply knows all of the verses by heart. The sermon was emphatic and earnest teaching from James, partly Mixteco and partly Spanish.

The Ark was filled for the entire service. Where did all the people come from? The hillsides had been sparsely dotted with small concrete square houses. They must have walked a great distance. Our car was the only one in the church yard. After service contented people drifted into the dark night on the three dusty roads to make their way home, some with sleeping children bound to their backs with traditional black and silver shawls, each slightly differing pattern representing a different tribe of Mixteco Indians.

After church when we asked if there were Bibles in their language, we were told that people had come to translate years ago, but left after a few days. Others came later, translated a Bible and brought cases to them. However, these sit in a closet in the church with the people unable to read them.

Dawn brought much excitement as we awaited those who would help with translating our scripts, and the pastor who would record Bible stories and the Story of Jesus in his unique language. We had carefully picked up bushels of drying beans from the floor of the room we were to use for recording and hung bags of beans on the wall to soften the sounds. We waited and waited until we noticed people far down the hill harvesting corn. There was our team! They explained that it would rain that night and they must get the harvest in, so off our team went to the field, carrying back bushels of corn on their shoulders to finish drying until the field was cleared.



After taking their goats to pasture we finally started. Recording went smoothly for several days, the pastor and church members suggesting changes in their words as we went. After a final listen by several church members and the pastor, we then made slight corrections. We had the Gospel in their language! We were all exuberant. They expressed how they would use this to evangelize among their own people. They had a useful tool with which to form listening groups and eventually lead people to Jesus.

WON'T
YOU
PRAY?

Scenes like this are happening all over the world as GRN recording teams find language groups with no resources to tell them that Jesus loves them and died to save them. What a privilege to share these Gospel words. Whether Mexico, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, or here in the United States, won't you pray for open doors to record? Pray that tools like the MapApp will help find languages, that equipment will work well, and that hearts are being prepared to receive the vital message. And that the Lord will call those willing to GO.

Quote from the Joshua Project:

*96% of laborers work in REACHED people groups,
while only 4% of Christian laborers
work with UNREACHED people.*

RECORDING RESULTS

More feedback from an Amazon missionary. The beginning of this story was shared in the Summer Alert and is on our website as "Why Vision Matters 1."

The interesting thing about this story is the man on the recordings, Yaubewä, as far as I know, was one of the very few, possibly, even the only Yanomamö from that entire area to accept the Gospel. This was back in the early 60s. To me, it is a fascinating story because it does show how God directs and orchestrates every detail of our lives. I am sure Mom and Dad (missionaries to this tribe), over the years thought those recordings they had helped do with Yaubewä were just a total waste of time. I know I did. Growing up, I cranked the old record player until I was blue in the face and people barely listened to the messages and I don't think any of us thought they would ever do much. Now that he is dead, culturally, it is very taboo to even listen to or have something from a deceased person. But for some reason, the simple Gospel lessons on those recordings have really touched a spot in their Yanomamo hearts.

There are about 10 villages in that close area and most of the people are related somehow to the man who made the recordings. Since I first reported, both those young men have since come back with others from their villages and all the surrounding villages. So many people have paddled over here, by family groups and then, almost entire villages wanting their own Torch (player loaded with messages). They sit here with tears in their eyes telling us about how, although initially it made them sad to hear this voice from the dead, as they listened, their own hearts have been stirred to have and know the peace that he talks about in the recordings. "We all got together as a family and listened to the messages, it was sad, we were all crying with tears streaming down our faces, but we kept listening. Now, we want what he had. That peace." They insist.

Join us in praying that God is going to use these recordings from so many years ago to break open this entire hardened area for the Gospel. Pray that many people will come to a personal knowledge of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Also, continue praying for us as a mission and as a family. We have been under relentless spiritual attack on many different levels for months now. We believe it is because we are pushing the boundaries for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Satan is not willing to give up these strongholds. Our prayer is that he will be bound and thwarted in his attempts to hinder. Join us as we pray and trust the Lord for a bountiful harvest.

Michael and Keila
May 31, 2023



Contact us

if you have not gotten our mailings, have received double, or prefer a different method of reception (mail/email/text). Thank you to those who have mailed or called. Send us your own stories of using 5fish personally or in an outreach!

GATHERING TO DISCUSS TOOLS

Recording Team Training and Script Development

October 2-13, 2023, about 20 GRN members from several countries gather in Australia for a time of consultation about team member training. Pray for them as they discuss scripts and develop training strategies and curriculum for future recording teams that will be taking on the task of reaching the remaining unreached people groups. Do pray for the Lord's provision of travel funds and documents for the nine who will be traveling from outside of Australia.



Pastors and missionaries in remote areas can order their own "library" of messages from 5fish, loaded with material for their country, area, or language. Contact johnsteinmetz@globalrecordings.net





**GLOBAL RECORDINGS
NETWORK**

16131 N. Vernon Dr, Tucson AZ 85739

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