



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers

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Collaboration in Data Sharing

By Mike Waid and Bill Sundstrom

At a *Finishing the Task* gathering in California last year, several ministry leaders met to discuss their joint vision of planting a church for every 1,000 people in the world. They concluded that in order to better understand the task remaining, they needed to do a better job of sharing information.

So they put together an informal group called “The Coalition of the Willing.” Willing, that is, to collaborate in identifying where churches are needed and to share existing data. As they researched the best way to share data, they learned that iShare was specifically designed to do just what they wanted for every country of the world.

iShare (isharesystem.org), a data sharing and visualization tool, allows multiple ministries to share church-planting and church-presence data any way they choose, while at the same time keeping their information secure and private. Through collaboration, a clear picture emerges of where the church exists and where it still needs to go.

The vision of a church for every 1,000 people in the world is unique in that it’s both quantitative and geographic, and no single organization owns this vision. The founding criteria of iShare address these issues. First, it’s partner driven, allowing for multiple organizations to contribute. Secondly, it collects not only quantitative data, in terms of numbers of churches planted, but also geographic data, namely the specific locations where those churches meet. Finally, it provides a pictorial description of that data.

Many of the Coalition of the Willing members were already using existing tools to capture data, such as GenMapper (developed by NoPlaceLeft and IMB) and Disciple.Tools (guided by a coalition of various organizations and nationalities). We felt that the best way to share data would be to link these systems and others together, so that all willing partners could flow data into the iShare environment.

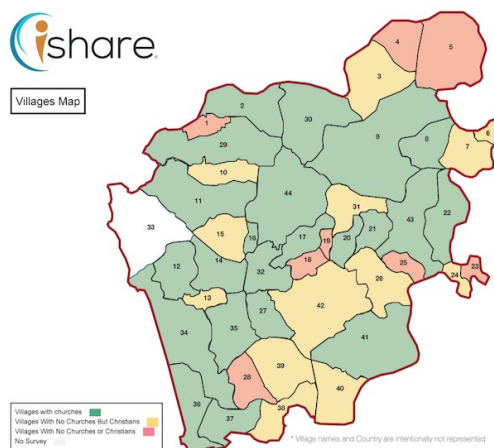
Last summer the Coalition of the Willing collaborated on a pilot project in three countries. Several lessons were learned.

First, data sharing must be a leadership initiative, not a tech or operations or even a research initiative. When leadership gets behind the idea, data sharing becomes possible.

Second, it became apparent that many organizations were not tracking the location of their church plants in a way that makes it easy to share the data. They may give the name of a village, for example, but not the region or province. It’s difficult to flow that information into a system like iShare, as there could be multiple villages with that name in different parts of a country, or even different names for the same village.

Finally, data sharing enables us to follow the Holy Spirit. Through collaboration we can see where God is at work, ask who has resources in that area, and rally those resources to maximize what God is doing.

Collecting good data is hard. But the benefit of collaboration in collecting data is worth the trouble, for it guides everyone in making strategic plans and allocating resources. Therefore, the Coalition of the Willing invites everyone to join them in sharing church-planting data, so that together we can see a church planted in every community in the world.



If you would like more information about iShare or want to join the Coalition of the Willing, please contact info@isharesystem.org. Mike Waid serves with Global Church Movements, and is responsible for Mapping and Reporting.

Coalition of the Willing

By *Dusty Hoffman*

The sun is rising again on an old idea, giving it fresh life and fresh energy. Though completion is still decades off we are glimpsing the first rays shining on the day when the body of Christ can stand and say “Yes, we have worked together to get the gospel to every person and every place.” We believe we are seeing the first light of a new dawn in the Kingdom: collaborating to get a church in every village.

In 2019 leaders of various church planting ministries began informal conversations that led them to discover there was no broadly shared village-level data related to disciple making and church presence. Without village level data it would be impossible to know if the gospel had made it to every person in every place. Those early conversations would eventually become The Coalition of the Willing (COTW), a group of church planting ministries that have committed to work together to plant a church in every village.

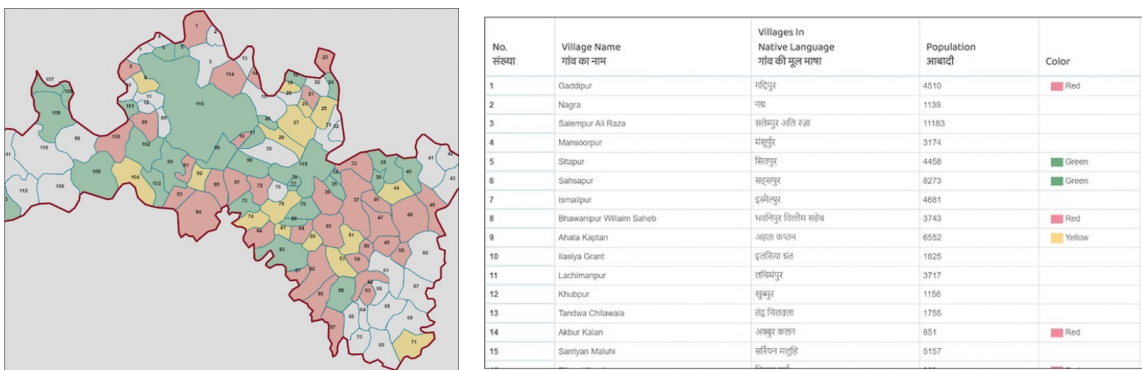
The goal of the COTW is best summed up in Habakkuk 2:14, “That the knowledge of the glory of the Lord would fill the earth.” We can see the day when every person and every place has the gospel and a church. We can see the day when all of this is made possible by thorough, village level data and maps.

To date, many organizations are involved at varying levels of COTW, including Team Expansion, E3 Partners, Cru, 24:14, Zume, East West, The Timothy Initiative, Big Life, Every Home for Christ, and the IMB. Entry to the COTW is built on relationship, trust and the assumption that ministries are willing to share data with one another.

FIRST STEPS: Throughout 2020, involved organizations made agreements with one another and took the following first steps:

- Identify 3 countries to begin in: Ethiopia, India, Nepal
- Get various data collection systems to be able to all sync together. Today GenMapper, Disciple.Tools and iShare can all share data with one another.
- Initially focus on collecting only two data points: Believers and Churches
- Ensure the security of data to protect indigenous workers
- Not require involved organizations to all use the same definitions (church, movement, etc). God has called each organization to their methods, materials and definitions. There is freedom in the COTW for each organization to maintain its core DNA.
- Start to create village and district level maps in the three countries that can answer two questions: What areas have a church? What areas do not have a church?

SAMPLE MAP & VILLAGE LIST: COTW organizations are now in the early stages of sharing data with one another. Shared data is used to create village maps and lists like the sample seen below. The maps use a stop light coloring system. Green = village with believers and a church. Yellow = village with believers but no church. Red = village with no believers and no church.



GET INVOLVED If you or your ministry would like to get involved, please email us via the CMIW address at the close of this bulletin.



Introducing InterSearch

By Judy Houston

InterSearch is a consortium of Christian media ministries that works to improve members' access to and use of professional research. Members consist of digital providers, international broadcasters (radio, television, online), content producers and production houses, as well as traditional missions for whom media is a component of what they do.

InterSearch exists because formative and evaluative research to assess the extent to which media drives change (in hearts and minds or in behaviour) is a highly specialised field. And for leaders in this field, it is super useful to have a network of like-minded folk to interact with and comparative experience to draw upon. At the same time, membership enables valuable economies of scale.

Members have access to a variety of services: bi-monthly webinars; a curated monthly digest of emerging research that is relevant for media ministries and members' countries of focus; an online document library of historic research and related materials; global information flow through InterSearch's subscriptions to key 'industry' bodies; and access to the InterSearch manager who can provide a desk research service or advisory support for members wishing to commission research. Our manager can also arrange peer review of research designs or draft studies – a process which helps deliver academic rigour and supports shared learning. Collaborative research or shared data purchase is also possible where members' interests overlap sufficiently.

InterSearchers meet in person during the first week of March each year to learn together and discuss developments in media usage, societal trends, audience analysis, media strategy, evaluative research and research techniques. In 2021, this will unfold in Finland. This is the only meeting of its type – audience focused, research based and specific to Christian media.

Membership is by application with an annual fee. If this sounds useful to your ministry, we can connect you with one of our existing members to hear about their experience. Please see more information at: intersearchmedia.org or contact intersearch.manager@gmail.com

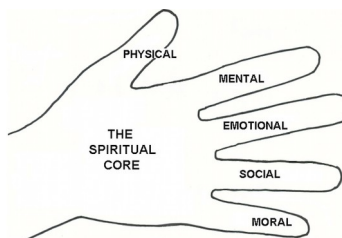
The Hand Model: Reflections for research

Letter to Younger Researchers
by Dr Suraja Raman



Dear researchers, greetings in the strong Name of Jesus Christ.

I am writing this letter to all of you as you commence on the ministry of research writing. I would like to suggest that you consider using models to inspire you as you reflect on this journey. Models can be useful for depicting theoretical frameworks. The Hand Model, for example, is an educational model, illustrated and communicated by my professor, mentor, and dissertation director Ted Ward. (For a full description see "Values Begin At Home," 1989, Victor Books.) This model can be used to help represent the concept of sin and the love of Jesus Christ towards sinners:



The hand represents us, that each one of God's created being is important in the Kingdom of God. Each finger represents our human development in the physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral realms. The spiritual core is represented in the centre of the hand. This is an important aspect of being a human being created in the image of God.

In the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4), Jesus ministers in all the realms. Physically, she was thirsty and came to the well for water. This was not met because she needed living water. Mentally, she had many questions and discovered that Christ was not just a prophet but the Messiah. Socially, she was ostracized because of her background, but Christ took time to minister to her though she was a Samaritan and a woman, and He a Jew and a man. Culturally this was unacceptable, but Christ had broken all barriers and revealed that God loves and accepts us just as we are. Morally, she was living in sin and needed forgiveness of her sins. Christ responded broadly to her needs.

The woman had forgotten her original intention for coming to the well; instead she ran to the town and became a witness to the Samaritans. Later the Samaritans believed because of Christ's message to

them also. Her loneliness ended and a sense of relief came when Christ initiated the dialogue with an opening request: Give me a drink. Because of this moving encounter, she went to the town and openly declared regarding the humanity and deity of Christ: "He told me all that I ever did." (Jn 4: 39). The result was that "many more believed because of His word." (Jn 4: 41).

Research is intended to uncover truth. To do so holistically, our research needs to be undergirded with a solid understanding of the human person and its complexity. Employing a model such as Ward's enables us to do so systematically. As you embark on your research career remember that every group we study, each person we interview, is complex and has diverse needs. As Christian researchers, we need to take time in our communication and ministry to consider these human realities. We need to keep the communication process a meaningful one through sincere relationships with those involved in our research. This is my prayer: that you will be motivated to develop a research model that will impact the hearts of readers to a response for the Kingdom of God.

Blessings in the Risen Christ,
Suraja Raman - surajaraman@gmail.com

Dr Suraja Raman served as a missionary with Asia Evangelistic Fellowship in Asia (Malaysia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka), sent and commissioned by her home church, Fairfield Methodist, Singapore. More recently she taught in Kenya, East Africa, at Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST), now known as Africa International University (AIU).

An alumna of Asbury Theological Seminary and Trinity International University, Suraja earned the Master of Religious Education in 1982 and a PhD in Educational Studies in 1993 respectively.

Currently, Suraja is back home in Singapore serving as an adjunct faculty with Africa International University, (Kenya), Alpha Omega International College, Malaysia Evangelical College (West and East Malaysia), Discipleship Training Centre (Singapore), and the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (Philippines).

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Dan Scribner

1) [CMIW] Please tell us about yourself.

I grew up in a close-knit family and everyone in my family became followers of Jesus within a two-year period. I came to faith in Christ as Savior through a Billy Graham evangelistic film in my early teen years. In college I became involved with a daily prayer group focused on the countries of the world using Operation World which changed the direction of my life. After graduating with an engineering degree, I joined Campus Crusade/Cru and served in Guam and Japan for two years. I met my wife, Mary, and after four years with General Electric eventually joined the staff of the U.S. Center for World Mission / Frontier Ventures in 1988 and have been with them ever since. I was seconded to the AD2000 & Beyond Movement from 1992 to 2000 and have served as the Joshua Project team leader since 1995. We currently live in Colorado and have four adult children and two grandchildren.



2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

I currently serve as the Joshua Project team leader. Joshua Project is a ministry of Frontier Ventures and is a small, three-person, unreached peoples research initiative. Joshua Project compiles people group information from numerous sources and missions researchers to develop as comprehensive as possible a list of all ethnic peoples. Joshua Project then highlights those people groups that are considered unreached. Our goal is to help paint the picture of the unfinished task of the Great Commission and encourage pioneer church-planting movements among every ethnic group.

3) [CMIW] What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?

It has been very satisfying to help the Body of Christ in a small way see the unfinished task of the Great Commission and have mission agencies, denominations and missionaries use Joshua Project people group information to focus their ministries on the least-reached peoples. Jesus is worthy of worship from every tribe, tongue, nation and people. As Joshua Project has highlighted unreached people groups of the world where He is not receiving worship, it has been satisfying to then see pioneer church planting efforts started in their midst as a result and new worship of the Lamb begin.

4) [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?**

Several dreams come to mind.

- A fresh and compelling presentation of the unfinished task of the Great Commission that engages and motivates a younger generation and the global Church.
- A mission emphasis on both people groups and places. The Church has been rightly focused on engaging every people group, but now the Gospel needs to move to every place within every people group. A dream is that saturation church planting via indigenous Kingdom movements within people groups becomes the focus of global missions.
- The forces of language consolidation, urbanization, globalization and migration are blurring the boundaries of traditional ethnolinguistic people groups. Existing people group identities are being mixed and recombined, and new hybrid identities are being created. A hope is that Joshua Project and other people group focused ministries can adapt and continue to be relevant in a rapidly changing world.

5) [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?**

Everything Joshua Project produces is available at no cost on the website (www.joshuaproject.net). A great variety of resources and data downloads are available. We can also provide special datasets upon request. Don't hesitate to ask at (info@joshuaproject.net). We are eager to use the people group information that has been entrusted to us for any purpose that helps expand the Lord's Kingdom. Joshua Project also offers the Unreached of the Day (www.unreachedoftheday.org) via mobile app, daily email, podcast, web widget and more.

See You There ... Virtually!

In August we held a series of open Zoom meetings for information workers. They were well received, with old friends reunited, new friends made, and interesting topics explored. We are not sure how often to do this, but it seemed to work well and some of you would have joined but were unable to do so. So once again we have scheduled three Zoom meetings on one day. These are specifically for mission information workers, but you are welcome whatever your degree of involvement, level of experience or special interests. There is no hard agenda, but we may end up discussing items in this bulletin. The date is Thursday November 12th. To make it easier for your time zone and your schedule there will be three different connection times:

06:00 UTC (e.g. 2pm in Singapore)

12:00 UTC (e.g. 1pm in Nigeria)

18:00 UTC (e.g. 10am in California)

We expect each meeting to last one hour.

Join Zoom Meeting ID: **979 6766 4838** Passcode: **382368**

<https://zoom.us/j/97967664838?pwd=SkQyV2d2Q0pUVnZZVm42MDZQLy8xQT09>

If you hope to come, it would encourage us to know. We hope to see you there ... virtually!

Farewell to a Second-career Giant Ted Bergman (1938-2020)

The story of **Ted Bergman**, a notable pioneer in SIL, is one of God's providence and direction. After twenty-one years in engineering physics, Ted and his wife Gwen joined Wycliffe. His "second career" was remarkable for Bible translation and language development. All who knew Ted were amazed at how much of his previous experience God used in his work with language survey coordination.



Ted was born 29 November 1938. He attended Westmont College for three years where he met Gwen. They were married in 1959 and had two daughters. Ted studied at the University of Wyoming, then moved on to the University of California Berkeley where he received a BA in Physics (1961). While

employed by the Navy, he earned an MA in Engineering Physics (1964). Finally, he studied at Colorado State U in Ft. Collins where he received a PhD in Physics (1970).

As a physicist, Ted worked as a civilian at the US Naval Weapons Center designing optics, laser equipment and guidance systems for missiles. His job took him all over the world, including at-sea visits to laser designator systems on aircraft carriers. In February 1977, while in Washington DC for Pentagon meetings, news reached him of the untimely death of their 15-year-old daughter. Searching the Bible for comfort, the Scriptures came alive. As Ted read of God's intention to bless all "nations, he realized this implied every ethnic group—each group that speaks a language different from its neighbor. His daughter's death gave Ted a sense of urgency and he and Gwen looked for a way to bring God's message to the unreached peoples of the world. Wycliffe Bible Translators captured their attention, as Ted's experience with statistics and data seemed a natural fit with language assessment.

At age 44 the Bergmans joined Wycliffe and Ted created a fledgling department called "Survey," which later became the powerhouse of SIL's language development ministry. As the first International Language Survey Coordinator, Ted recruited, supported and encouraged survey teams all over the globe – helping each entity appoint a survey team leader and organize surveyors for their region. Ted was also influential in founding, along with John Bendor-Samuel, the International Language Assessment Conferences. He pioneered the SIL Electronic Survey Reports, serving for many years as their Editor-in-Chief. These provided basic data about non-dominant languages and the communities to which those languages belonged, thus contributing to decision-making for language development. Another innovation from Ted was to begin the electronic mapping program that was included in the Ethnologue.

Ted's ministry would include thirteen years of field work in Kenya, serving as survey coordinator on the Africa Area staff and contributing to the establishment of the SIL Electronic Survey Report. His strong vision for people profiles facilitated his stepping into the Ethnologue editorship. This led to the formation of the HARVEST Information System (HIS) which developed a set of standard codes for the identification of people groups, religions, geographic entities, etc. He championed the collection of people-group information by SIL's surveyors and doggedly kept this topic before the surveyors. The information collected by SIL was regularly passed on to the Bibleless Peoples Prayer Project, Joshua Project, and others. An inveterate recruiter, Ted regularly gave this advice: "Serve God, love your family, and do survey."

Information from the Word

In Suraja's Letter to Younger Researchers, we learn that Jesus drew out the Samaritan woman's heart by initiating a conversation which touched all aspects of her personhood (John 4: 3-42). He used questions and statements of personal disclosure. How do we as researchers develop rapport with the groups and individuals that are part of our study efforts? Do we view our collaborators as simple data sources or as unique and complex reflections of the image of God?

Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team is comprised of Chris Maynard, Duane Frasier, Larry Kraft, Nelson Jennings, Rodrigo Tinoco and Stephanie Kraft.
- Please send any comments, suggestions or ideas to us at info@globalcmiw.org.
- Back issues can be found at www.globalcmiw.org.