



## “Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global  
Community of Mission Information Workers

Volume 11, Number 2, April 2021

### Celebration Time!!



July 2021 will mark the tenth anniversary of “Correct Me If I’m Wrong,” the e-bulletin of the Community of Mission Information Workers. We are planning a mini on-line gathering to celebrate this milestone. We’ll have a few brief presentations, a bit of music, and a time for prayers of thanks and petition for the years ahead.

Please mark your calendar and join us on Tuesday, the **27th of July 2021**, from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC. If you’re not able to stay for the whole two-hour celebration, drop in for as much as you can.



We will open the meeting 30 minutes ahead of time for testing connections, so feel free to pop in to chat.

Note: Registration details will be posted in our July 2021 CMIW bulletin and on our web site [www.globalcmiwi.org](http://www.globalcmiwi.org).

### A Letter to Young Researchers

by Stephanie Kraft

Dear Fellow Information Workers,

I’ll soon be starting my thirty-fifth year in our “occupation.” My first assignment as a missionary researcher in Brazil was to fill in the empty fields of a database on Brazilian mission sending structures. My most recent assignment was editing a qualitative report done by an African pastor on conclusions drawn from interviews with Tanzanian church leaders. In between I have written surveys, done library searches, helped run focus groups, conducted interviews, and fiddled with maps (mostly tweaking colors and ranges, as I am not proficient with GIS). I have organized research conferences and suggested cross-tabulations in desperate efforts to make mute data spew out something significant. I have prayed with colleagues who were tired and discouraged, just wanting to get their project done no matter what the outcome. I have loved my work and I hope to continue until my grandchildren no longer ask me to tell them interesting facts about far-away places.



If I could say anything to my younger self, my advice to her, and to you who are my contemporary, younger research friends now, would be:

**1) Write, write, write!** Share what you’re working on, even if it’s still in progress. (This is especially pertinent if yours is a minority voice, and your mother tongue is not English.) The world needs to hear about your research and your perspective on why it matters! Describe it. Invite comment and collaboration. Start a blog. Ask to place a paragraph or two in your organization’s internal communication. Post it where it will be seen. Writing (i.e. words and, increasingly, visuals) is still the best way to make influential contributions. If you’re conducting any sort of investigation, and if the subject matter permits, you will give your conclusions life as you share them with others. (You will even benefit from your own review of your work, because writing disciplines thinking). Of course this can be tricky, as you will need to respect protocols for information dissemination and request permissions of various sorts. Nevertheless, I wish I had written more during our early years when fresh discoveries hit us like lightning bolts. We could have given our research projects more energy to promote real Kingdom transformation.

The corollary, of course, is to **read lots**. Take in the work of others--as much as you can make time for. And read broadly, across disciplines. The Kingdom deserves our finest research efforts informed by the keenest insights from the most reliable sources.

**2) Enjoy your discoveries.** Your delight in them will cause you to share them with greater enthusiasm, and their potential for impact will increase. I remember the growth study we did on one of São Paulo's thriving new church plants. We calculated AARGs (Average Annual Growth Rates), plotted annual attendance and, Wham! What caused that dramatic decline in year X? Imagine our excitement when we learned, upon interviewing the pastor, that X was the year their small group staff member left. Our numbers verified the training that our mission was doing to promote small groups for growth. We were ecstatic! (Subsequent sad note: We could have broadly shared the richness of that discovery had we simply asked permission to publish that growth study. Alas, we never did. See #1 above.)

Warning: If you engage in #2, you may develop the reputation for starting every conversation with "Did you know...?" People might accuse you of being an Enneagram Type 5. Is it strange to find joy in data? Not at all! Remember how many times Jesus told us to observe, to ponder, to "consider" (Matthew 6:28; Luke 12:24). We have His permission, even His command, to meditate on our discoveries with gratitude and joy.

**3) Cherish your team.** The nature of our work, which often demands careful attention to detail, might tempt us toward isolation. The nature of information workers can tend toward introversion. (Of our current research team of fourteen, only two test as MBTI extroverts). The practical, professional, and personal advantages of working with a good team are well documented so, if you do not have one, please find one. If you cannot find one, please build one. Perhaps build two-- one that will work with you and one that will pray for you. Compassion, camaraderie, accountability, creativity – the blessings of a loving team are like gold to me.

**4) Resist discouragement.** Even if your intended audience doesn't take your analysis on board and make immediate change as a result of your research, they may some day. Or not. Someone else may. Research reports are famous for their capacity to collect dust, but they also can carry an authority that goes beyond their initial scope. Some of our data sets have the potential to change the world. Others may end up touching a lone relationship, or even transforming a single conversation that happens in the context of ministry. It may be that much of what you've written will be read by only a few people (and your appendices may never get read in full). But... you may find that that one question you asked, of just the right people in just the right way, revealed a truth that will become revolutionary. Hold onto the reality that every research project you have undertaken has created a context for learning and/or uncovered a truth that was hidden. If you can do that, you may recapture the motivation to persevere, even when it feels like you are slogging through methodological mud.

Research is inquiry (asking), often in very intentional ways (seeking) and usually requiring a good deal of persistence (knocking). We've been promised results from our efforts (Matthew 7:8) so, to my young researcher friends, and to myself, I say, "With God's help, let's keep at it."

**Stephanie Kraft** is a member of our [CMIW](#) Facilitation and Editorial Teams. She and her husband Larry live in the UK and are members of the Global Research Team of [OC International](#).

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## Mission Hits

by *Chris Howles*

As a British missionary theological-educator in Uganda wishing to learn and grow in my cross-cultural ministry, and as a Missiology doctoral candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary, I am very aware of the vast quantity of outstanding academic and popular-level resources being generated each week related to world mission and world Christianity. However, it is so often hard to find and prioritize them all!



That's why in June 2020 I launched [www.fromeverynation.net](http://www.fromeverynation.net) as an online platform to collect, curate, and communicate the most stimulating and significant contemporary missiological resources. At the heart of the website are two email lists you can sign up to:

1) **'Mission Hits'** is a twice-monthly email containing links to books, articles, podcasts, videos, conferences, and other media from the previous days related to world mission/world Christianity. With 15-20 links in each email, and short descriptions of each resource too, this fortnightly digest means you can easily benefit from the best recent material without having to stay connected to a dizzying array of different websites and ministries.

2) **'Mission Hits Journals'** is a four-times-a-year email containing lists (with links) to all journal / periodical articles from the 31 (and counting) different academic publications related to world mission and world Christianity from that previous quarter. From 'Transformation' to 'Missionalia', and from 'The International Review of Mission' to 'Evangelical Missions Quarterly', this email enables you to keep thoroughly up to date with contemporary missiological trends and ideas, and means you don't need to risk missing out on something relevant to you and your area of interest.

The [www.fromeverynation.net](http://www.fromeverynation.net) website is a great resource for missiologists, researchers, teachers, missionaries, pastors and interested lay leaders to deepen their understanding of and engagement in God's worldwide purposes for His own glory.

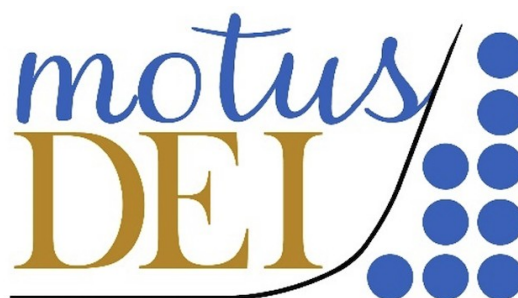
For more information, including full archives, and to sign up to 'Mission Hits', 'Mission Hits Journals', or both, then visit [www.fromeverynation.net](http://www.fromeverynation.net).

**Chris Howles.** Head of Theology, Uganda Martyrs Seminary, Namugongo Mission Partner Crosslinks-BCMS Doctoral candidate, Fuller Theological Seminary.

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## The Motus Dei Network and Mission Information Workers

by Warrick Farah



[Motus Dei](#) (Latin for 'movement of God') is a network for the missiological study of discipleship movements. We aim to connect researchers, theologians, and mission leaders – men and women, from the Global North and South – in order to build harmonious relationships and to facilitate a strategic discussion around the current movement phenomenon.

The proliferation of these movements, up sharply even since 2005, may represent “the single most significant shift in global missionary strategy in the past century.”<sup>(1)</sup> If this is true, then our missiological research is lagging far behind this element of God's work in the world. Our research bias is not to sensationalize the emergence of movements and neither to criticize their existence. Motus Dei is an informal, trust-based network which shares and discusses strategic research on global movements to Christ.

The network launched in the fall of 2020 via a virtual Movements Research Symposium. Keynote speakers included David Garrison, David Lim, and Craig Ott. The first major output from our network is a forthcoming book with William Carey Publishing later in 2021, entitled *Motus Dei: The Movement of God and the Discipleship of Nations*. It includes more than 20 original chapters of research and missiological insight. Movements are variously examined through biblical theology, sociological dynamics, leadership praxes, media, ethnodoxology, and descriptive case studies. Through the integration of these perspectives, we hope to holistically understand movements and how we can better join in the movement of God today.

Yet, this book is only a first step. We envision a multi-year conversation on movements, bringing together mission agencies, movement practitioners, and academic research centers. As researchers, we engage on email forums and occasional webinars and virtual meetings. It is important to note that we do not all agree on how to define movements, how to research them, nor how to catalyze them. But we believe that our nuances make our discourse richer.

Because together we are greater than the sum of our individual parts, Motus Dei is a learning community. If you have significant experience in movements and would like to join the Motus Dei conversation, or if you have movements research you would like to share, please connect with us at <http://MotusDei.Network>.

For more information:

- [“The Motus Dei Network: Fostering Communal Intelligence on Movements”](#). 2021. *Mission Frontiers* 43 (2): 39–41.
- [“Motus Dei: Disciple-Making Movements and the Mission of God”](#). 2020. *Global Missiology* 2 (17): 1–10.

(1) Curtis Sergeant, Doug Lucas, and David Garrison, “Can Kingdom Movement Strategies Work in North America?” *Mission Frontiers* 43, no. 1 (2021): 8.

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## Who's Who in Missions Information

*Special Profile: Lara Heneveld*



### 1) [CMIW] Please tell us about yourself and your family.

I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home and gave my heart to Jesus as a young child and was baptized in the Southern California ocean as a teen. I am relatively new to the Missional world, having worked in local government and the secular industry prior to discovering my calling later in my life.

My husband, Jon, and I will be celebrating our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary this year and we have two sons. Our eldest, Michael, and our new daughter-in-law live in Seattle, Washington and have started a NFP organization serving the substance dependent and sex worker communities in the city. Our youngest, William, recently graduated from High School and is taking a break year to determine his next steps.

### 2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

I serve with the [Finishing The Task Coalition](#) (FTT) as the Senior Researcher and developed the Data and Research Team (DART). I am also tasked as FTT's Partner Relations Manager. I am passionate for building and maintaining relationships of trust within the global missional information community. I also formed and lead the DARN (Data and Research Network). This group is comprised of trusted FTT Research Partners and leading global data aggregators (IMB, Joshua Project, GACX, Vision5:9 and others) and their research teams who share the desire for transparent, open handed data sharing.

Being allowed to serve the missional information community for the past 14 years in my role at FTT has been the most astonishing and rewarding experience of my life. As a non-academic, I pray that my role as a 'power user' of the major data aggregators' methodologies and offerings be beneficial and provide insight into how the end users perceive and utilize those publicly- accessible missional information tools.

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

The greatest satisfaction I have is in educating and supporting leaders, partners, and non-data minded co-laborers who have been tasked to navigate the missional information world. What is our natural habitat is often viewed as daunting, at best, to those outside of our unique 'tribe'. To guide others through the rich resources available, to attempt to clarify and empower is a humbling and enriching experience.

I also am moved by the growing sense of collaboration, transparency, and trusted brokerages that has been birthed through Finishing The Task's DARN gatherings. When we share, listen, and influence one another we are better equipped and united to serve the Body of Christ.

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

I am expectantly praying to see the many global networks of researchers, field workers, and strategic networks converge into the dynamic, spiritual 'nervous system' that the Body of Christ so desperately needs to serve our King in fulfilling the Great Commission.

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

I would be eager to help however I can. Together we're stronger, more informed, and better able to serve one another!

## Refocusing People Group Data

by Chris Maynard

Something small is stirring in the world of people group data. It looks as if in future we are going to be a little more careful about what we mean by “people group”, specifically when dealing with those that have populations in more than one country.

Take for example the people group “Bosniak” who live mainly in “Bosnia”. This is one people group. Yet they now live in dozens of countries. Sometimes we treat them, and count them, and speak of them as one people group. Yet sometimes we have treated them, counted them, and spoken of them as dozens of people groups – one for each country in which they live.

There is a move towards consistently treating “Bosniak” always as one people group. In many ways this is a small change, but I hope it will bring greater clarity, and remove one small source of confusion. It is not yet taken up by every custodian of people group data, but some have always seen it this way. For some it will take some time to implement.

We don't yet have agreement across PG lists about how we will refer to “Bosniaks in Germany”, “Bosniaks in Serbia”, etc. and as part of the Global Data Initiative I am giving some coordination to these and other discussions.

If you would like to understand more of the reasons for this move towards consistency, or to be involved in further discussion, or just to be informed of plans and outcomes in this area, please let me know at [Chris.Maynard@transforminginformation.com](mailto:Chris.Maynard@transforminginformation.com).

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### Information from the Word

The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and the Rodanites. (From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.) ... These are the sons of Ham by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.” Genesis 10:4,5,20 NIV. This chapter is often called “The Table of Nations”. It is indeed a sort of annotated table of data. But using our current terminology in mission circles, would it be more accurate to call it a table of people groups - or not?

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### Call for Articles on Representing Data

An upcoming issue of the CMIW bulletin will feature the presentation of various types of data, and we invite your contributions on that overall topic! Articles about visual, audio, verbal, and other types of presentation are welcome. Submissions may range from 200 to 500 words, and of course the inclusion of graphics or other media will factor into length considerations as well. We look forward to receiving your contributions!

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#### 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](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org).
- Back issues can be found at [www.globalcmiw.org](http://www.globalcmiw.org).