

# The Story of Gospel Recordings

In 1937, the disease of malaria forced a missionary named Joy Ridderhof to leave Honduras and return to the United States. She wanted to send messages to the people she loved in Central America, but they couldn't even yet read. Joy felt deeply discouraged and disappointed. Why had God done this to her? But God had a bigger plan. Far, far bigger than Joy could have imagined.

Joy wanted to record her voice to send a message in Spanish for her friends in Honduras. By the end of 1938, some friends had provided her the money to be able to do this. What a surprise to find that other Spanish speaking people began to ask for those recorded messages! Requests came from all over Central and South America. As God gave money, Joy sent more of the Spanish recordings of the gospel from her home in the U.S.



Joy was the first graduate of Columbia Bible College



Joy loved listening to the gospel message all her life

Less than two years later, someone asked Joy to make recordings of the gospel story for the Navajos in Arizona. A Christian Navajo provided the voice. Then more and more people began to ask for recordings of the gospel in different languages. When Joy's health improved, she began to travel to record the gospel in even more languages. Other people joined her work, which she named Gospel Recordings. They used hand-crank record players and developed an efficient system for recording the gospel story in one language after another, all over the world.

By 2013, the ministry that began with Joy's illness, now called Global Recordings Network, had recorded the gospel in over 6,000 languages. They have bases in over thirty countries. They use modern technology, but they still might record outside under a tree. Then these recordings are distributed to the world's least-reached people groups, in the world's most remote places. Just from Indonesia, where *Witness Men* takes place, almost 2,000 languages have been recorded.



Don Richter recorded the gospel all over the islands of the Far East

Global Recordings Network will continue to work, making recordings all over the world and distributing them to the least-reached people groups. God's people can pray that He'll bring more and more of His workers to carry recordings of His Good News all over the world, to people of every tribe.

**Outline the article. Use these main headings to help you get started:**  
How Gospel Recordings Grew; Conclusion; What's Happening with Gospel Recordings Now; Introduction; How Gospel Recordings Began

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