

GRN CANADA

UPDATE

Telling the story of Jesus in every Language

April/May 2011

Mobile Technology in GRN

Nomads are no longer making decisions about where to set up camp on the basis of where they could find water. Rather, campsites are determined by where they can get cell phone coverage!

Technology changes – GRN is no stranger to changes in technology. Over the years it has changed with the times from records to cassettes and then CDs. In the 1990s, digital recording and playback technology enabled the production of higher quality material in new formats. At the turn of the century the availability of broadband connection to the internet offered faster and cheaper ways of getting the recordings out to a growing audience.

On the Field – Mary-Ann Ramos in GRN Philippines, downloads recordings to a cell phone in order to study how the recordings are made, and how the translator delivers the message.

"When I'm travelling I can listen to my cell phone using the headset, while looking at the small *Good News* picture booklet. When we are planning to make the new translation, the translator uses my cell phone to listen, so that they know how and what they will do."

Mary-Ann also uses the recordings in her church for children's ministry. "I remove the micro SD card from my cell phone and insert it into the GRN *Saber* player."

What GRN is doing – More than 85% of our recordings have been digitized and are available for copying to *Sabers*, MP3 players, cell phones and other mobile devices. They can be downloaded from the GRN website or listened to online. Work is underway to link pictures and scripts to more than 100,000 individual audio files in our library. This is a huge job, but will facilitate a variety of new playback formats such as slideshows and video.

A GOKit has been developed for use on mobile devices, with samples of many languages to aid in the initial contact with and identification of the language of a particular speaker. Partnerships are being developed. One such partner is producing Digital Evangelist Kiosks to share MP3s and videos, from GRN and other ministries, through bus and train terminals, airports, malls, and other points of contact.



The Rise of the Mobile Device – There are billions of portable devices in the world which can play audio or video, and/or connect to the internet. The number and power of these devices continues to grow. It's been estimated by Intel there will be 15 billion internet-connected devices by 2015, and by Ericsson up to 50 billion by 2020. There are five billion mobile phones in use on the planet. The majority of new phones can play MP3 files. There are two billion people connected to the internet.

Mobile devices are not just for the developed world. Countries with poor telecommunications infrastructure have jumped straight to cell phones and other devices to address their needs. The International Telecommunication Union says that, in 2009 in the developing world, cell phone coverage was 57%, and users with some form of internet access rose to 18%. Both numbers are much higher in the developed world, but are continuing to grow rapidly in the developing world.

GRN is now establishing a task force to coordinate and develop a comprehensive strategy to facilitate the use of GRN Gospel materials on mobile devices.

GRN Prison Ministry Report – by Diana Blankestijn

For several years my husband Adrian and I have been privileged to share the Gospel in a Mexican prison. I used the *Good News* picture flipchart with the audio recordings to share the Gospel with women prisoners.

One dear prisoner named Gaby insisted that I show all 40 pictures listening to the audio in one afternoon. The next week she invited other women to her cell and the pictures and stories were repeated. This happened several times.

I am so thankful that God's Word has been shared to many prisoners through materials from Global Recordings.



Director's Desk – David Elliott

The GRN team in Kenya has dreamed of having a vehicle which would facilitate the recording and distribution ministry for the last few years. It was a great surprise to receive a call from an interested supporter of the ministry who wanted to know what was the remaining amount needed for the vehicle.

It wasn't long before we were able to inform Director Winston Omenya that we had received the rest of the needed funds. The vehicle was made possible through a large gift in memory of Gordon and Doris Grant.



The GRN International Council Meeting will take place in Thailand from March 28 to April 6th. This is an important meeting with all of the GRN Centre directors which is held every four years. Many important topics will be discussed and decisions will be made that will provide direction for the next four years and beyond.

Our GRN Canada **Annual Banquet** will take place **Saturday, April 30**. Please contact our office for further details.



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