

# ALERT

Spring 2025

# Gospel Potential

Our tracking shows that GRN has recorded the Gospel message in about 1.5 languages EVERY WEEK for 85+ YEARS!



I thank my God every time I remember you, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this — that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1: 3, 5-6)

#### GOSPEL POTENTIAL

When our new director, Bryan Wilson, was first introduced to us, he mentioned that though he knew relatively little about GRN, what he knew impressed him with its "Gospel potential." That phrase struck us—as many fresh viewpoints do.



The word *potential* is a physics term for stored energy. That is, available energy able to bring about change or provide the *oomph* for work to happen has *potential*.

We would like GRN's tools to be less *potential* and more powerful...even *mighty in God*, as in 2 Cor. 10:4-5 — "For the weapons of our warfare are...mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

That would be the kind of powerful tools (or "weapons") we trust ours are. We regularly receive encouraging words of the effects our messages have in people's spiritual lives (see pp. 6-9).

What we would like to see is the whole Christian world made aware of these Gospel tools and their *potential*. That is a tall order. Hundreds and thousands of missionaries and pastors have

no idea that GRN or its tools exist—even in our own country.

We ask for your help. Be the "feet" for our tools. We have free 5fish cards, MapApp cards, and other brochures that you can give out to anyone who has contact here with visitors from other lands, or who travels to other lands themselves to share the Gospel. Will you reach out to such people in your sphere of influence and let them know about GRN's tools? Wherever they go, next door or the other side of the world, there are Gospel messages on 5fish in most of those heart languages.

Recordings can talk, but they can't walk!

—David Gutierrez

**Help us share** GRN's "Gospel Potential" with those YOU meet. Doing this could perhaps change a person's, a community's, or a country's future—forever!

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

**GlobalRecordingsUSA.org** 

The **ALERT** is produced quarterly from our Catalina, Arizona office.

Editor: Deb Marcusse

For additional copies or other materials, or to give feedback, contact us:

Global Recordings Network 16131 N. Vernon Dr. Tucson, AZ 85739 520-395-1399 US@alobalrecordings.net

# i don't have words



Sue and I met this lady in a parking lot. Sue remarked on her bright red London shirt. She told us she wasn't from London, but from Nigeria. We found out she speaks Urhobo. Sue pulled out her phone and played a Gospel message from 5fish.

Immediately she took out her phone and downloaded the app. Pray for her and other Urhobo in the USA!

—Allan Starling

Many long-time readers will remember Aussie inventor, Ray Mackaway, who went to Glory last year. Now his wife Fran has joined him. FROM OUR SISTER OFFICE IN SYDNEY:



We give thanks for the faithful life of Fran Mackaway, former long-term staff member, who passed away suddenly on 6th January. Fran, and late husband Ray, joined the mission in 1968. After retiring, Fran served as GRN's Board chair for many years, only having recently stood aside due to poor health. Well done, good and faithful servant!!

### GOSPEL POTENTIAL

## Sending the whole GRN team to Africa – including you (in spirit)!

Patti Ediger

Four bright green flipchart books, several "Aunties," and an army of godly servants have all been part of the story of sending "Gospel Potential" tools to a small African country ravaged by disease and death. This is a story of life to those who come in contact with these tools, life abundant and life everlasting.

The country to which these tools were carried is called Eswatini. It was formerly called Swaziland, a small country of 1.25 million souls. Average life expectancy there is only 58 years, due to its having the highest prevalence of HIV in the world (30%).

A staggering 58% of its children are orphans. Sadly, due to increasing food



insecurity and poverty across Eswatini, this number is on the rise. However, there are points of hope and love to be found as well.

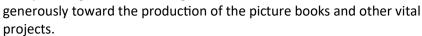
An orphanage was founded in the midst of an abandoned mining town. Each house in the town was restored and made into a home consisting of an "Auntie," or mother figure, living with 6 or 7 children as a family. The children are brought up with love, education, and provision in this Christian community called *Belembu*. It is here that four of GRN's bright green picture books are being passed from home to home for the children to hear Bible stories and the Gospel with their Aunties.

"Let the children come unto me."

But that is not <u>all</u> the story. There is so much more... maybe including you! GRN provides tools, but tools do not use themselves. It truly takes a vast army to turn potential into reality.

Recordists went to a disease-ridden area of Africa to accurately record the Gospel in the mother tongue of the people. They recorded Bible story after Bible story, each story matching a colorful picture in the flipchart, ending with an invitation to follow Jesus and simple teaching about the Christian life.

Donors and prayer warriors laid the spiritual groundwork and gave



GRN home staff scurried do all the background labor involved in production, organizing finances, equipping the teams, and a multitude of other tasks related to just this one sliver of the work of fulfilling the mission of Global Recording Network around the world.

One inspired church member made a PowerPoint presentation to teach the pictured mission trip volunteers how to use the 5fish app to play Bible stories in languages local to their target area. Pictures here are of these volunteers

being trained.

Finally, there is prayer.
Thank you for (in effect) going to Africa with the whole GRN team and these volunteers. Your prayers and sacrificial gifts have made a



difference in the lives of a town full of orphans—along with many other people around the world eager to hear God speak In their own heart language.

If your church is sending members on short-term mission trips, why not send the Good News picture books with them? Call the GRN office to order. The messages can be played (via 5fish app) on any cell phone, any time, any place.

#### FIELD FOCUS

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



#### **Tumi Tigers for Ukraine**

In April we partnered with the "Trauma Healing Institute" to get solar players loaded with our GRN materials and the New Testament in Ukrainian.



It is encouraging that that one child listening to his Tumi Tiger had a mother and grandma listening also, who came to faith! Amazing how God is working.

When air raid sirens sound in that country, and a family runs to their basement, often staying for hours, the parents are also using Tumi. Parents reported to us how much this helps the children. They can listen for four hours, calming their fears.

Another time a grandmother lying in the hospital was listening to the Good News on her grandchild's player. Pray with us that God reveals Himself to her through this.

—Sam in Europe

#### **Update from the Philippines Center**

The audio gospel presented in a story format can be a powerful tool to initiate conversations with M- communities. Storytelling has been a fundamental and effective way of conveying messages and connecting with people across different cultures and backgrounds. Stories can spark curiosity, intrigue, and a desire to learn more. Listeners may feel compelled to discuss the story, ask questions, or express their thoughts and perspectives.



This opens up opportunities for meaning-ful and respectful conversation about faith, spirituality, and the Gospel message.

—MaryAnn in the Philippines

#### **Listening Groups in Asia**

BFA workers Don and Fred left for VN on Monday. They will do some more training and checking on things there, where so many are hearing the Good News—especially up north in the mountains—through audio players. They believe, burn their idols, get baptized, and then hear more teaching as the group of listeners grows. PTL for GRN!

Our workers will head for Manila next week, where they have a large training session for at least 100 pastors and others who will learn to effectively enter a village with the players and ask a tribal family for help to see if they understand the language on the player.

Many have heard the Gospel story in the trade language, but almost none in their heart language. And what a difference that makes! They can finally understand it and the majority believe, burn their idols, and get baptized, as you know.

Say "hi" to our many friends there, and encourage them to keep doing what you are doing, so that many may hear the life-giving message of salvation through Christ!

-Joy in USA



If you are
searching for possible
ways to get involved,
check out
our list of
"Ways to Get
Involved"
(PLUGG IN)
on our website

SHARING 5fish CARDS

www.5fish.mobi

#### PRAY FOR UNREACHED TRIBES



MICHAEL AND KEILA DAWSON

Serving in the Amazon Rainforest

AMAZONAS, VENEZUELA

#### Dear Partners,

After our last seminar with guys from a village we had never even heard about up until about 5 years ago, I got to thinking about the Prayer of Jabez book that I had given Dad in 2004. After Dad read the book, he informed us that he was asking God to increase his territory. I remember smiling a bit smugly, thinking we had our hands full enough with the territory we had! "Dad, you are 85 years old, how much more do you think the Lord is going to ask you to do?" I have never forgotten his answer: "Mike, Caleb was 85 years old when he asked Joshua for his mountain..."

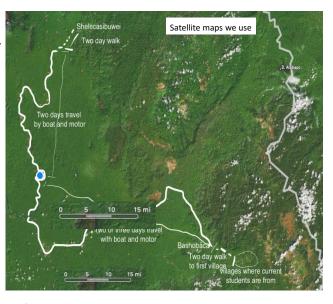
These are guys from villages that have never seen or heard a missionary, who have never been taught the first thing about a God who loves them...

While I was still thinking about Dad and his prayer of Jabez, I got a letter from some one who has read my books, and she mentioned how much the Lord indeed was increasing our territory with the simple player placement and our sat (satellite) map allowing us to extend even further into the jungle. I realized this was more than just a coincidence. God truly was and is still answering Dad's prayer from 20 years ago! Latest example of this continuing answer is, guys coming here from three far-away villages and asking for teaching. We spent the next week holding Bible classes with them, and took them home after the week was over.

Well, one of our boats which had taken men from Bashobäca back to their home got back a few days ago and brought back more guys than he took home. These men are even from further away. They are from way inland; they had walked 3 days out to Bashobäca as they had heard the Bashobäca guys were making a trip out to visit us. But they arrived too late and the canoe was gone by the time they got there.

Nothing for them to do but build their own bark canoes.

Blessedly, our guys got there before the canoes were finished, and were happy to see them, since they were from villages we had found on our sat map and had been praying over. So, long story short, they are here now and we are teaching them. We began classes with them on Monday, and even right now, I can hear the teacher who took over for me as he continues teaching



from the translated book, King of Glory. In Yanomamö it is called *Bada Bälöamö Cätä*.

The elders from the church here were worried about our village's food situation as their gardens still are not producing enough yet and we just had the other group of guys here. But we serve a Faithful God! We thank Him that a friend from over on the Orinoco came in the same day the guys got here, with 8 smoked wild pigs. Some of the young guys also offered to go out spearing fish for the classes, and we were able to purchase some casave cakes and manoco from some passing Dyecwana.

Pray God would continue preparing their hearts for HIS Word. These are men from villages that have never seen or heard a missionary, who have never been taught the first thing about a God who loves them, so pray we can give them the Gospel in an understandable way. God has sent them here for a purpose. Thanks for your prayers!

-Michael and Keila

#### Correspondence w/ Michael

Mike, Who would have guessed the Yanomamo would one day be missionaries to other tribes? This is so great.

The Yanomamo could pray for us as we pray for their outreaches -they are generations ahead of the unreached folks here. We just
yesterday got 200 players loaded with New Testaments and Bible
stories in the trade language to begin to penetrate into tribes that do
not have a single Gospel resource. We are praying that these stories
will unlock the way to start several translation projects in 15
languages in Central Sulawesi.

-Larry in Indonesia, with "Spreading the Fragrance of Hope" - II Cor 2:14

#### DIRECTOR'S VIEW

#### **Gospel Potential Indeed**

Bryan Wilson, in Thailand and Australia, with others

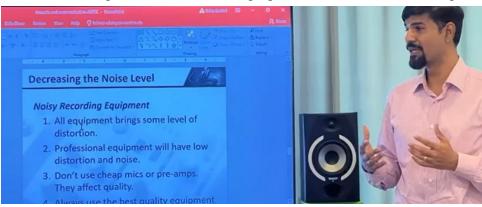
In February of 2025 two dozen people from about a dozen countries came together for an Asia Recording Team Training Course (ARTTC). Pairs, groups, and individuals from all over Asia traveled a distance to fellowship with each other and to teach or to learn how better to "record scripts that won't sit on the shelf."



Trainers came from Australia, Pakistan, and other countries to cover technical skills, content development, and language and culture research. The rest of us in GRN around the world were praying for them to teach clearly and to communicate well to the learners. Please continue to pray with us that this training course will result in greater impact for GRN's ministry in the Asia region.

(We cannot name names as a number of the attendees are from sensitive countries. But pray for the individual faces you see—each has an amazing story of God calling them to this unusual, often misunderstood ministry. We don't plant churches...but our members might find themselves doing almost any other missionary activity in the pursuit of creating amazingly "potential" tools.)

Meet S, one of the trainers from Asia. He taught sessions including "Decreasing Noise Levels" in recording and "Introduction to Language Research." Besides contributing to



the classes themselves, he in effect mentored newer trainees and had great interactions with them. He says, "These recording teams will be blessed by the learning they have received here. Our experiences will bless our ministries in our respective countries. Thank you all for your prayer and support." Another trainer, D from Australia, testified as to what a blessing it was for him to meet so many quality folks from around the world.





Our International Director, Tim S, was there and says, "It was really great to see the incredible skills, enthusiasm, and the quality of the people in GRN worldwide." Directors from Australia, the US, and several other Asian countries were also there, forming or strengthening relationships which will influence the future of our entire ministry.

As our Australian centre put it so well in their *Rejoice* publication: "Please pray for all GRN staff, that we would continue to grow closer to Christ in all we do. Pray especially for our GRN ministry, that it would be fruitful and valuable for the advancement of the Kingdom of God." Thank you, readers, for —by prayer—being a part of this *Gospel Potential!* 



### **GlobalRecordingsUSA.org**

A new way to pray for GRN:

Have you every said: "I want to pray for GRN but I'm busy and on the go?" Solution: Get the GRN "Mission Prayers" App on your phone. It's free from the Play Store. It notifies you of requests daily to pray for on the days and times you set.