



Christian Research Association
welcomes you to

**The 5th
International
Lausanne
Researchers'
Conference**



The impact of research on mission & ministry

Life in the 21st century

Geelong 8th-12th April 2008

Detailed Program Including Synopses of Conference Papers

Wednesday 9th April

7.30 – 9.00 am Breakfast will be served in the Function Centre.

9 am Devotions – Dr Ruth Powell – in the Auditorium

9.15 am Introducing Australian and Asian organisations (plenary)

(Chaired by Dr Ruth Powell – Director of NCLS Research)

Among the Australian and Asian organisations represented at the conference are the following:

NCLS Research
Christian Research Association (Australia)
Australian Catholic University
Pastoral Projects Office, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Department of History, Church of Christ in Thailand
Victorian Council for Christian Education
Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies
Australian Mission Studies

10.15 am Morning tea – Function Centre.

Session 1A: 10.45am Wednesday 9th April

Auditorium

Migration in Europe: responding to the Christian dimension

Darrell Jackson

Europe is a continent of people in constant transition. European Churches face a complex and enormous challenge to their pastoral ministry, church life, and their missionary responsibility for these people. This presentation will offer theoretical and empirical perspectives on the current situation in Europe. The Nova Research Centre has recently completed a six-month research commission for the Brussels-based Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe. This presentation will draw upon the research for that programme.

Acacia Room

Religious fundamentalisms: the cauldron of Jerusalem

Jonathan Andrews

Jerusalem has an amazing history. While most significant locations have been fought over throughout the millennia, has anywhere else suffered twenty sieges, two ruinations, eighteen reconstructions and eleven transitions of major religion?

This paper explores the origins of such attention, the current situation and the subsequent effect on Christian communities living in Jerusalem. To do so, we must define 'religious fundamentalism', summarise the city's relevant history, and look at the theology of its religions.

The paper argues that the present conflict in and surrounding Jerusalem arose through a clash of nationalisms, each driven by wider events. The 'cauldron' is maintained today by many factors of which religion, especially in the area of eschatology, is one. Colonialism, nationalism, economic imbalance and the use of religion for political purposes all keep the pot boiling.

Differences in eschatology will ensure that Jerusalem remains the focal point for much fundamentalist attention.

The challenge for political and religious leadership is to manage these expectations, and to keep encouraging the majority of all ethnic and religious groups to resist the violent tendencies of a few.

Living Room in the Conference Flat

Surveying missionary engagement and retention: *The Engage!* Project

Jim McGee

Initiated by the Mission Commission of the WEA, *Engage!* is a cooperative (Global Mapping International, Best Christian Workplaces Institute and Generating Change) survey of current and former field missionaries enabling agencies to gauge the strength of their policies, communication, care and supervision. To date, *Engage!* has surveyed 1,800-plus missionaries from 20 North American agencies, with many more slated to take part in 2008.

Aggregate results have been analyzed to identify overall areas of strength and weakness, and to measure the association of key factors with historical agency retention, stated intent to remain and likelihood of recommendation.

Session 1B: 11.30 am Wednesday 9th April

Auditorium

Young people: are they less religious than older people and are they less religious than they used to be?

Marion Burkimsher

The trends in religious behaviour of young people (in this case, those aged 15-29) can be a barometer of the religious direction of nations.

This analysis focuses on self-reported attendance at religious services. Two multi-wave cross-sectional surveys, the World Values Survey and European Social Survey, provide data for 85 countries and 25 years, from 1981-2006.

In the majority of countries, older people do participate in religion more than younger people. However, that pattern is not universal and this study highlights the countries where the general pattern does not hold.

The question of whether people generally get more religious as they get older was investigated, and the conclusion was negative; the pattern we see today in western Europe of older people being more religious than younger people is effectively a relic of older generations being more religious in the past and then maintaining their level of religious participation over time.

One significant age effect was discovered: a trough in religious involvement as young adults pass through their mid-20s. Trends in levels of participation of young people in religion are diverse. Whilst some countries have seen a major decline – some from a high base, others from an already low base - others have experienced stability or a substantial increase.

Acacia Room

Muslim women in prayer

Moyra Dale

While much has been written about the formal *salat* prayers of Islam that the faithful believer prays five times daily, the other parts of the prayer life of the believing Muslim have been less explored –

the *dhikr* prayers that bring the worshipper into meditation on God and His nature, and the *du'a* prayers of supplication.

Based on research on a women's programme in a Middle Eastern Sunni mosque, this paper looks at how the three kinds of prayer interact in a group setting, the place given to each kind of prayer, and how people experience them. We then move to focus on some of the more popular *dhikr* prayers used, and what they tell us about the worshippers' understanding of God. The paper asks how these prayers and expressions of heart-longing can be a bridge between the Muslim and Christian understandings of God and of how we may approach Him.

Living Room of Conference Flat

Autoethnography and stories of birth

Con Apokis

The issue in qualitative research considered is not so much what impact my identity has on the research process but what I can bring to the research data to make sense of it in the light of my own story. Consideration is given to the recent emergent method of autoethnography where the researcher draws on their own experiences to emphasis the ways in which a researcher interacts with the culture being researched in order to connect the personal to the cultural social context.

Session 2A: 1.30pm Wednesday 9th April

Auditorium

A 'mystery worshipping' program

Benita Hewitt

Christian Research (UK) has been sending non-churchgoing researchers into church services to assess how well strangers are welcomed. This was a pilot for a new service about to be launched in May. Was it an alienating, unwelcoming experience or were they amazed by the love of God they found inside the church? Come along and find out – you can even watch the mystery churchgoers discussing their experiences!

Acacia Room

Discerning fruitful practices in Evangelism:

Carrying out research with fruitful missiological findings

Donald B. Allen, Robert Sluka and David Greenlee.

(Note this will be a double session.)

What does it mean to be 'fruitful', especially in areas such as evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and leadership development? Are there principles that we can learn from one another that will enhance our ministry, at least by helping us to remove stumbling blocks?

A global ministry partnership began about four years ago to explore these questions. Researchers began working within their own agencies. The process led to a wider research project involving several hundred workers with significant ministry experience.

In the first paper, Dr. Don Allen will propose 'fruitful practices' as an emerging method of missiological research and its potential for helping workers keep "the end in mind" as they share God's love with peoples of other faiths. This paper includes a historical overview of the concept as well as its foundational assumptions and cautions as an interdisciplinary method of research.

In the second paper, Dr. Robert Sluka will give an overview of the significant contextual factors which appear to impact a team's 'fruitfulness'. The impact of using the local language versus a regional trade language will be used as an example of how multivariate statistical methods such as

logistic regression can be used to examine relative significance between many potential contextual factors impacting fruitfulness.

Finally, in the third paper, Dr. David Greenlee will present findings regarding fruitful practices in evangelism. He will also discuss some of the practical issues involved in analyzing the data and making relevant missiological applications.

Boardroom

Raising Christian consciousness amongst young people in community-focused Christian youth work

Sally Nash

The paper will explain the methodology of the Nazareth Project which had two phases, a questionnaire/interview with nearly 300 young people and then a second phase where 12 youth workers planned an intervention with young people designed to raise Christian consciousness and used a research tool to explore their spirituality. It will give a snapshot of the Christian youth work we found which indicates that good quality work takes place that corresponds to best practice in informal education. We undertook a small scale questionnaire in non-Christian settings and have identified some differences between youth work in each context. The next section explores different ways people tried to raise Christian consciousness. As a result of the research we propose sacramental youth work and sacralization as concepts for youth workers to explore to help raise Christian consciousness more effectively.

Session 2B: 2.15pm Wednesday 9th April

Auditorium

Burnout in ministry: what is it and can it be predicted?

Sam Sterland

Burnout is a critical health issue for those working in 'human service' related professions. Those in Christian ministry have additional sources of stress due to the secularisation of many cultures and institutions. Burnout is commonly the result of chronic and unsustainable stress, and takes in the realms of emotional exhaustion, cynicism, and lacking a sense of personal achievement. What are the burnout risks in Australia, and what information is available from other countries? Importantly, is it possible to identify workers most at risk? This paper looks at some of NCLS' findings, including a new scale developed in consultation with the University of Western Sydney.

Banksia Room

The challenges of inter-faith education in secondary schools

Kath Engebretson

Inter-faith education is defined as that process by which we learn new ways of thinking about and behaving towards those whose religious world views, systems of meanings and belief, religious narratives and symbols are different from our own. It is acknowledged as an important part of the religion curriculum of Christian, Jewish and Muslim schools in Australia. However, there are questions about what form this education may take in secondary schools.

Reporting on the early stages of a research project with Christian, Jewish and Muslim educators, this paper argues that the secondary school has specific possibilities for inter-faith education but that these are limited by the particular stance their students take in relation to both religion and to religions with which they are unfamiliar. Perhaps genuine interfaith dialogue is not possible between secondary school students, but the development of knowledge and values which precede inter-faith dialogue may be the work of the school.

Auditorium

Leadership in the Church

Peter Kaldor

The word 'leadership' has many meanings and carries with it many assumptions and stereotypes. The need for leadership sometimes seems like a cry for someone else to rescue us at no cost to ourselves! What do we mean by effective leadership?

Using the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) database, a strategy for exploring the characteristics of leadership in vital and healthy churches was developed. We have been able to identify important characteristics of effective church leadership that can create a positive environment for encouraging growth, dealing with change and developing a vision for the future.

What are these characteristics? How can we identify and foster the leadership strengths we have both as individuals and as teams? In this presentation these questions will be explored alongside the resources being developed to help people grow their leadership strengths and foundations.

Acacia Room

Conflict in missions:

Different values and their impact on cross-cultural relations

Andrew LaBreche

The proposed paper is a brief summary of data collected over the period of 2004-2005 which formed the basis for the dissertation, *Ethnocentrism. U.S.-American Evangelical Missionaries in Romania: Qualitative Missiological Research into Representative Cross-Cultural Value Based Conflicts*, presented to the Evangelical Theological Faculty of Heverlee (Leuven), Belgium (September 2007).

The dissertation explored culturally-based values which may have contributed to frustration and conflict experienced by U.S. evangelical missionaries working in Romania.

Often the existence of underlying differences in values is unstated and at times even subconscious. Furthermore, even when the same values are held by both missionaries and national evangelicals, conflict can arise based on a different hierarchy of values and the ethnocentric assumption that one's values are "better" than the other's.

A two-fold missiological problem was also addressed; the ignorance of the very existence of cultural values differences and ignorance of what those *specific* values differences are. The missiological implications of these differences for missionary work, specifically in Romania, were also discussed.

This paper will seek to demonstrate that similar research projects in other cultural contexts are needed to further understand and improve cross-cultural communication between missionaries and the nationals they work with.

Boardroom

Painting pictures with the Australian census:

So what does Melbourne *really* look like?

Stephen Reid

The Christian Church is vital to Melbourne - and one would hope that the people of Melbourne are vital to Christian Churches. But no one has ever painted a picture of the whole church in Greater Melbourne.

'Transforming Melbourne' is an organisation seeking to do just that in partnership with the Christian Research Association, and in cooperation with the National Church Life Survey. It is also endorsed by most denominations and affiliations, and many Christian ministries and Bible colleges.

The project is using data available from the 2006 Australian Census, and survey results from NCLS, to research the size, locations and vitality of all churches across the Greater Melbourne area. It will 'paint a picture' to enable Churches to work together in collaborative and intentional mission.

4.15 pm Narana Creations—Exploring the Dreamland (Optional Tour 1)

Narana Creations is an Aboriginal Craft and Cultural Interpretation Centre. It was founded by the Uniting Church Aboriginal and Islander Congress. It is just 15 minutes drive from the Conference Centre at Geelong. Conference participants are invited to visit the Centre for an hour's tour. Learn about Aboriginal history, culture and spirituality, and how these inform the expression of Christian faith among Aboriginal people today. Experience boomerang throwing, didgeridoo playing and learn about bush food and medicinal plants.

4.15 pm Any sub-committees (eg Network Committee)

Free time for the rest of us.

6 pm Dinner – barbeque in the Function Centre

7.30 pm Soirée – in the Auditorium

A relaxing evening of music and talk

Music from the G-Swing Jazz Quintet

Thursday 10th April

7.30–9.00 am Breakfast in the Function Centre

9 am Devotions – Peter Brierley - Auditorium

9.15 am Introducing European and African organisations (plenary)

Chaired by Peter Brierley

Among the European and African organisations represented at the conference are:

Christian Research (UK)

Redcliffe College

Inserv

Dawn (Europe)

Greater Europe Mission

10.15 am Morning tea

Session 4: 10.45am Thursday 10th April

Auditorium

How do people pray for sick children?

Rev Paul Nash

This paper explores the themes and comparisons that emerged from prayers written in the Christian chapel and Muslim prayer room of Birmingham Children's Hospital Birmingham (BCH). BCH is a 260-bed hospital solely for children and young people up to the age of 16 years. About 45 % of our patients would call themselves Christian and 25% Muslim.

This research looks at one month of prayers requested and recorded in both places of worship. Analysis will look at themes and types of prayer that emerge within each religion, followed by a discussion of beliefs arising from these prayers.

Background information will be included on how each religion understands prayer and relevant literature and research on prayer in this context would be utilised and compared. Other outcomes will include exploring how faith leaders can support children, their families and communities during illness and hospitalisation.

Banksia Room

Loss and grief in Australian Missionaries on re-entry:

How can the GP help?

Susan Selby

Increasing numbers of overseas aid workers are experiencing reverse culture shock on re-entry with over 40% suffering psychological distress and of these, 80% suffering depression. The general practitioner (GP) is one of their first points of contact and is well placed to detect, treat and prevent health issues arising from their re-entry. The aim of this study is to explore the issues of loss and grief on re-entry for these workers and their significance, including prevention of the complications of grief such as depression.

Boardroom

Christian marriage in Australia in the 21st century

Peter Bentley

There appears to be a common anecdotal attitude among many Australians that marriage is not that relevant anymore. Certainly 'committed' relationships are not necessarily destined for marriage, and one does not need to be married to even have children. The social stigma of 'children born out of wedlock' has, for the most part, disappeared. Yet, people still marry, and not only for a first time. Why do people marry today? What is the role of the church in this continuing social institution?

This paper will explore some of the changing trends in Australian society with regard to marriage over the last 30 years, and comment on the popular perception of marriage, which is often conveyed through media and magazine articles.

Conference tours

Thursday 11.30 am – 9.30 pm. You may choose either the Sovereign Hill Tour or the Great Ocean Road Tour (there is no extra charge for these tours)

Sovereign Hill

At Sovereign Hill you will step back in time to the 1850s. You will find yourself in an Australian gold-mining town—complete with buildings, roads and horse driven coaches. Visit the theatre. Watch the glass-maker. Listen to the clanging of the blacksmith's tools. Sample the sweets of the era. Examine the hand-made jewellery. Try your luck panning for gold.

Sovereign Hill is a unique historical park recreating the hustle and bustle of life more than 150 years ago. Hundreds of staff are in historical dress, carrying out the crafts and functions of the townspeople of those times.

Go 13 metres underground on a tour of the Red Hill Mine, which uses life-size, moving 'holograms' to reincarnate battling Cornish miner, Richard Jeffrey as he stumbles on what was the biggest gold nugget ever found, the Welcome Nugget—at 69 kilograms, still the second largest nugget in the world.

At the Hope Bakery, pastry cakes and breads are freshly baked each day in the wood-fired brick oven. You can play bowls, be photographed in Victorian costume, enjoy live street performances and ride in horse drawn coaches.

The tour will leave around 11.45 am from the Geelong Conference Centre. Stephen Reid, one of the CRA staff, will be driving the bus.

Just 30 minutes up the road towards Melbourne, the first stop will be the You Yangs—granite peaks which rise majestically above the surrounding plain. Here, you can walk in true Australian bush. You may well catch sight of some kangaroos and other wild life. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded in the You Yangs. It is a beautiful and peaceful place for lunch.

From the You Yangs, it is just 45 minutes drive to Ballarat where you will visit Sovereign Hill. You will have about three hours to explore the historical park.

At 5 pm, you will meet back at the bus. Stephen will take you for a tour around Ballarat, for a look at the historical buildings, the Botanical Gardens and other parks.

You will return to Sovereign Hill for your evening meal at 6.45 pm with a carvery buffet and

dessert menu (all included in your conference registration). This will be followed by the spectacular sound and light show "**Blood on the Southern Cross**", which tells the story of Australia's only civil uprising—the Eureka Rebellion of 1854.

The tour will return to the Conference Centre around 10.30 pm.

(Note: only 25 seats are available. Put your name down to ensure you have a seat.)

The Great Ocean Road

If you like spectacular ocean scenery, then this is one of the best tours in the world. The coach will leave the Geelong Conference Centre sharp at 11.30 am.. You will travel south to the popular holiday town of Torquay and past Bell's Beach, where the world-famous Bell's Beach Surfing Competition is held. You will see surfers riding the giant waves that roll in from the Antarctic.

Around 1 pm, you will stop for lunch at the largest town along the Surf Coast, Lorne. For more than a century the stunning natural beauty of Lorne has been attracting visitors. Have a walk on the beach, or browse briefly in the shops.

The next part of the drive is the most spectacular —right along the cliffs. There will be a brief stop around 3.30 pm at Apollo Bay. From there, the road takes us through the forests of the Otway Range returning to the coast at the Port Campbell National Park. Here you will find the world-famous '12 Apostles': great columns of sandstone rising out of the sea-bed, bathed in the late afternoon sun. There are excellent viewing platforms and there will be time to wander around and soak up the atmosphere here before heading inland to Colac.

Dinner will be provided in a Chinese restaurant in Colac. On each table, there will be a variety of dishes to be shared among the guests.

The trip back to Geelong on Australia's route no.1 is much shorter than the outward journey. Within an hour of finishing dinner, about 9.30 pm, you will be back at the Geelong Conference Centre.

(Note: 45 seats are available. Please indicate at the registration desk if you wish to be on the list.)

Friday 11th April

7.30–9.00 am Breakfast in the Function Centre

9 am Devotions – David Greenlee - Auditorium

9.15 am Introducing American organisations (plenary)

Chaired by David Greenlee

American organisations represented at the Conference include:

World Venture
Centre for Global Christianity
South Western Baptist Seminary
Global Mapping International
Southeastern Seminary
Frontiers
Partners.WorldMAP.org
The Jesus Film Project

10.15 am Morning tea

Session 5A: 10.45am Friday 11th April

Auditorium

Generations approach church differently

Ruth Powell

The Old Testament, the ancient Greeks, philosophers, poets, historians and sociologists through the centuries have described life in terms of the ebb and flow of generations. It has been called the most important conception in history. This paper provides a brief introduction to some of the generational differences among church attenders. What are the aspects of church most valued by each generation and what are their hopes for their churches? What are their attitudes to innovation and change? This paper is based on the results from the Australian 2006 National Church Life Survey (NCLS). The NCLS is a five-yearly joint venture across Australian churches. The 2006 NCLS surveyed around 400 000 church attenders in 7000 local churches from more than 22 denominations.

Acacia Room

A short history of global missions research and computers

Michael Jaffarian

The personal computer revolution met an Evangelical missions world whose strategic thinking was deeply colored by the Church Growth movement, the Frontier Missions movement, and the DAWN movement (Discipling a Whole Nation).

As the computer revolution unfolded, Spirit-led Christian missionaries found themselves with new tasks that could be accomplished more quickly, inexpensively, accurately, and effectively. This paper looks especially at some of those tasks in the world of global missions research.

However, there is also a powerful, maybe suspicious, convergence between the people group approach to world evangelization and the powerful data-sorting and information-defining tool of computerized databases. In the end, to what extent has the tool shaped the task? To what extent has this powerful tool, the computer, and its wide circle of related technologies shaped understanding and practice in world missionary work?

Banksia Room

Global data collection & Partners.WorldMAP.org

Chris Deckert

(Note this is a double session.)

Partners.WorldMAP.org is dedicated to making the job of tracking and mapping your ministry easier. This is a free tool dedicated to helping connect the body of Christ with the best global missions information. Each organization is able to track and map their work both locally and globally. Included are forms for data collection in a variety of formats. You may also download your data in multiple formats allowing you to overlay on Google Earth or other mapping programs. The World Missions Atlas Project (www.worldmap.org) has over ten years of experience collecting and displaying maps and data concerning missions.

Session 5B: 11.30 am Friday 11th April

Auditorium

Wider community spirituality:

Mapping it and exploring the difference it may make

Peter Kaldor and Phillip Hughes

Traditionally, simple measures of religious affiliation, beliefs or practices have been seen as useful indicators to include in social surveys exploring a wide range of aspects of human behaviour. In contemporary society questions of meaning have been transferred for many out of the realm of something that is inherited to a personal choice. That personal choice is something made from a supermarket of possibilities that go far beyond the realm of organised religion.

The challenge then for exploring questions of meaning in contemporary society and for exploring its impact, is to develop ways of measuring, mapping and evaluating different types of spirituality and sources of meaning that exist in the marketplace of contemporary life. In order to take this further, NCLS Research and Edith Cowan University combined to develop a project that explored wider community spirituality and sources of meaning among a random sample of Australians through an extensive social survey.

Some initial results of this work will be shared during our presentation, as well as some useful summary measures that could be developed and included in wider social survey work in the future.

Acacia Room

Mapping and missions research in Africa: thinking 'out of the box'

Pierre Wedepohl

An exciting development in Christian missions' research is the role which maps and mapping are playing in this regard and how they are assisting the church in the fulfillment of the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to be His witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). This paper briefly defines what mapping is and how it is of value in missions' research. There is then a brief outline of the history of mapping for mission purposes starting in the 18th Century with William Carey and ending in the current era of information technology. The paper will close with a look at some of the challenges for the future of mapping for missions' research in Africa.

1.00 – 3.00 pm Narana Creations—Exploring the Dreamland (Optional Tour 2)

Learn about Aboriginal history, culture and spirituality, and how these inform the expression of Christian faith among Aboriginal people today. Experience boomerang throwing, didgeridoo playing and learn about and sample some *bush tucker* and medicinal plants.

(only 25 seats available for this free tour. Confirm your attendance at the registration table.)

Session 6A: 1.30pm Friday 11th April

Auditorium

Christ, culture and values in Thailand and Australia

Philip Hughes and Janram Chaisri

While Neibuhr posited several simple paradigms of the ways that 'Christ' and culture might interact, the reality is somewhat more complex. The paper will analyse recent comparative surveys of young people in Thailand and Australia. By comparing the values of Buddhist and Christian young people in Thailand, and Christian young people in Thailand with Christian young people in Australia, it will show the comparable influences of religious tradition and culture. The paper will consider the impact of these findings for Neihbur's paradigms.

Acacia Room

An insight of short-term Christian mission volunteers in Australia

Simon Rose

A study conducted for Scripture Union Australia in 2006 measured a range of aspects concerning their short term mission activities. Self-administered questionnaires were completed by a random sample of 200 short term mission volunteers for Scripture Union. A number of key points were identified and examined in the study including: distribution profile of the demographic and behavioural characteristics of mission volunteers; value of training in evangelism as seen by the mission volunteers; the importance of balancing the task of sharing the Gospel and developing relationships with non-Christians; barriers to mission participation from within and outside the mission; qualitative feedback on past missions as well as suggestions for new activities by the mission volunteers.

Banksia Room

Proposal for Etnopedia

David Markham

(Note: this is a double session.)

Etnopedia.org is an Internet based project that allows bi-lingual Christians to translate unreached peoples' profiles into other languages. It also allows the research effort, mainly by regional and country level researchers, to expand the research process.

There are four themes in this proposal: translating unreached peoples' profiles into as many languages as possible; empowering international multi-lingual translators and researchers; expanding the unreached peoples' research to field level investigators; fostering cooperation, prayer and mobilization. Why people profiles? Because, they are used and understood by the whole church.

Session 6B: 2.15 pm Friday 11th April

Auditorium

God plays 'footy', too

Audra Kuncionas

A recent study of organisational and leadership patterns in rural ministry contexts grew out of a proposal from the Synod of the Uniting Church in South Australia to review the lay ministry teams operating in many rural Uniting churches. The research project combined qualitative research in rural contexts with large-scale quantitative research.

As the ratio of ministers to lay people is rapidly diminishing, the various patterns of lay ministry have become more the norm than the exception. After ten years of lay ministry in rural South

Australia, has it been a successful model of ministry? The Christian Research Association found that the use of lay teams generally resulted in positive outcomes. But there are serious concerns about the stress on people and resources. What new initiatives could be used to ensure effective ministry and the long-term viability of Uniting churches in rural South Australia?

Acacia Room

Mission research panels

Jim McGee

Mission constituencies can be hard to reach for primary data collection. Global Mapping International has begun creating and using opt-in research panels to increase access to primary mission research. The advantages of panels include: increased access to audiences, reduced costs and increased benefits, and more efficient data collection and reporting.

Current panels include: North American Expatriate Missionary Panel (1,500-plus long-term field missionaries from 35 agencies) and North American Prospective Missionary Panel (3,300-plus student mission conference participants who intend to serve in long-term cross-cultural mission).

Global Mapping seeks to develop additional panels and is eager to share ideas and collaborate with others about ways to build and use panels more effectively.

Session 7A: 3.30pm Friday 11th April

Auditorium

A contemporary picture of English churchgoing & its wider implications

Peter Brierley

The fourth English Church Census took place in 2005 across the 38,000 churches in England. What we found, both encouraging and discouraging, will be shared together with trends for the future. Why have some churches grown? Where are the young people? What is happening to families? We will look at the ethnic dimension of churches and the importance of capital cities. How important are larger churches? What is the strategic importance of such data, and how it could be used by others for consideration in other contexts?

Acacia Room

Community and identity among Muslim Arabs who choose to follow a Christian faith

Larry W. Kraft

This research was intended to aid in understanding the challenges faced by Muslim-background individuals when they embrace a Christian faith, the reasons behind those challenges, and help develop methods for helping converts to develop effective means of redefining their identities. It aimed to define what a change in faith or religion means to Muslim Arabs, and to understand how their background affects the development of a new lifestyle and identity. Through interviews and participant observation with Muslim "followers of Christ", this project investigated how people build their lives around their respective experiences of religious conversion and explored the way in which individuals perceive their own religious identity.

Banksia Room

From pastoral contacts to pastoral interventions:

New paradigms in chaplaincy and pastoral care research in Australia

Lindsay Carey

Session 7B: 4.15pm Friday 11th April

Auditorium

Missing from the table:

Why adult Catholics in Australia stop going to Mass

Bob Dixon

In 2005, the Pastoral Projects Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference carried out in-depth interviews with 41 Australian Catholics who had been life-long Mass attenders but who had stopped attending in recent years. The research identified ten major reasons why people stop attending Mass, most of which were already well-known to observers of church life, but the project also uncovered some surprising factors not often described in the research literature. This paper summarises the research methodology and findings, and considers the challenges raised by the research that are facing the Catholic Church in Australia.

Acacia Room

Spiritual development

Suraja Raman

Our spiritual journey is in need of a perspective that is meaningful and relevant. This concerns one's relationship with God, others and oneself. An active involvement in the Spiritual Disciplines is a form of accountability for many areas of our lives, thus moving toward an exemplary model in Christian living and service. Then taking time in regular journaling, entering into a silent retreat, having moments of solitude, and exploring for a Spiritual Director for one's development are a few examples.

Banksia Room

Ministry for a new age: Church-based counselling centres

Viv Mountain

Traditionally the proclamation of the gospel message has been not only in word, but also in caring service to those experiencing need in the society. In recent times many progressive local Churches have responded to the perception of community need through opening Counselling Centres. This is an extension of the pastoral role of the Priest or minister using the Christian faith context linked to current psychological expertise.

The intention of this research project is to investigate the contribution being made by these church-based, community counselling centres. This study will not aim to evaluate the centres but rather to gather a wide understanding of the varieties of service and operational models.

Other Papers Received but Not Yet Scheduled

The impact of research in the church today

Godfrey Olise

The lack of Christ-like love among members is of great concern to all. It demands urgent attention; a call to build healthy, selfless and supportive friendships in the church. Long lasting relationships of oneness that will continue even in heaven. The challenge of members relating to one another has been enormous in recent times.

A member relationship survey was carried out to make recommendations that will enhance relationship in the church, which should ignite revival fire in our churches. Leadership and discipleship are about relationship. We can do little to form disciples for Christ without relationship, therefore, relationship is the basis of fulfilling the great commission. It is only through unity and healthy relationships in the Church that can bring down Pentecostal revival fire. Also to note is that unless we exhibit real community we cannot change the world and the remaining 'unreached' peoples of the world.

Perspectives on Evangelical Christian drama and film ministries

Paul-Esupofo Oriade

This paper is about Evangelical Christian drama ministry with the focus on Nigeria but also looking beyond to Africa in general and the global context. Evangelical drama ministry is not for entertainment, it is primarily for real soul winning. It has the potential and creative power, just like the secular movie, to transform the whole world. Communicating the word of God can be done effectively through this creative, unlimited, and irresistible medium. In this way, we stand to tell our world that Jesus is Lord and there is no controversy. At this end time, God is using the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. He is using all available multimedia to reach the world e.g. satellite, cable movies, Internet and other new technologies.

The place of evangelical Christian drama is not far fetched for those who are conversant with the history of theatre; you would agree with me that drama started in the church. Evangelical Christian drama is an act of receiving and presenting the God-given message through the medium of acting for reconciliation of souls of men back to God, for the edification of the body of Christ and glorification of Christ himself. I have been doing research for over ten years on Evangelical Christian drama and film.