

# ALERT

Autumn 2024

When You Don't  
Have the Words



**GlobalRecordingsUSA.org**

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

# WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE WORDS

We'd like to build on our [Summer Alert](#) ("Take Advantage of Us") by showing you more ways in which you—yes, you—can use our materials. The theme of this issue, "When you don't have the words" is borrowed from our [sister center in Australia](#), as is the interesting (condensed) article on page 8.

Theirs is a great motto for those of you reaching out with the Gospel message to everyone around you because, whether you do street evangelism, immigrant outreach, youth ministries, or whatever, there WILL come a time when you literally "don't have the words" to communicate what's in your heart. It may be because of language, cultural, or even generational barriers, but if you've been there, you know the feeling: "What can I possibly say, how can I possibly share, with...this person in front of me?"

Well, if the barrier is language or culture, you've come to the right place. Reach for your phone. On it we hope you already have our [5fish.mobi](#) app (free and easily downloadable). Show the person you're with what you are doing on it: finding their continent, their country, and their language. Play them something in their language... and watch their eyes light up.

If you're trying to get into this rhythm of sharing the Gospel with people of other languages, OR if you doubt the value of recordings in the heart language, read this issue. Also, why not join us on a week- to month-long trip to our closest neighbor, Mexico? Our workers and accompanying volunteers go several times a year to shorter or longer "camps" where teams reach out to agricultural workers, mostly during those workers' free evenings. If you go, it will quite likely change your worldview.

You may want to start your own outreach—to a camp, campus, or community near you. Get others from your church involved. Neither you nor your church may be the same again!

Global Recordings Network produces and distributes audio recordings of Bible messages in over 6,400 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 introduce people to Jesus Christ since 1939. Learn more at —



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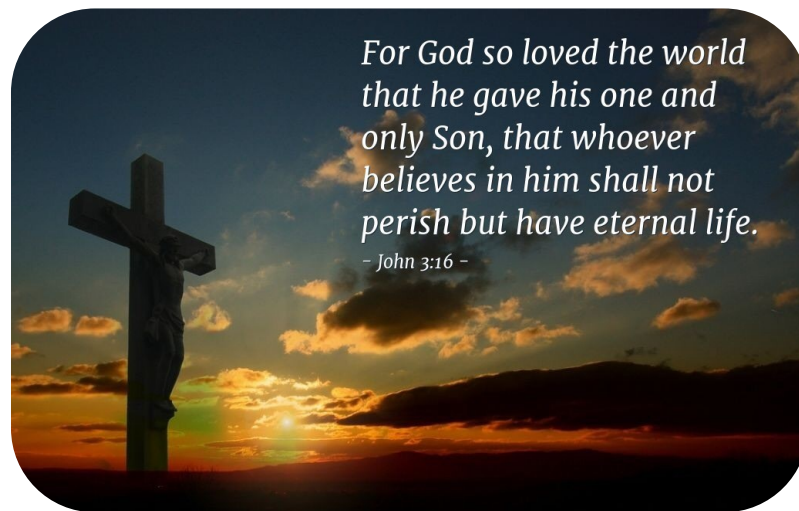
[GlobalRecordingsUSA.org](http://GlobalRecordingsUSA.org)

# DIRECTOR'S DESK

Personally

One of the joys of GRN ministry is our privilege of working together to help make God and His Word *personal* to listeners around the world.

Our Father longs to "get personal" with them and with us. He yearns for each of us to restore and cultivate our personal relationship with Him. His personal love for each of us is so deep that He sacrificed His one and only Son to redeem us from the eternity that we deserve. Ponder, for at least a moment, how personal that was for Him. . . .



That is why GRN works so diligently to share His good news in the *personal* language of those for whom we record and to whom we distribute. We don't settle for just classical languages. We don't settle for just trade languages. We pursue people's *personal* languages to help listeners young and old hear, understand, and respond to His good news so that they each will begin their *personal* relationship with Him. What a privilege—and what a responsibility!

You engage with us in this sharing of His good news when you pray for GRN, support GRN, and share 5fish cards with your cross-cultural friends and community contacts. Thank you!

On a *personal* level—the most important level—you and I also share His good news with those around us in our personal attitudes and actions as others watch us "walk in a manner worthy of our calling." In all our doing, may Jesus Christ be praised.

*Skip Arnold*



# INTERESTING QUESTIONS

by Patti Ediger

In response to my query, she tilted her head slightly in a quizzical manner. “I speak Mandarin, but why do you ask?”

“Because I am searching for a certain language from your country in which to record the story of Jesus,” I answered politely.

“I also speak a dialect but almost everyone in my village knows Mandarin, so why don’t you just record in that language and you won’t have to find so many dialects? Most people can understand this main language.”



It has been asked many times and in different ways. “Why don’t you just record in Spanish for Mexico?” Or, “Why not record in a common Arabic when there are a multitude of Arabic versions?” Those great questions deserve an answer. We could point out that [Mexico has more than 350 different languages](#). Or that, while written Arabic is the same worldwide, there are many Arabic varieties spoken over the three continents.

But perhaps we should see what God did when He birthed the Church. It’s what we want to see happen among people who haven’t heard the Good News. It’s the point of all our endeavors: to see lives saved, mended, and transformed by the love and sacrifice of the Savior; to see the Church planted to help believers mature in the faith.

In Acts 2 we see the believers praying earnestly and being filled with the Holy Spirit, resulting in the gift of other languages. Then the multitudes heard them speak the



message of salvation in their own particular tongue. I believe this is God’s pattern. As faithful Christians pray and faithful servants are called by the Spirit to go and tell the story of Jesus, then it is imperative for receivers to hear in their own language. Why?

A language heard from childhood, spoken from a mother’s lips and entwined in life, is rich in connection, nuance, and shades of meaning. The word “friend” evokes memories of childhood best buddies, fishing at the pond in the warmth of the sun, the marine who took a bullet for you in combat,

the neighbor who brought food every day when you were sick. “Friend” is more than just a word. It is a lifetime of experiences which color and expand the interpretation.

One’s own heart language is intensely personal, an intimate part of the persona and so precious and emotional that individuals in the field have been asked, tears in the speaker’s eyes, “You mean that God knows my language?” Using another culture’s words may convey a stark dictionary meaning, but be quite insufficient to express the majesty of the greatest gift ever offered.

What better tool to explain Jesus and His love than to use words from one’s own language, which pierces the heart and opens the soul to the glory that is God? Mother tongue is a window in a formerly-blank wall and a door into the deepest part of man.

May we, like those in the first church, pray, be filled with the Spirit’s guidance and in His power go or send; finally, then, may the story of Jesus be told in EVERY language to the glory of God!

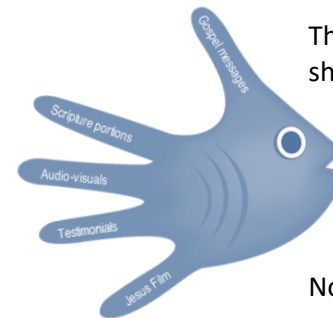


## Lost for words.

### SHARING 5fish CARDS

[www.5fish.mobi](http://www.5fish.mobi)

**Just ask and we’ll send you a supply, in English or Spanish.**



The “5” in 5fish refers to 5 ways our tools help to share the story of Jesus:

- \*GRN Gospel recordings
- \*Audio-visuals
- \*Scripture portions
- \*Jesus Film
- \*Testimonies

Not every language has all 5—but check yours out!



# FIELD FOCUS

The field is the world (Matt. 13:38)

## MEXICO:

by Chucho H, [GRN Mexico](#) Director

September has arrived and we thank God for the past summer full of activities and occupations that have glorified Him.

- Thank God for the recordings made by Chuy and Yovana among the Zoques, as well as the research carried out.
  - Thank God for the recordings made among the Lacandones of Nahá by Ariadna and Alicia, and also the research that was carried out.
  - Thank God for the distribution and recording made by Joel among the Tepehuanes de Durango.
  - Thank God for the Chihuahua project; Meny and Olga have done a good job starting as coordinators.
  - Thank God for Stephen and Ana, outgoing coordinators who trained/encouraged current ones. Pray God will bless them with good on their journey and their move.
  - Thank God it was possible for me to visit Chihuahua, accompanied by Gálvez, and meet the new coordinators of the project. It was also possible to acquire a new vehicle for the family. God showed His grace through these friends who sold us the vehicle. We still need to cover a part; however, we are thankful for God's provision in giving us the green light to make this acquisition.
  - Thank God for Debora, who has already completed almost a month at the Bible Institute. We have seen her and spoken with her, somewhat tired out but with a lot of joy and content to be at the center of God's will and purpose for her life.
  - Thank God for Diana, Josué, and Sara (my family) who, as always, are of great help, in these days physically worn out by the work during the week of maintenance.
  - Thank God for the Jerusalem church team in Cd. Madero that they came to carry out maintenance work during the respective week.
  - Thank God for Baja project. Jose and Guille, coordinators, are almost ready for this new outreach among the migrant ethnic groups of Mexico in Baja California.
- Thank you!

*"Working together until the last sheep hear the call of their shepherd, to His glory"*



## NIGERIA:

by Joshua B, [GRN Nigeria](#)

The director Kish's son was held up and kidnapped and only miraculously escaped by running into the jungle. He lost everything he had with him and now is working through the trauma of the experience. [More] rioting is already happening before the date of the planned protest in Nigeria. Please pray for my country.

## TANZANIA:

by Walter O, [GRN Kenya](#) Director

The Hadzabe language is a Khoisan dialect mostly spoken in Tanzania. With a population of 1,500, these bushmen are hunters and gatherers in the lands along lake Eyasi.

Despite many missionaries' efforts, the Hadza people refuse to live in the modern world, believing in their witch doctors and traditional herbs for treatment. Many live in caves. Literacy is hardly 21%. Hadza people are very protective of their culture and this makes it difficult for the Gospel to penetrate their thinking. Only about 1.9% are evangelized.

During the distribution, the GRN team learned a lot. These people are teachable; they are welcoming and very respectful to their visitors. But they believe that salvation and Christ belongs to outsiders not to them. We realized that this people group needs a chance to find the true God, the One who gives redemption for everlasting life.

There are several churches in the region, of different denominations. After research and recording the *Look Listen and Live* Gospel messages in Hadzabe, GRN Kenya thought it wise to gather these churches from neighboring communities together and teach sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the *Look Listen and Live* stories. This gathering included seminars involving church pastors and elders, the authority leaders in the region, and the department leadership from different churches who attended.

We had opportunity to meet over 56 people and taught them on how to use Megavoice players and other Mp3 players with *Look Listen and Live* flipcharts. The leaders were overwhelmed with joy and with how GRN thought of their community.

One pastor said,

*The Jesus we needed to work on our behalf is right here with us today. The Hadzabe will now listen to their own Gospel messages for evangelism. This has been a dream that had never come to our mind but Christ has brought [it] ...*

**Asante** (thank you) **GRN Kenya** and by extension to all Christians who gave for us to hear the Gospel. As pastors who have received these expensive materials on behalf of our people, we shall now do evangelism to our people even inside the caves and even at the hunting field during our feasts in the forests. We shall listen to these stories of Christ Jesus. Thank you, bro Walter and the team.



# ENSURING THE MESSAGE REALLY 'CLICKS'

by Noel Bachelor

*This issue has been all about making sure languages 'click' with their hearers. But some languages actually have clicks as an important feature! Noel Bachelor has been a recordist with GRN for 43 years and has been GRN's Global Studio Coordinator for over a decade.*

Oral Bible Translation projects in languages of the San peoples (Bushmen) of the Kalahari in Namibia and Botswana ran into a problem. The languages have many 'click' sounds. Developing a writing system presented a challenge which Oral Bible Translation thought to bypass. But click sounds also are tricky to record clearly, having peaks much higher than voice sounds. These challenges led to listeners all too often misunderstanding the recorded message.



OBT recordings were being done in several (low quality) formats, on various devices. [Global Recordings Network's southern Africa](#) coordinator, Dalene J, saw the difficulties and suggested a partnership so that we could recommend equipment and standards to alleviate these difficulties and produce much more usable recordings.

In 2018 a workshop was held in South Africa to re-equip and train key members of several OBT translation teams. They were introduced to better equipment, recording standards, and a few techniques similar to those used for many years by GRN. The two-week workshop covered audio basics, recording formats, and their effect on final quality. The trainees learned how to use the various recording equipment—recorders, microphones, and headphones—using relevant features and settings, etc.

This gave them the ability to record consistently, with sufficient quality to process the sound in such a way that tamed the clicks without suffering noise and distortion. It was great to see the delight on their faces when they realized their languages really could be recorded clearly.

GRN's Global Studio is now receiving a steady stream of oral Scripture recordings in a growing number of languages from southern Africa. This makes their recordings

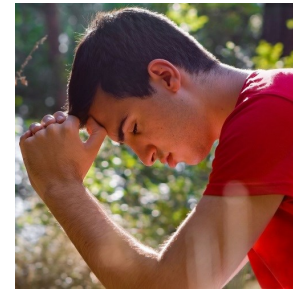
quickly and widely available via GRN's websites and the 5fish smartphone apps, to enable further community testing and direct use. [\[See here for more on San Scripture partnership.\]](#)

The goal remains partnerships for producing materials which clearly communicate the Gospel message – in the heart language.



## Get involved in reaching your world with Global Recordings Network

### Pray



[Receive our TIP prayer guide](#)

[Get daily prayer items by text](#)

[Join us in special prayer projects](#)

[Pray for specific languages](#)

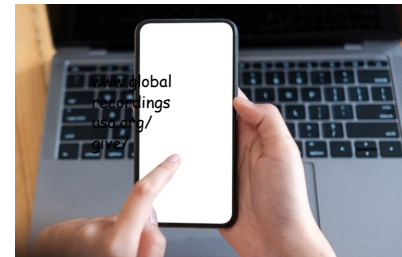
### Use

[Share 5fish](#) with those you meet

[Show evangelism teams the tool](#)

[Encourage your missionaries to use it](#)

[Boost links in global social media ads](#)



### Give

[Give to a field project](#)

[Support specific staff](#)

[Donate "where needed most"](#)

### Go

[Inquire about available positions](#)

[Volunteer for a month or a season](#)

[Volunteer doing projects from home](#)

[Join our staff in Tucson](#)



[For live-linked PLUGG-in list](#)



# THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS

by Deb M

... is the seed of the Church

i don't have words



I had the opportunity to teach a sculpting class through a therapy program for veterans in northern Arizona. In my class of 12 veterans there were Apache, Hopi, and Navajo Native Americans, with other ethnicities represented as well. After a few classes, several Navajos started talking with me about their upbringing on the reservation. We began comparing notes about our spiritual beliefs. We spoke of God, and I shared the "Name above all names," Jesus. I asked one if he had any information about Jesus in his own language. He said no. That opened the door to sharing 5fish. The next time I saw him he thanked me for sharing 5fish in Navajo. I was so grateful to have this opportunity, and thankful. I had 5fish on my phone!

—Bill K



Recently, I was able to share 5fish with a young lady in a coffee shop, who will soon return to her family in India. I told her she could hear stories of Jesus in her own language. "Oh," the girl exclaimed, "I've been wanting to find out more about Jesus!" Pray for her as I follows up.

—Jan G



"My joy knows no bounds listening to the words of the Lord in my language. I really find these messages of utmost important because even those in the rural areas would get to hear the words of God in their native language. The Lord bless you guys richly. Thank you" — a Kadara speaker in Nigeria



I first remember hearing this phrase when in grade school, probably in some church history lesson. It comes from the days of the terrible persecution of the early Church. The persecuted believers remained faithful. Even their deaths paved the way for the Church to be planted, to grow, and eventually to be accepted by their culture. Later that Church became the most important institution of medieval Europe.

But did you know this phrase still applies today? Let me tell you a true story.

One of our partner ministries, Audio Scripture Ministries (ASM) of Holland, Michigan, has workers in Africa, where outreach teams distribute audio materials. Recently a team loaded players with Scriptures plus our recordings, and sent Christian workers by road to dangerous region of West Africa. The convoy was ambushed by a terrorist group, and the workers were killed. The attackers searched bodies for usable or saleable items. One item found on a worker's body was a small player. (See photo of actual player, which started out black in color.)

The killer took a picture of the item and texted it to his brother. "What is this? Can we sell it for money?" That brother happened to have met ASM workers back in the city, and told this man to push buttons. He played this little machine with its message of hope, joy, and peace, unlike anything he had ever heard before. Although the Christian workers had brought players containing messages in about 12 different languages, THIS PLAYER WAS SPEAKING THE ATTACKER'S OWN LANGUAGE!



He and his accomplices all heard this message of salvation, and were "struck to the heart by God's Word." In great distress, they went back to the city and found other Christian workers.

One confessed, "I'm an evil man, I've done horrible things. Could your God possibly love me?" ASM's partners told them the story of the Apostle Paul's transforming encounter with Jesus, and that they too could have the same forgiveness. God continued to work and their hearts were changed. They destroyed their weapons and began searching out other roaming bands, telling them, "Stop killing—it's not what God wants, and we can't be like that anymore!" (from [ASM publication](#) )

Praise God! We know that our God reigns. He draws people to Himself by whatever means He desires, often using the heart language, even using the death of His saints. Truly, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church" ... even today.



GLOBAL RECORDINGS  
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Watch the video made for our 85th Anniversary:

<https://www.globalrecordingsusa.org/videos-2/>

TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS  
IN EVERY LANGUAGE

### STOP PRESS!

After this Alert went to the printers, we received word that Bryan Wilson has accepted the position of Executive Director of GRN USA.

Bryan and his wife Diane served the Lord in Africa for over 20 years. They now live in Tucson. We are thrilled to welcome them to the staff, and excited to watch him lead this ministry into the future God has for us.

We will be giving you more info as soon as possible.