

Every Language

AUG - SEPT 2024



GLOBAL
RECORDINGS
NETWORK

Recording Adventure: Gunbalanya, NT

On a warm, dry morning, my walk down to the Katherine Hot springs was suddenly interrupted. The juvenile brown snake who had been sunning himself on the path was now assuming a defensive posture. Was I about to be fatally bitten by this deadly serpent? "No" I reminded myself. "God did not bring me all the way to the Northern Territory to be killed by a poisonous reptile. He brought me here to record His word for the Kunwinjku speakers at Gunbalanya."



Katherine Christian Convention

It was the first day of the annual Katherine Christian Convention and after making my way to the showground I set up the GRN display table in the book shop. As I sat there ready to engage with the

crowd, hundreds of Aboriginal people from communities all over the Northern Territory flooded in to visit the op shop stall opposite me to collect bedding and clothes. Every now and then the music pouring out of the little solar powered MP3 players on the table in front of me would catch their attention.



Bible Translators in the Northern Territory

On engaging one particular group of kids I asked them, "What community are you from?" "Oenpelli [Gunbalanya]" replied one of the kids. I then showed him the label on the side of the MP3 player he was holding which read 'Kunwinjku'. When the singing on the recording began his excitement grew. Recognising their language, they ran to show their parents asking if they

could buy one of the \$20 players. Such was the response from many of the people who visited the GRN stall.



Matt Pearson and family

After 3 days of networking with other missions and sharing GRN's resources, I boarded the crowded coach with around 50 Bininj (what the Kunwinjku people call themselves) headed for Jabiru. Sitting next to me was CMS missionary Matt Pearson. Matt first contacted me several years ago to do some recording in Kunwinjku. Unfortunately, the opportunity never arose. Since then Matt had been making some attempts to do the recording himself. Thankfully, after being approached earlier in

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the year by a church in Sydney who wanted to fund an Aboriginal recording project, we were finally able to make it a reality. It just so happens that that church also supports Matt and his family in Gunbalanya. As we sat together on that 4 hour bus ride the time passed quickly and the anticipation for the week ahead was building.

GRN has a long history working in Gunbalanya, with the first recording being made in 1954. Further recordings were made in the 80's and 90's with many of those involved still around today. It was this previous work which helped pave the way for this trip.

Being early May, the East Alligator River was still swollen from the wet season. Upon reaching Jabiru the trip continued via a short plane ride over the river. The next day I began to go through some basic audio



training with Matt. We got all the equipment set up in the humble Sunday School room of the Gunbalanya Anglican Church and, to our delight, that afternoon, with the help of some of the local Christian women, we recorded the first 3 Psalms in the language of Kunwinjku which had been recently translated. This pattern of training and recording continued for the next few days until we had recorded 11 of the Psalms and several Christian songs. My heart was warmed when the recording was complete and I heard those

unforgettable words from one of the women, "When are you coming back? You are welcome here any time. Bring your family next time." It is amazing how recording God's word can form a bond in such a short time, especially in a culture where relationships are so important.

Now that Matt has been given this training and some quality equipment, he is in a good position to continue this important work with the ongoing support of GRN studio personnel. This trip was a joint project between GRN, CMS, The Australian Reel and Film Society (ARFS) and Pittwater Anglican church. It is a real delight to GRN to be able to serve CMS and the Kunwinjku mob in this way and we are thankful to all our partners in ministry.

Simon Johnston *GRN Recordist*

Planting a Gospel Seed

Wondering how the good news about Jesus can spread in our diverse communities?

Lately, we at GRN have been amazed by how many ministries are sharing our 5fish app with their communities!

When finding out about the 5fish app for the first time, many people find it useful to have a business size card with our logo and QR code that takes people straight to the app where they can find Bible stories in their heart languages. In the past financial year, we've sent out over 30,000 5fish cards to ministries across Australia. Our good friend Graham McDonald, a Power To Change missionary, has been hard at work talking to a wide range of people who love telling others about Jesus. They are ordering 5fish cards from us so they



can help people listen to the good news in the language that means most to them!



Graham McDonald and Christine Platt

To give a few snapshots of some of these ministries, last Christmas Mission Australia in WA distributed 1200 care packs at their Christmas lunch and included 5fish cards in them. Recently, a pastor from Guildford ordered 2000 5fish cards for use at an outreach in a local park among primarily Arabic speaking people. Ron from "Mission to the Riverina" has been ordering cards for their outreach events and promotion of evangelism amongst

14 churches in the Riverina area encompassing places such as Cohen and Griffith.

Suren from Seven Hills Anglican finds out from publicly listed information, who has moved in to the suburb recently and organises church welcome packs containing flyers about the church and its activities, and a pen and chocolate. A team from the church delivers these packs on a Saturday morning every couple of months. With the many migrants moving in to the area, they include 5fish cards in these packs and where possible, they show people how to listen to the good news in their mother tongue! Jenny from Pennant Hills

Anglican orders 5fish cards in all the native languages of the students in her English class. The church runs English conversation classes as a point of contact and outreach in their community. Plumpton Community Church uses 5fish cards in their street ministry in Mt Druitt each Thursday night.

And that's just a small sample of the many churches and ministries that are sharing 5fish with their neighbours. We thank God for them and are encouraged to see 5fish use in Australia has increased 20% over the last year.

Let's pray together that their efforts will bear much fruit allowing people

from all different backgrounds to understand the good news and respond to the opportunity to become one of God's children.

Are 5fish cards something your church or ministry could use? Some ministries arrange with us to have them printed with information about their organisation on the back. Others are happy to receive and distribute the complementary cards we have in a dozen common languages.

Please get in touch with us on 02 9899 2211 or email christinathomas@globalrecordings.net to order.

African Recording Snippets



A school in Kananga using GRN materials

Joel Juedes (Recordist) spent a month in Kananga, Congo DRC, training co-worker Pierre Bembe and a couple of colleagues to make audio recordings. Together they were able to record ten programs in the Tshiluba language which concentrated on different topics such as the Christian home, the Holy Spirit, five women in the Old Testament, and Daniel and his friends. These recordings were helpful, as they targeted relevant issues in a culture in which family is not approached in a Christian way and the Holy Spirit is seen as being impersonal. Pierre said that these recordings were a great improvement on the booklets

because the people in the culture find it hard to read and do so on their own, they can listen together.



Yousif and Walter, GRN Kenya

James Inyama (GRN Kenya Recordist) has recorded the Look, Listen and Live series in the Thur language of north eastern Uganda. This is a stable language group of about 140,000 people whose language does not have an established writing system. They are a minority amongst other groups who need to hear the story of Jesus in their own language. The Kenya team hope to distribute the finished recordings in December 2024.

Yousif (GRN Recordist from Australia) has recorded Look, Listen and Live book one in the Shilluk and Moru languages. He is working with (South) Sudanese refugees in camps in Uganda. Yousif and his wife Vivian are also trialling materials to help people deal with war induced trauma through the lens of God's presence and help. They hope to record some of this trauma material in time.

I could just as easily write of work in Mexico, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Philippines and a couple of places better not mentioned by name. Please ask our Lord to use these recordings to make disciples and so build his church and kingdom. You can contribute to the distribution of these recordings by making a donation via our website and mentioning the language group or country in the comments, at grn.org.au/give.



*Christine Platt
CEO*

Journeys in Francophone Africa



Sam Bouix GRN European Director

My last official activity as International Director was a 2-part visit to our work in Francophone (French speaking) Africa, firstly in Cameroon in March then in Ivory Coast in May. Our work in these areas is supported by GRN Switzerland under the watchful eye of Director, Philippe Tapernoux.

Joseph Ndiba heads up the work in Cameroon and provides management oversight for the work there as well as in Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Guinea, Senegal and Mali. John Coquerel watches over the countries of Togo

(where he lives), Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Benin.

There were several purposes for these gatherings. The first was fellowship and encouragement. This is not an easy region in which to work, so meeting together and swapping stories can be a great encouragement to the teams. They also learn from each other. Addressing some problem issues and building unity and consensus was important. There was time spent in the Scriptures and in worship, and some structured input in the areas of recording and distribution strategies and skills, partnership development and Bible storytelling.

Most of the program was in French so I was dependent on translation (thanks especially to Sam Bouix, European Director and Kassum from Burkina) but despite that I was tremendously encouraged by the passion and dedication of my colleagues there. The focus on distribution and outreach has

always been strong but it is encouraging to see our recording capacity grow in the region.

They face many challenges including terrorism, militant Islam, Voodoo (very strong in Benin), political instability, syncretism (blending of Christian belief with traditional African religions) rampant prosperity theology, and shortage of resources. Many can only work part time as they have other jobs to help support themselves. Prayer is their greatest need. Please join with me in praying for them.

Graydon Colville
Former International Director

Graydon served as Australian Director for 12 years from 2000 and then another 12 years as International Director. He is now serving in both a local and international capacity including the Global Script Ministries Co-ordinator role.

About Global Recordings Network

We exist to give everyone the opportunity to hear the story of Jesus in their own heart language.

Previous Names - Gospel Recordings and Language Recordings

Our Vision

That people might hear and understand God's Word in their heart language, especially those who are oral communicators and those who do not have Scriptures in a form they can access.

Our Mission

In partnership with the church, to effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ by means of culturally appropriate audio and

audio-visual materials in every language.

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'Every Language' (newsletter) and 'Rejoice' (monthly prayer letter) are free publications of GRN Australia. To subscribe - please call us or visit: grn.org.au

Represent GRN in your church

Help your church connect with GRN by representing us in your church. To find out more - call us or visit: grn.org.au/serve

Use our Resources

We want to serve you, by providing Bible teaching and evangelistic resources for you to use in your

ministry. Contact us for more information, or download them for free today grn.org.au/listen www.5fish.mobi (mobile apps)

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Wellington 5028
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If you feel led to give



Philippines Recording and Training

Our team in the Philippines is planning to record the language of a remote and unreached tribe and use this project to train recently recruited staff.

The overall cost of the project is \$12,500 which includes distribution of the finished recording on the island.

Please pray for this project: for good recordings that God will use to transform those who listen, for effective training of new staff and for God's provision of resources to complete the project.

Go to grn.org.au/give

A bequest can change lives

Like many mission organisations, we can benefit greatly when friends make a final gift that continues to bless the ministries they have generously supported in life. Once you have made proper and primary provision for family and friends this can be a very effective way to go on making a difference to the church on earth when you have joined the church in glory! If you would like to consider this option in your Will please contact the GRN office on 02 9899 2211 or we have some information on our website: www.globalrecordings.net/au-bequests.

Donate online

grn.org.au/give

or by **Phone** on 02 9899 2211.

Direct Deposit

Global Recordings Network Australia, BSB 032 388, Account Number 222 860

(Please include your name and where you would like your gift to go in the description box.)

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New Zealand donations see 'Rejoice'

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- GRN speaking at my Church/Church Reps.
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No stamp required on envelope



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