

ALERT

Winter 2026

Report From URBANA

What a mighty God we serve!



Global Recordings Network
16131 N. Vernon Drive
Tucson AZ 85739

TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS IN EVERY LANGUAGE

URBANA 2025

As Bryan details in the next page, the Urbana Youth Missions Conference took place the last week of 2025, but we started praying for it over a year earlier.

We want to report to you that we saw **so many answers to those prayers**—some very specific— that we are dedicating this issue of the Alert to reporting to you the great faithfulness of our God.

The front page shows most of the GRN team that served at Urbana, but they were simply the “front men.” There was a support team in Phoenix (cooking meals, driving trucks) and more of us back in Tucson praying while the front team labored. Together with all of you who prayed out there—it was a **definite team effort**.

Praise God for those answered prayers (see pp. 14-15). Praise Him for those things we cannot yet see—the effects of Urbana (and other mobilization/ advancement efforts during this New Year) that will affect the work of Global Recordings Network around the world.

To that end we include a wonderful report from our Kenya team (pp. 10-11) to help you see WHY we do all that we do: so that the Gospel may go out in an audio form to people groups all around the world **in their heart languages**.

Thank you, our supporters, more than we can say, for your continued interest in, your sacrificial gifts to, and your faithful prayers for this ministry. Together we form a team that God is using for His glory and for the advancement of His everlasting Kingdom.

One like a Son of Man was coming...and to Him was given...a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion... and His kingdom...will never be destroyed (Daniel 7:13-14).

GRN produces and distributes audio recordings of Bible messages in over 6,700 languages.

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Editor: Deb Marcusse

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Urbana: a “Kingdom Career Fair”

Our God has done great things for us, and HOLY is His Name (cf. Luke 1:49).

Urbana inspired us all! Imagine 7,000 18to28-year-olds (known as Gen Z) from colleges all over the USA descending on Phoenix, AZ, paying to attend a four-day conference that asked three questions:

What is God revealing through His Word?

What is God doing at this moment in the world?

What is God calling me to do?

We should all be thinking about these questions!

Each day the large-group times were led by speakers from all over the world, and worship sessions were very powerful. There were student-led Bible studies each day, and break-out seminars on various topics that all the missions .We did two of them. We had hundreds of students interacting with the team at



our booth (pictured throughout this *Alert*). We were primed and ready to have deep spiritual discussions about their future.

Understanding God’s heart for the whole world is the start of everyone’s call to missions. Understanding our individual gifting and opportunities informs us that God might have a place for us in His plan for the nations, either in supporting or going. Our booth was set to grab the attention of students in interactive ways, letting them experience how GRN has been uniquely positioned to “tell the story of Jesus in every language so all might know Him.” And then the amazing answer to prayer happened: we were able to have deep, meaningful conversations with these young adults, often ending by us praying with them. God made them ready, God made us available, and I can tell you it was a privilege to speak into the young men’s and women’s lives!

We cannot predict the Kingdom impact of the Urbana event or our participation in it. But I am so excited to see that Gen Z is missional, and I know in my heart that they are starting to understand God’s heart for the nations. They want to pick up the baton and run the race, sharing Jesus with the whole world.

Thanks to all of you who helped us show up every day and be part of God revealing Himself to the world. Many of the least, the last, and the left out have still not heard the story of Jesus in the language that speaks to their heart.

Bryan Wilson
Executive Director



ON THE GROUND

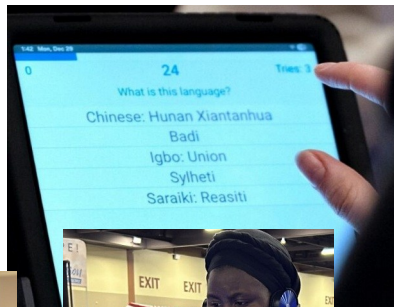
from the words of the team who worked at Urbana



As the Urbana team and other staff were led through a 2-day post-Urbana workshop, we heard: “We felt like we were just Ambassadors of the King!” and “Even the Urbana photographer commented that our booth was ‘the place to be, where the action was.’ He kept coming back to us!”

We realized that EVERY page of comments and gleanings contained one theme: “We prayed first and God answered.” It cemented our belief that everything we do should begin with prayer and be bathed in prayer, as a first step before acting upon what we think God wants us to accomplish. Our God never changes; He still does great things. Trusting Him, and only in His authority, we do what we do. “OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING!”

The Babel Game was invented by GRN Australia; their staff explained the game to our team so they could encourage students to try it out. Users put on headphones and stood before a tablet to guess what language they just heard.



It was great to see young people “swarming our booth” with questions during the times when they were not in worship or Bible study in ‘the big room’ (above). Some of them came back multiple times! We are now praying by name for about 100 young people who shared their future aspirations with us and expressed interest specifically in GRN.—Rhonda G.



We loved seeing the whole picture, from “ideation to fruition;” that is, seeing how the elements of the booth came together as God used them in the students’ lives.—Brian P.



I was privileged to meet a group of Ugandans (from a country in Africa that neighbors my own). We talked about the possibility of my coming to record in their dialect. This would be a true joy for me!—Robert T.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

by Robert T, Recordist Trainee

Attending the Urbana 25 conference was a unique experience for me. Our GRN Urbana team interacted with 7,000 students from colleges across the USA. I

divided my time between a GRN booth—with interactive exhibits like the Babel game—and leading a seminar about my journey from Africa to the United States. Sharing my story and my own experience of speaking five languages in



interpretation and translation work truly resonated with the students. As a result, I engaged in numerous conversations about the work of GRN, inspiring several students to take a next step toward volunteering and missions.

It was also great for me to reconnect during all these activities with the GRN staff who were there, especially the senior ones, during which I was blessed to learn more about them as well as establish emotional connections. I am just

so grateful and thankful to God for this great opportunity. The GRN team came up with a special form students could place in a *Someday Box*. I wrote down, “Some day... we will have a GRN South Sudan office in Africa!”



AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Imagining Their Futures

by Shannon Carter, Finance Assistant

I was so impressed by the level of spiritual maturity shown by the attendees at Urbana 25. They worshiped in the main sessions with such joy, were often seen after the breakout seminars praying for each other in groups of two or three, and truly wanted to know what their next step was in their journey with the Lord.

Jennie Allen spoke on the very first night and said very clearly that with over 2 billion people on the planet that had not yet heard of Jesus, that they did not have time for their addictions to food, video games, and pornography. Hundreds of kids surrendered hard things that night to God, so that they could



be free to do what God called them to do. One evening I walked outside and heard singing. Over 200 kids were worshiping with just a drum and a guitar while a light rain was occurring. I was moved to tears. This generation will change the world for the better and I was blessed to get to meet some of them and hear their hearts. Pray for them to have the courage to serve the Lord, wherever He may lead them. They are ready.

GRN SEMINARS

by Tim Strauss, International Director

GRN hosted two seminars at Urbana 25. Our first seminar was titled, "From Vinyl to App: Sharing Jesus in Every Heart Language." While we invited four staff from overseas to attend in person, they could not get visas. However, they all sent videos sharing their heart with the young Urbana attendees. Our newest USA recording team staff member, Robert, also presented from his own experience about the impact of using heart language messages in his country.



The second seminar was "A Different Blessing: Deaf Ministry in Hard-to-reach Places." Our staff member from a closed country presented via Zoom about the incredible things God is doing with the deaf in that country. His daughter went deaf at the age of 1, which led him to developing GRN materials for deaf ministry. He has now planted 7 deaf churches in his country. A documentary of his story (which won the Christian Film Festival 2024 Best Documentary Award) was shared. Several deaf and hard-of-hearing persons attended the seminar; God provided a sign language translator for us at the last minute. It was an incredible time of seeing God work in the hearts of those excited about reaching the deaf in their own languages.



PICTURE IT



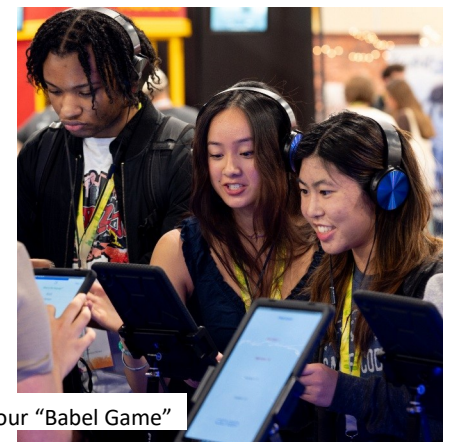
Moments of prayer (above) and of interaction (right)



Past tools (below) and future dreams (right)



Over 700 played our "Babel Game"



PURPOSE OF URBANA: THE GOSPEL TO FAR-AWAY PEOPLE GROUPS

This report from GRN Kenya Center Leader Walter

In October 2025, GRN Kenya distributed evangelism materials to the Arusha Masai in Tanzania. They are primarily animistic herders, living in mud and branch huts. Red is their favorite color to wear, shown here in a celebratory dance.



This group has a population of over 330,000, with about a third identifying as “Christian.” They have a complete Bible, but a very low literacy level.

There was a great need for GRN materials that would enable evangelism [and Christian teaching] in their heart language.

After consulting with local pastors and church leaders, the GRN team went in and, in partnership with the ERETO ministry, taught a “Distribution Seminar” to pastors and evangelists to introduce the 5fish app and the *Look, Listen, Live* series of Bible stories and teachings which are accompanied by colorful picture charts.



Pastors who attended gave us these responses:

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“Thanks to GRN for this good work they have brought to us today, as Jesus they have done it and now our work, as in Matt 28:19, my dear pastors, it’s our work to go and now give the Gospel stories of salvation and redemption in our heart language and also now be able to baptize them and disciple them in the great name of our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Walter and the team, you have now passed the baton to us and we pray that God will give us the grace to report back to you in the next three months the wonders the Lord will have done to our people through these materials you have given to us.”



*“Here in Mairowa, we do **bush evangelism**. Many of our people don’t read the Bible, as the majority are out in the field grazing their animals and women are gathering food as well as busy looking after the children in the homesteads. They have no time for church or school but these **GRN recordings in our phones and radios**, I can assure you all that many shall be able to get these stories of Jesus, we shall put the 5fish in every phone possible. This is and has been our prayer. With these materials we shall start **Bible listening programs, Bible study...** our people love pictures and this will attract many to the church, our children will be the most advantaged, learning and listening in the heart language. We appreciate this work...”*



In conclusion,

*Thank God for His favor to our GRN team travelling over hundreds of kilometers of travel over rough roads, and for others who gave their time and their gifts towards supporting this meaningful distribution trip.

*Pray that these materials will impact the Maasai Arusha people for Jesus Christ, and that the people will embrace the Gospel message within their style of living, understanding it clearly. Pray for these dear pastors!

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AFTER-WORDS

Following Up With Interested Contacts

by Rhonda Garcia, Intern Coordinator

Rhonda is tasked with stewarding over 100 young people who expressed interest in GRN at Urbana. She is helping to plan an inaugural "SUMMER OF IMPACT." We're rusty at internships, but as a step of faith we are dreaming with God and believing Him for interested young adults who would like to explore what He has for them here at GRN. Here is what we are offering:

We invite college students and young adults who are passionate about serving God and reaching the unreached to join our inaugural **2026 Summer of Impact** with GRN's Summer Ministry Team. Together, we seek to make an eternal impact by sharing the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ in every language.

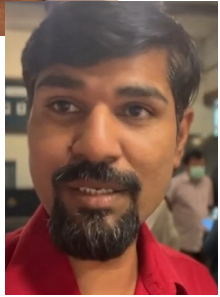
Set yourself apart this summer and join us for several weeks or the whole summer break. There will be missional living and service to develop and discover how your gifts, talents, and passion to reach the unreached can be used to further GRN's vision: that people everywhere hear and understand God's Word in their heart language. Imagine your part in ensuring access to the story of Jesus for those who have never heard!

You'll live and serve in missional community for these weeks, learning and experiencing the multiple facets of a US-based missions organization. Connect with missionaries and hear from local leaders. Our Summer Ministry team will engage with local churches and refugee ministries, and have opportunity for outreach to indigenous groups in both Mexico and Arizona. More details are coming soon. Pray about whom you can invite into your journey and mission, building a network of prayer and encouragement to support your Summer of Impact!



There are also a number of international opportunities being offered:

- **Summer 2026 Short-Term Trips** (specific dates chosen as interest is shown, 2-3 weeks May/June or fall as an option)
 - Unnamed ASIAN country - For those with a special interest in deaf ministry, especially to those in other countries. See how our team ministers in this Muslim country.
 - NEPAL - Treks to mountain villages with our local center leaders, community outreach, business as ministry (e.g. coffee)
 - PHILIPPINES - Engage in street evangelism, learn children's ministries, more
 - ARIZONA - Experience refugee and student ministries, indigenous peoples +
 - MEXICO outreach and distribution



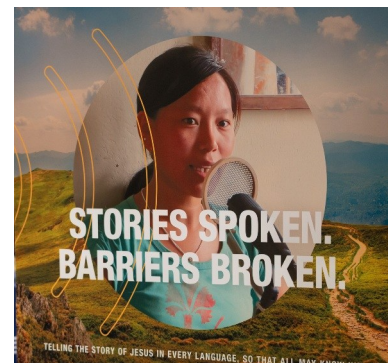
What can you do to **make a difference**, WHEREVER you are?

A third of the world is still denied access to the Gospel. We have multiple ways you can help share the Gospel both onsite in our Tucson office or from wherever you may be!



Use your digital voice to multiply the Gospel—to the ends of the earth! Gather your technical and mission-minded friends and join our USA team in a digital evangelism night using GRN Gospel resources. GRN Australia did this: <https://grn.org.au/events/hack2025/>

GRN is a Champion Member of the Alliance for the Unreached. Learn, pray, share, tag us! <https://missionexus.org/a-third-of-us/>



Even more important than your skills is a heart that thirsts for God and a passionate desire to share the Lord Jesus Christ with the world. If this is you, contact us at 520-395-1399.

URBANA IS OVER—NOW WHAT?

Amazing Answers

Pray

After Urbana, we held a Team Workshop in our Tucson office and, as the team shared stories with those of us who'd stayed back, the amazing thing was how often something we had prayed for in the past year was **specifically** answered at Urbana.

Some of us had been praying for protection of our team from spiritual attacks by the Enemy, and one of the team shared how that had been the case as they all lived together at a Phoenix AirBnB. We prayed for safety back and forth, from Tucson to Phoenix, and daily on the streets between our AirBnB and the venue, and God protected each and every mile. We as staff prayed for a year that our booth would minister to young people, not just to share GRN. It proved so, praise God!

Over and over, staff shared how the Lord “arranged” very specific pairings with students. *Our job search guy found himself talking with a young man who he could refer to an engineering acquaintance. *Our African recordist spent time with a group of Ugandans (we trust with great future consequences). *Our networking lady was blessed to chat with a young woman who asked questions she had had to deal with in her own life.

And so it went, over and over. We will never forget these lessons about how amazingly faithful our God is!



Every Good Gift Is From Above

Give

Two retired ladies at the front desk open our daily mail. One day there were two checks—one small and one really, really large. Our Director even phoned the donor to confirm the gift. He then called us all together and shared the news.

We were actually in the middle of three special days of prayer and fasting for a LOT of big things going on in November. Budget for 2026, hefty costs to participate in the Urbana youth missions conference the next month, possible SIL land purchase to expand the GRN center here, the potential of a new department called “Advancement”... our Director was feeling the weight of all these responsibilities, and many of us were feeling like our faith might not quite be up to all the opportunities and challenges.

Imagine for a moment the euphoria we felt when we heard that a check for a huge amount had just come in! It felt like a BIG “stamp of approval” on our ministry, directly from God. This donor, as he talked with Bryan over

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the phone, also humbly reminded us that we should be just as thankful for each donor of small gifts as for his larger one. The important thing is what our great God can do with any gift He gives us, even a widow's mite. (Yes, sometimes we get a single dollar bill, or even a coin, in a giving envelope.)

We have tried, over GRN's 87-year history, always to be aware that our eyes need to remain fixed on the Primary Giver, not only the human intermediary givers who have aided this ministry over the years. Joy Ridderhof used to say that we don't “raise” support, we “lower” it—from Heaven!

We believe that God gifted us not only with a large check in November, but with those moments of rejoicing, of feeling His approval, and of the reminder that all “good and perfect” gifts come from Him, however large or small. And that's a conviction we can hang on to for the future.

Who, Me?

Join

We are praying for a number of new staff to result from these efforts at Urbana. But you know, it isn't just young people who we seek to join us. What about you?

We also need mature, experienced people in many areas to learn and, eventually, to lead large areas of the work: Facilities Management, Human Resources, Publications, IT, Administration, and more.

We value your life experiences, but you can learn anything we do here. What can't be

taught is a willing heart, a heart that is “hungry and thirsty” for God as the deer who pants for streams in the desert, as the Psalmist says. Are you feeling unsettled or unsatisfied in your work right now? Sometimes that is God saying to you, “Seek more. Seek Me first, and then I will put in your heart the desires I want you to have” (see Proverbs 3).

Jim Elliot, martyred on a river sand bar in Ecuador in 1956, once said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he can never lose.” And as the hymn says, “Those who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true.”

Ask any of us who have given up family or home or friends to venture out when God led us to GRN. Of course it was unknown and uncertain at first. But exercising faith muscles creates spiritual endorphins more powerful than any resulting from a marathon. This is the greatest adventure we could ever have had in our lives! We can truly say, “Jesus led me all the way.”

You, too, could find yourself led to the most worthwhile adventure of your own life. Give us a call at 520-395-1399 to explore the options.

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**GLOBAL RECORDINGS
NETWORK USA**

16131 N. Vernon Drive, Tucson AZ 85739

GlobalRecordingsUSA.org

**FROM
TUCSON
TO THE
ENDS OF
THE EARTH**

Our mission spans continents and cultures, but our roots are nearby. With our U.S. headquarters in Southern Arizona, your next step in missions might be closer than you think. Explore how your gifts can be used right here, and around the world. We'll help you become the apostle in their host language.

GRN Global Recordings Network USA

The graphic features a desert landscape with saguaro cacti and a sunset sky. Several circular inset images show missionaries in various settings: one with a child, one with a group of people, one with a person in a field, and one with a person in a boat. A globe icon is also present.