"Correct Me If I'm Wrong"

The quarterly bulletin of the Global Community of Mission Information Workers

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Beginning Our Second Year Together

The CMIW taskforce (all three of us) have been thinking about this newsletter "Correct Me if I'm Wrong". One of you put it very well in an email to us a year ago, "*Congratulations on the appearance of vol. 1 no. 1! Cool idea. Now the trick is to keep it going. Newsletters: easy to launch, difficult to sustain. But anyhow – praise the Lord for beginnings. We are a people of hope.*" Yes we are a people of hope, and God has also given your taskforce a little persistence. This is our fifth issue.

We think the **size and shape** of CMIW is about right:

- Two or three articles of about one page each
- One profile of a real person and what they do
- A bit of Bible thinking
- Very simple email form for those with low speed or unreliable internet
- Nice formatting if you have reasonable internet access

But what will go into those articles? We hope that often one will be filled with your emails. You saw that in the last issue. But you didn't give us so much feedback this quarter … so you won't find a correspondence section in this issue. But you will find the first of what we hope will be two series in future.

Information-rich resources. We hope to connect you with information – to provide information about information. In this issue are details about the Evangelical Training Directory. Would you like to write a review of Patrick Johnstone's "The Future of the Global Church" for our next edition? Or could you contribute an article on GMI's InfoBank or the World Christian Database? Or maybe you have an information resource that you manage. Tell us about it. Where is the information that can help us to help the people we serve?

Initiatives you can connect with. Many information initiatives are of limited scope and that is good. But information value can increase if it is shared. This is the thinking behind many information initiatives. Andrew Sears is working on that with his practical work to improve the "Christian Social Graph". You may want to join in. Do you know of other initiatives that we can join in?

There are other things we are thinking of. We want to help apply "ordinary" Christian life to the "special" world of mission information management. One of the topics we think is important is **discipling new mission information workers** and handing over the work when the time comes. This does not come easily to most of us. We may enjoy ideas, numbers or technology more than interacting with people. But if we don't disciple new people, who will? How were you discipled into you current work? Have we got good examples of one generation handing over to another? Tell us, and we can give an example to others.

Enjoy this newsletter. Do to other mission information workers as you want them to do for you. … and don't forget … **correct me if I'm wrong**!

Chris Maynard for the CMIW Task Force

Deep Wells, Hey Look! (a good source of information)

The Evangelical Training Directory (www.etdi.org)

What is the Evangelical Training Directory? This is a free searchable online database at www.etdi.org with information on Bible, missionary and practical training courses world-wide. Searches can be carried out by subject category, keyword, academic level, country and region. You can also register training so that others can find what you are offering. Just click on Register Your Organization.

The project is endorsed by the World Evangelical Alliance. The goal is that people everywhere can more easily find the training they need to serve Christ. The site is currently functioning in 22 languages. The aim is that there be one database with information on all evangelical courses world-wide which can be accessed through many interfaces in different languages. Any evangelical alliance or other organization can have its own free search-page in which its members are pre-selected in the search criteria, so that it appears part of the organization's website.

Who is cooperating in this project? Major evangelical sites have integrated the database into their homepages – such as the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) (www.worldevangelical.org), the International Missionary Training Network of the WEA Mission Commission (www.theIMTN.org), the UK Evangelical Alliance (www.eauk.org) and the South Pacific Association of Bible Colleges (www.spaec.org). Dr Christopher Wright, Director of the Langham Partnership International, and formerly principal of All Nations Christian College is also backing the project.

Who is running the Evangelical Training Directory? The project is run by the Missionary Training Service, a member of the Evangelical Alliance in the UK and Global Connections (the Evangelical Missionary Alliance). The Evangelical Training Directory is an Associate of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), and is cooperating with other member bodies of the World Evangelical Alliance. An international team checks each entry before it goes live.

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Links in the Chain (an initiative you may want to link with)

A Vision for the Christian Social Graph
by Andrew Sears

What if every Christian could be connected with the needs and resources to maximize their calling on earth? That is the vision of the Christian Social Graph. Just as the Facebook Social Graph provides a technical standard for connecting billions of people and objects on the Internet, so the goal of the Christian Social Graph is to establish an open directory of all the objects on the Internet that Christians may be interested in.
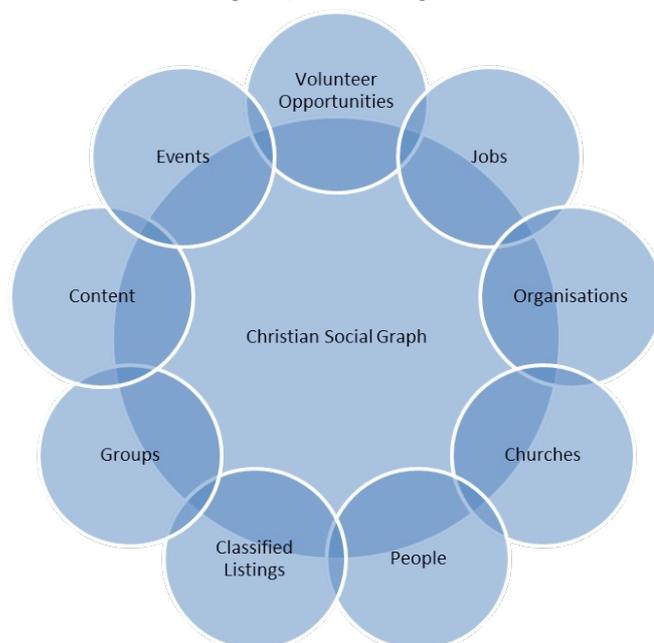
Many people identify the development of the web into three stages. Web 1.0 which consists

mainly of static websites. Web 2.0 which is the social web, and is based on user-contributed content on sites like YouTube, Facebook, Blogger and Twitter. Now Tim Berners-Lee, who invented the Web, is developing what many are calling Web 3.0, or the Semantic Web.

The goal of the Semantic Web is to make data on the Internet readable by computers. This will enable computers and devices to respond to complex requests. Recently Apple demonstrated their Siri feature for the iPhone. They asked the phone, "Who is taller, Lebron James or Kobe Bryant?" The phone responded, "Lebron James appears to be slightly taller." The phone was able to do this because it recognized those names as basketball players and looked up their height in a database. That is just one example of the millions of possibilities with the Semantic Web.

The goal of the Christian Social Graph is to make data of interest to Christians openly machine readable as a part of the Semantic Web. One could imagine a day where someone could ask Siri on their iPhone, "Find me an evangelical church that has contemporary worship and kids programs." Then it could provide a list of churches that meet those criteria. I might be able to tell Siri, "I want to attend a small group within 10 miles of my house that is studying the Gospels on Tuesday or Wednesday night." Siri could then list all the church groups meeting those criteria.

While this is in the future, the question now is how can we build the Christian Social Graph to make that possible. At TechMission we have started to build with the objects shown in the adjacent diagram. An early objective is to provide a comprehensive directory of churches and para-church organizations. Then we can map Christian volunteer, missions and job opportunities to those organizations as well as small groups and events. We currently have about 11,000 Christian volunteer/missions opportunities, 6,000 Christian jobs and 15,000 organizations. In the next year, we expect to expand this to include most churches and para-church organizations in the USA.

We provide this data through our open Christian Social Graph API (an interface for programmers) so that they can incorporate the data into their apps and websites. We have already secured more than 20 partners who are both contributing and reusing data. We view the Christian Social Graph as something that will be built by thousands of Christian organizations and individuals contributing and reusing data. In building the Christian Social Graph, we hope that it will enable each Christian to be better connected with the needs and resources to maximize their calling on earth.

For more information visit: http://www.christianvolunteering.org/apiaccess.jsp and http://www.slideshare.net/techmission/christian-social-graph-v2

Who's Who in Mission Information
Special Profile: Adaobi Ruby Okoro

1. [CMIW] Ada, we understand that you work for an esteemed African missions organization which works in many African countries and focus primarily on unreached people groups. **Please tell us a bit about yourself.** [ARO] I currently live in my home country of Nigeria, but I have also served in Francophone West Africa as a researcher.

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2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [ARO] I work for Calvary Ministries (CAPRO) and I do research among unreached people groups in Togo, Benin Republic and Cote d'Ivoire. I'm presently doing country surveys to determine entry strategies.

3. [CMIW] **What contributions have you made to missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [ARO] I was happy to participate in the publication of a book on research information on Togo. I also contributed to the training of about 100 people (one hundred) in people group research. Truly, not many people are interested in supporting research work financially, so we are grateful for these victories.

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [ARO I would like to receive more training in research. I would love to see the multiplication of researchers in Africa and elsewhere. If God should open the doors, I would also like to do some teaching in Bible schools here. As for the rest, I really don't know.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you would be willing to help the CMIW community?** [ARO] Yes, I would like to know how I might help the community in the future.

Information from the Word

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17) Can mission information workers sharpen researchers? Would it be a good idea? How does it happen? What does it look like? When did you last sharpen another mission information worker? When were you last sharpened by one?

Final Details:

- This bulletin is produced by the Community of Mission Information Workers Task Force comprised of Larry Kraft, Stephanie Kraft and Chris Maynard. Please send any suggestions of issues to discuss or any other ideas to *"cmiw@worksmail.net"*.
- Editorial team: Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution: Larry.