



ALERT

Winter 2024

The HEART of GRN

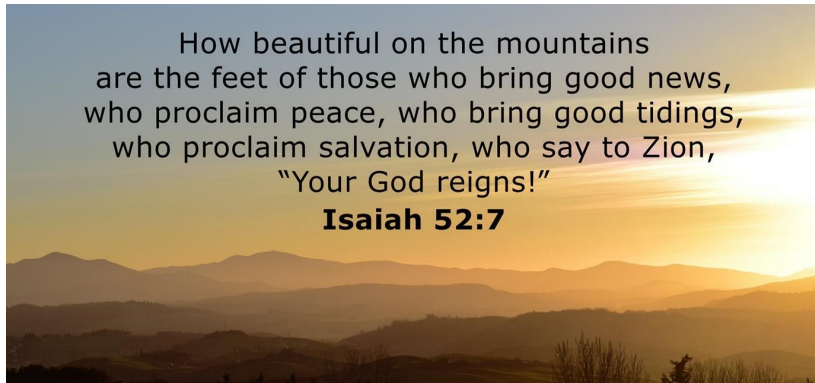
Why does Global Recordings Network exist?
Why did God raise it up 85 years ago?
Does it still have a purpose in today's
very different modern world?



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WHAT IS THE "HEART" OF GRN?



How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7

What is the purpose of the ministry we call Global Recordings Network?

As the world shocks and shifts around us, we are thankful that our feet stand upon an unmoving Rock—Jesus Christ. We are entering our 85th year of existence, and many things have changed: we don't wear long skirts any more, or press records, or carry heavy reel-to-reel tapes to go recording ... but some things remain the same. Our heart at what used to be called Gospel Recordings has always been reaching the "last, least, lost" with the Good News of Jesus in every language.

Our basis for believing this ministry is important to God is revealed all through Scripture, but one unforgettable passage is Rev. 7:9.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

The thought that we will some day be praising the Savior all together around His throne keeps us going!

Heart is not the entire body. As an organization we do many other things: distribute our recordings or partner with others who do so; make special recordings for specific reasons (example: Tumi Tiger recordings for endangered or traumatized children around the world); support field work in most of our large centers worldwide. BUT... every living organism needs a heart, and our heart at GRN has always been making simple tools to share Jesus Christ in oral form for all tongues, particularly small and ignored language groups.

While mentioning the heart, we cannot forget the blood supply — prayer! It is needed for every "cell" -- every single part of this ministry. Blood carries oxygen, and what "air" brings to mind is the Wind, the Inspiration, the Holy Spirit. Without His enriching, enabling presence, we die as an organization, just as the physical body would die without blood's life-giving oxygen.

Pray, will you? Pray for this 85-year-old ministry, which exists today to bring glory to God and growth to His Kingdom. Pray for its heart, for its leadership, and for us to be found faithful 'til He comes and we gather around that Throne!

DIRECTOR'S DESK

International Purpose

Our Executive Director has just attended the quadrennial International Council meetings overseas and weighs in with some international perspective.

Jan and I recently returned from Thailand, where we shared 11 days of meetings – morning, noon, and night – with GRN leaders from 20 other countries at what we call "Council." Several serve in sensitive settings, so I am resisting the temptation to print group photos. Nonetheless, what a blessed privilege and responsibility it was to worship, debrief, discuss, eat, and plan together!

As you can imagine, mixing that many cultures together for that length of time added a unique and wonderful flavor to our gathering. Thanks for continuing to pray for us. God blessed that time graciously and significantly.

One morning during worship, all 45 of us prayed "The Lord's Prayer" together, each in their own language and all at the same time. What a foretaste of the future reality of Revelation 7:9!

God continues to show us that He has ongoing plans in mind for GRN. People are praying. Supporters are giving. Ministry doors are opening. And our enemy is warring. Yet, as we noted one morning in worship, "...we are afflicted...but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair..." (I Cor. 4:8).



Several noteworthy decisions were made at Council: (a) We elected a new International Director for the next four years, USA board member Tim Strauss; (b) I was appointed to the International Leadership Team; (c) Kish, our GRN Nigeria leader, and I signed a renewed agreement that we both pray will guide GRN Nigeria and GRN USA to an enduring and fruitful partnership. Kish is on my left in this photo and Joshua, his protégé, on my right.



We welcome your continuing prayers for God's leading and blessing throughout these important developments.

Skip Strauss

OUR GLOBAL HEART

Excerpts shared from worldwide staff who were at International Council in Thailand in Oct-Nov:

“Greetings to all from the Council. W[e are] working together until the last sheep hear the call of their shepherd, to His glory.”

—**Chucho Loyo**, Director of [Buenas Nuevas](#) (GRN in Mexico)

Chucho oversees several important outreaches to agricultural camps each year, as well as recordists aiming to record in 25 languages that they’ve identified as needing recordings.

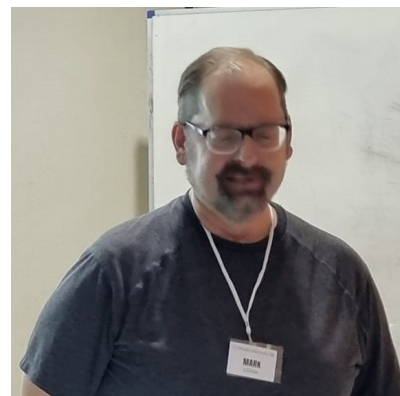
Ariadna is one of those young recordists. She delights in her recording assignments. A trained architect, she is devoting her time and energies to serving the Lord in challenging yet rewarding places.

Pray for the teams in Mexico, both recording and outreach. Pray the Church there will see these as missionary activities, will support our workers both practically and with all-important prayer, and will catch the vision of reaching out to immigrants in their own land.



Pictures courtesy of Ariadna M

Watch future Alerts for stories from the international scene.



We rejoice in answered prayer, as **Mark Griffin** has become the new Director of our [GRN Canada center](#).

When asked what attracted him to this ministry, he mentioned both the importance of orality (everyone being able to HEAR the Gospel understandably) and his perception of a level of excellence in GRN. He was able to meet many staff and leaders from around the world at the recent International Council.

Joseph Ndiba, Director of the work in [Cameroon](#), shares:

In the face of two BILLION illiterate individuals in our world today, I rejoice to share the story of a lady in our country who quite recently — finally — heard God speak, in her own heart language! She was literally crying as she asked, “How did you do this?”

Joseph will take what he just learned at both a script consultation in Australia and International Council in Thailand back to his co-workers and “teach them all of it.” He urges us all not to take the past for granted, to be teachable, and to focus. “We need prayer warriors!”



A sensitive country in Asia is home to one of our most amazing centers. They have established a “Peace Library” with material in many languages to benefit all those who come to use it.



Prayer request: 24 language variety groups in this country still await the Gospel. “Pray that we can make an action plan for the translation and recording work.”

The staff always pray all together before anything else, seeking God’s face, as a team goes out recording. This sets a shining example for all of us in GRN worldwide.

Ministry Coordinator **S.R.** (not pictured) says, “If God calls, you must answer. If He calls you, He will use you. My greatest joy has been to work with language groups who never have had the Gospel.”

RECORDING UNRECORDED LANGUAGES

Needles in Haystacks

Patti Ediger

GRN was started 85 years ago by [an unstoppable little lady named Joy](#), who tromped through jungles, crossed crocodile-riddled rivers, prayed for the impossible, and saw God accomplish it over and over. For decades, recordists across the globe have kept searching for the last unrecorded languages.

The 5fish app now contains Gospel messages, Bible stories, and teaching in over 6,500 languages of the world. [Recordists through the years](#) have emulated Joy's unstoppable spirit by going where few have gone. They faced difficult circumstances, ferocious spiritual warfare, illness, bugs, unfamiliar people, climates, and cultures. They carried recording equipment and not much else as theirs was a faith mission, dependent on the gracious hand of God to provide every bite of food and any possible shelter.



[The same scene is replayed today throughout the world in all of GRN's centers and bases.](#) Recordists go out to search for the unrecorded languages of the world because of the importance of hearing the Gospel message in one's own heart language. A heart language, the tongue in which their mother spoke to them, is filled with nuances and memories that second languages just cannot possess. Did God not allow the then-known world to hear the Gospel preached by Peter (Acts 2:5-11) *all in their own language*? There was a reason for that. The Holy Spirit touched their hearts in a very special way and over 3,000 were saved in one day.

Today, technology has boomed not only in the secular world, but in the world of Christian missions as well. The new GRN MapApp provides the ability for recordists standing on any spot in the world to see what languages are around them, whether they have been recorded, whether they need more recording, in other words: where to go next. It's invaluable when finding those last, most hidden people who also need the Lord.

This new technology allows researchers to identify where the Church needs to

turn its attention. In a surprising turn of events, the data tells us that 96.8% of the earth's people still live in the country of their origin. However, that leaves 218 million people who are refugees and immigrants in countries NOT of their birth — many of them right here in the USA. God loves them too and would not have any eternally lost.

Today, finding these hidden people within our borders is indeed like searching for the proverbial "needle in a haystack." It sometimes takes months or years to uncover an unrecorded language among the immigrant population. There are trust issues, some have escaped from violence, and fear is common. How can we find these people?



Recordists in the US are approaching ethnic churches with requests to help in the search for language varieties. This is sometimes met with excitement and sometimes with dismissal, just as with American churches. For those ethnic churches excited to help and guide us to an unrecorded language variety, we thank God. For this "needle," this precious language, is a door not only to those immigrants in our country, but to spirits, hearts, and minds of many across the oceans in far places we might never reach.

A needle sews things together. It sews two sides sturdily into one. This is what we search for, a language that has the capacity to bring together heaven and earth, the temporal and the eternal, the human and the divine, the eternally lost and the eternally saved and transformed. Won't you pray with us for not only the far-flung unrecorded tongues, but also those within our very borders? Pray for our neighbors, our brothers and sisters within Christian church walls, immigrants and refugees who can reach across borders to friends and family.

Pray, dear friends, that we all might sew (and sow!) the beautiful Good News of Jesus Christ the King and His incomparable saving love in every language group over all the earth.

WILL
YOU
PRAY?



IDENTIFYING THE TASK

From our Language Tracking department:

We ask if you will please consider praying regularly for the [38 groups](#) on this page that may be the last languages in the world with absolutely no Christian witness to them. Only much prayer can pave the way for [these most difficult groups](#) to be addressed. Pray for our teams around the world as they first pray, then create strategies to meet these needs, then go. "With God, ALL things are possible."

Throughout two thousand years of Christianity, the good news that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world has never once entered the remote enclave inhabited by the Gongduk.

-Joshua Project profile

[This chart](#) represents thousands of hours of thought, research, refinement, and prayer by hundreds and hundreds of Christians around the world. [Large ministries dedicate time and effort to gather information](#) about people groups all over the globe. Missionary surveyors, explorers, and church planters give their lives to finding and making contact with these groups. Others raise up prayer support for the effort to bring the Good News that Jesus saves.

Any list such as this is, by its very nature, changing all the time. [New info](#) is received; current info is refined or corrected; new groups receive attention from Christians doing outreach; a few [languages](#) even become "dead" and then extinct. This chart of people groups is fluid, and can only ever [represent](#) the reality on the ground: that [there are still groups](#) of souls for whom Christ died who have not yet heard even His Name.

Please PRAY!

Language	ISO Code	Location	Pop.
Gongduk	goe	Bhutan	2200
Nyenkha	neh	Bhutan	11000
Olekha	ole	Bhutan	500
Dslala	xor	Brazil, Amazonas	50
Morerebi	xmo	Brazil, Amazonas	100
Zo'é	pto	Brazil, Pará	200
Surbakhal	sbj	Chad	19000
Morom	bdo	Chad, Guéra	10000
Kendeje	kif	Chad, Ouaddai	4600
Bunu, Wunai	bnw	China, Guangxi Zhuang	13000
Yerong	ym	China, Guangxi Zhuang	400
Ten	tct	China, Guizhou	29000
Wutunhua	wuh	China, Qinghai	3200
Ersu	ers	China, Sichuan	50000
Namuyi	nmy	China, Sichuan	8900
Shuhi	sxg	China, Sichuan	3600
Bugan	bbh	China, Yunnan	3000
Carabayo	cby	Colombia, Amazonas	200
Sentinel	std	India, Andaman & Nicobar Isles	200
Geser-Gorom	ges	Indonesia, Maluku	37000
Hitu	htu	Indonesia, Maluku	19000
Seit-Kaitetu	hik	Indonesia, Maluku	14000
Karingani	kgn	Iran	22000
Soi	soj	Iran	9000
Awjilah	auj	Libya	2600
Hobyot	hoh	Oman	300
Kumzari	zum	Oman	6400
Luwati	luv	Oman	45000
Shehri	shv	Oman	90000
Lasi	lss	Pakistan, Balochistan	86000
Bagvalal	kva	Russia	6800
Dabarre	dbr	Somalia	34000
Tunni	tqq	Somalia	34000
Dair	drb	Sudan	3000
Daju, Dar Fur	daj	Sudan	110,000
Kau	fuj	Sudan	6800
Tegali	ras	Sudan, South Kord.	111000
Tay Sa Pa	tys	Vietnam, NW, Lao Cai	400

Islamic
Buddhist
China
Animist

MAPAPP UPDATE

Allan Stirling

Imagine being in Kitty Hawk to watch Orville and Wilbur Wright take to the sky for the very first time, being in Menlo Park to see Thomas Edison illuminate the first ever practical lightbulb, or in Boston to witness Alexander Graham Bell make his first ever phone call. Now you can boast to your great-grandchildren that you witnessed the first ever GRN MapApp from the comfort of your home. Just click on this link:



<https://GRNMapApp.org>

"But" you object, "The GRN MapApp is hardly in the same league as the Wright brothers, Edison, or Bell." Perhaps not. But the significance of each of their achievements was not recognized by the world until later. With your prayers and your help, the GRN MapApp can become a meaningful game-changer in the world of missions.

You can help by testing the map for us. Tell us what works as well as what doesn't. Try the link on your computer before attempting it on your phone. Take the Quick Video Tour so you can see all the features. Then let us know what you think.

The Wrights' first flight was shorter than the length of a 747. Help us fly farther!

New URL for the MapApp: <https://GRNMapApp.org/>



You can see all the world's languages portrayed on a map. Our new MapApp is now available globally.

SHARING 5fish CARDS

I have been using your '5fish' cards, in either Spanish or English, as if they were complete Gospel tracts. I give them out with brief explanations when I make small purchases anywhere, or when I am stopped at official (or non-official) check points, with strangers at yard sales, or stores, always with a brief explanation, which often turns into a longer conversation.

Ruth L just gave 5fish cards to her high school friend, Mrs. Spencer of Iowa. She texted Ruth: "I handed two 5fish cards to a woman and a 'Hope' tract to a checker at the store. I've been setting out more tracts & 5fish cards... Your visit inspired me!" Ruth: "PRAISE THE LORD!"

I have used ordinary Gospel tracts but I have noticed that these 5fish cards are very well received. I believe it is because they put the opportunity in the hands of the recipient to find and receive something of value (for instance the two hour Jesus movie, or a Bible translation on their telephone) and it's in their own hands for them to pursue. They also provoke questions, not the least of which is "Can I keep this card?"

Only one person has refused the card, out of nearly 1,000 that I have distributed. And that was an individual who declared that he had no telephone, computer, or television, and had decided not to have them for economic reasons, and so would not profit from that connection. Even so, we had a pretty good conversation about the Love of Christ.

On some occasions, bystanders, hearing our conversations, have requested cards for themselves, or recipients have requested more than one card to pass on to family or friends.

— Dave McMullen, longtime friend of GRN



Join the Celebration!

As GRN turns 85 this coming year, we'd love to hear from you, our ministry partners! Take up to two minutes and record a favorite GRN memory or story of how GRN has impacted your life or someone else's spiritual journey.



Written stories, videos or video links can be submitted to:
rolandheck@globalrecordings.net

Please submit all content by: 1/15/24
Selected videos will be used throughout the year
at events, on social media, and on our website

Submission of video content grants all usage permission and rights to GRN for intended use of the contents in promotional and celebration material, not limited to GRN's 85th Anniversary Celebration.

SHARING OUR HEART

In a recent devotional*, Andrew Palau suggests we ask ourselves,

"Where's my heart?"

Is my heart set on filling my bank account so that I feel safe? Or do I recognize that true security is in Jesus alone? Paradoxically, the only way to keep our most valuable assets safe is to surrender them to Jesus.

Ask Him, 'Lord, how do You want me to spend my time, my money, my gifts, my life?' Be alert to see how He is leading you — even if that means giving something away. In God's kingdom you ... surrender to Him completely and He promises treasure in Heaven that cannot be destroyed."



* <https://share.hopewithgod.com/devo/treasure>

The key thing we see in Andrew's words is that, to preserve our "heart," we must give it away. Surrender it to the Lord, who will take our most valuable offerings and use them in the best way for His Kingdom. That is our heart's cry here at Global Recordings Network — "Use me, Lord, even me!"

So, we've shared our "heart" with you in this *Alert*. Now we wonder if you will ask yourself Andrew's question. Where is your heart? How will you surrender to Jesus? If you do not yet know Him as Lord and Savior, open your heart to Him today. If you do know Him, how are you also going to "make Him known"? How is He asking you to share in the work of His Kingdom?



It might be with us, or it might be in a dozen other ways, but one thing we know: you will be blessed beyond imagining. We have been!

"Please pray for the Sunda: Cirebon people. This is a high priority unrecorded language (#16944, ISO SUN). About three weeks ago we got a word list for this language and in processing the word list we realized that there are about one million people in this language, all with no Gospel resources." — Larry D

If you are searching for possibilities, check out our list of "Ways to Get Involved" ([PLUGG IN](#)) on our website



**GLOBAL RECORDINGS
NETWORK USA**

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TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

Global Recordings is filling an important niche, and it's a large niche. There are more than 100,000,000 speakers of 1274 languages that only have GRN resources. Of these languages, 704 are primarily located in 10/40 Window. Bill Morrison, Joshua Project