



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers

Volume 11, Number 3, July 2021

You are invited....

... to a celebration of God's faithfulness to our
Community as reflected in ten years of the
existence of our e-bulletin
"Correct Me If I'm Wrong!"



Who: All who receive and read our bulletins, in part or in whole, and even those who wish they had the time to do so

When: Tuesday, the 27th of July 2021, from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC

Where: Via Zoom (Please register beforehand [HERE](#))

What: A varied, two-hour long, virtual, thanksgiving party, which will include

- A reflection on “Research and Worship”
- A bit of music
- Breakout sessions hosted by *Samuel Kabreab, Justin Long, Steve Moon, Stan Nussbaum, and Molly Wall*
- A plenary presentation by *Patrick Johnstone* on the development of missions information work and workers
- Breakout sessions to share what you've been working on
- A party favor (little gift) for all who attend

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.

Please click [HERE](#) to let us know you plan to come. We look forward to celebrating with you.

“Testimonies and Tidbits from CMIW’s First Decade”

The ten-year journey of the CMIW, an acronym representing both the **Community of Mission Information Workers** and its quarterly publication “**Correct Me if I’m Wrong**,” has included several inspiring highlights, mundane regularities, and some lighthearted quirks.

Beginnings

- Sas Conradie and Mark Orr had been instrumental in the work of JIMI (Joint Information Management Initiative) of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission (WEA-MC). As JIMI was winding up its operations, one area in which Conradie initiated new activity was the strengthening of interpersonal relationships among information workers, which led into the formation of CMIW.
- In 2010 the CMIW began as a WEA-MC Task Force at the invitation of the then Executive Director Bertil Ekstrom. It later continued as a Network under both the WEA-MC and the Lausanne Movement.
- Larry Kraft, Stephanie Kraft, and Chris Maynard constituted the original Task Force. After initially gathering in London’s Victoria Station to consider the status of mission information and the needs of mission information workers throughout the world, they crafted the CMIW vision statement in October 2010. This statement has been renewed and updated annually (and is posted on the CMIW website at globalcmiw.org/Vision).

Bulletin

The CMIW bulletin, “Correct Me If I’m Wrong,” has been the group’s central communication conduit since its inaugural distribution in July 2011. It not only seeks to inform but to invite interaction among its “members.” Indeed, the CMIW has had no formal membership; it envisions itself as a “community of practice” which extends beyond organizational and geographic boundaries.

- The first bulletins were sent out in English only as simple, plain-text emails because the Task Force was keen to make sure that people in every country could easily receive them. In time, full color versions with photographs and graphics became accessible through links in those emails.
- In order to promote clarity and readability, especially for those with English as a second (or third...) language, vocabulary was meant to be clear and simple.
- The original distribution list of 276 names for the English edition was consolidated from the rosters of previous Lausanne International Researchers' Conferences, the GMIN egroup, the Ethnê Information Strategy group, JIMI, and the Task Force members' personal contacts.

- The logo for the bulletin (and community) was created in Brazil in 2011. It was designed to depict a community, with the five components representing five people. The logo is not symmetrical, meaning the contributions of members will not be identical. The five components are not the same sizes, and each color is unique. These differences reflect the diversity of information workers around the world.



- The ten points of the CMIW vision were laid out in the bulletin's first three issues.

- The bulletin's favorite running feature is "Who's Who in Mission Information" (or "Special Profile"). It began in the very [first issue](#) and featured Ronaldo Lidório. (As a mysterious tidbit, while always entitled both "Who's Who in Mission Information" and "Special Profile" within the issue carrying it, the feature's website contents label switched from only the latter to both in October 2018, then to only the former in January 2019. None of the members of the Editorial Team know why the change was made. Stay tuned for possible further revisions.)

- The running feature "Information from the Word" also began in the very first issue and to date has been carried in every single issue.

- Early reader feedback was particularly robust, with several portions of readers' comments carried in the [April 2012](#) issue. Feedback included a request for greater frequency of the bulletin's distribution as well as positive - and some negative - comments on the bulletin's title.

- A simple website (globalcmiw.org) was started in 2012 to post the bulletins and also to take in new subscriptions.

- The bulletin's "See You There!" feature, for meeting up at upcoming gatherings, was also added in 2012.

- In [October 2015](#) the "Letters to Young Researchers" feature was begun, the first by Darrell Jackson.

- In [July 2018](#), due in large part to the efforts of Rodrigo Tinoco, Duane Frasier, and Erika Frasier, the bulletin began to be published in Portuguese and in Spanish as well.

Branches and Blossoms

Thanks be to God for the growth and development he has provided over the past decade.

- In 2012, along with the new website a Facebook page was opened.

- The CMIW website has grown to serve as the archive for the Lausanne International Researchers' Conference papers. Furthermore, the site provides links to several other resources that may be of use to information workers.

- When the bulletin was moved to Mail Chimp, a more formatted version was created and distributed in the emails.

- In 2016, collaboration with Global Mapping International led to incorporating the new KSKI (Knowledge Stewardship for Kingdom Impact) online discussion group under the CMIW umbrella, along with Nelson Jennings joining the CMIW Task Force.

- The adding of editions in Spanish and in Portuguese has brought the bulletin's distribution total to over 700.

- The additional bulletin editions were accompanied by the creation of a separate CMIW Editorial Team, including Rodrigo Tinoco and Duane Frasier, to work alongside the Facilitation Team (formerly Task Force).

- The Facilitation Team has expanded further with the additions of Duane Frasier and, most recently, Lara Heneveld.

We hope you rejoice with us in these testimonies and tidbits from CMIW's first decade of service. May God be pleased to bless further the work of mission information through CMIW and other communities, all for the sake of Christ's Kingdom!

AMRIConnect

an online platform created by the
Alliance of Mission Researchers & Institutions (AMRI)



Church growth worldwide has been followed by the development of movements and centers for theological education. Not so, the capability and capacity for mission research. The gap in resources between North and South is huge. One consequence of this imbalance is the continued propagation of mission theories and practices birthed in Western contexts, with a failure to nurture other perspectives and voices. Moreover, much mission research is often conducted in silos, and there is a need for greater connectedness between mission researchers, research organisations and institutions.

A commitment to see this change led to the birth of the Alliance of Mission Researchers and Institutions (AMRI) in February 2018. The **AMRI Vision** is as follows:

As members of the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ, joyfully affirming our commitment to the living God and his saving purposes through the Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision is to establish and sustain a community of Christian institutions, networks, and individuals engaged in mission research, facilitated through a secure online platform.

To see that vision realised, AMRI has **three major goals**:

- To increase capability and capacity of all parts of the Christian mission research community worldwide to participate in mission research, interdisciplinary scholarship and publication;
- To facilitate the identification and prioritization of mission research needs at national, regional and global levels;
- To foster relationship and collaboration between research institutions, networks, scholars and practitioners.

Concretely, the soon-to-be-completed secure on-line platform that will facilitate the envisioned community of institutions, networks and individuals is called **AMRIConnect**.

AMRIConnect aims to support the mission research community through three primary functions: Sharing Research output - Connection with Fellow Researchers - Collaboration in Research:



The following key features have defined the platform development:

- Multi-lingual capability – *central to growing a polycentric approach* – specifically Arabic, English, French, Indonesian, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish
- Intuitive, user-friendly interface
- Public and secure areas to the platform
- Message-boarding to facilitate collaboration and connectedness
- Capacity for organisations to track their research contribution and plan strategically
- Hosting academic and practitioner research output – *bringing together the full scope of mission research into one platform*

Individuals will be able to create profiles for themselves to highlight their areas of interests and facilitate connection with others. Institutions and networks will be able to create their own home page and showcase their activities and interest areas.

All users will be able to use the platform to develop collaboration dialogues through the creation of special interest groups and discussion threads.

AMRIConnect is free to join for individuals. Institutions are requested to make a small contribution. For more information about AMRI and how to become a member, write to enquiries@amricconnect.net. You can also find an introductory video [here](#).

Brazil and the Ministry of Missions Research

by Rodrigo Tinoco



The ministry of missions research blesses the Brazilian church. We can trace back its roots from the decade of the 70's. One of its first visible activities involved the sharing of global data by way of international ministries. Among other benefits, this movement helped us to understand the missionary challenge as well as to mobilize churches to send national missionaries abroad. A second important initial contribution of the missions research movement in the country took place through the wave of foreign missionaries working in Brazil. They were doing research, sharing learning, and mentoring Brazilians to do the same.

Concurrently, national research initiatives also arose in additional areas, these being strengthened by the missions movements in other nations. Of special note were the research efforts associated with Saturation Church Planting, the Church Growth movement, the Unreached Peoples focus, and social-linguistic efforts, among many others.

In 2011, in the very first edition (Volume 1, number 1) of "Correct Me If I'm Wrong" (the quarterly e-publication of the Community of Missions Information Workers), in the "Who's Who in Missions Research" feature, a Brazilian was interviewed. We remember this well, as it represented a promising moment for research ministries in Brazil.

Since that time God has raised up a new generation of people who have heard His call to this ministry. We have seen various missions organizations launch their own research departments. The Association of Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missions (AMTB), an alliance that brings together more than 100 Brazilian organizations, has its own Research Department. This vision, of formalizing and standardizing processes, has contributed to the advancement of a movement of research here.

In 2018 we experienced yet one more milestone. The Alliance of Missions Researchers (APeM), a network of Brazilians working with missions information, was born. The APeM has as its objective to promote dialogue among those involved in missions research, collaborating with God's Kingdom and His mission. As is true for all organic movements, the members of this alliance are learning how to work together to promote new initiatives. Its initial focus has been to strengthen and deepen relationships between its members.

In my own life, God has motivated me through two realms of experience. The first has been through conversations and care demonstrated by Brazilians involved in the ministry of research. Things don't always happen in the way we would like and knowing that we are not alone brings us joy. The second has been to see and accompany a global community of people involved in research ministry. Knowing that God has raised up men and women throughout the world for this kind of work encourages us.

Throughout the development of Brazil's missions research movement we have known and appreciated the fact that we are working in accord with brothers and sisters in other areas of our region. We have seen various initiatives occur throughout Latin America, including those coordinated by COMIBAM (the Ibero-American Mission Cooperative), which is an alliance of groups and national networks representing twenty-five countries in Ibero-America. Other undertakings have been coordinated by various national organizations of the continent. It is within this context that we Brazilians have been able to learn and share knowledge.

As Brazilians working with missions information, we are on a great journey. It is a journey of learning, of consolidating what we already know, and of exercising creativity for the next steps. Many are our challenges and possibilities, yet I see God teaching us to use the capacities He has already given us.

It is our hope that our relationship with Jesus will continue to show us how, through this ministry, to participate in the Mission of God. I have shared just a bit of what we have seen and experienced here in Brazil. We know that God is using you and your communities too. Please share your experiences with us as well.

Rodrigo Tinoco (RodrigoTinocoBR@gmail.com) has served as Information Coordinator at FCBH Brazil since 2019. He is a knowledge stewardship enthusiast. Rodrigo and his wife Sarah worked for ten years in the USA and Asia with data tech to ministries. They live in Brasília and have four children.

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Gordon Bonham



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

[GB] I “retired” in 2009 after 38 years of social research and evaluation experience with the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, the University of Louisville, Towson University, and my own Bonham Research consultancy. My wife Sandy and I have three children. Scott was born just before I started my doctoral work in sociology at the University of Michigan. Cathy arrived 3 years later, and we soon added Michael as a foster son. Shortly after we adopted Michael, I attended a missions commissioning service. I was moved to pray that if the Lord wanted our older son Scott as a missionary, I was willing. The reply came back, “Pray for yourself, it is **you** I want!” “But Lord, you just led me to adopt Michael. His disability would not allow him to live overseas.” I was baffled until several years later when our church welcomed a Vietnamese refugee family. That ministry developed into a Vietnamese church and was soon joined by Korean and Spanish speaking congregations. Then, many years later, as I contemplated retirement, I heard Larry and Stephanie Kraft talk about their missions research work. “That sounds like what I have been doing all my life,” I thought. “Could I help?” I asked, and soon Larry began involving me in missions research. I work remotely from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, near where Michael and Cathy live. I can also work when in Kentucky during visits with Scott and his two, of our five, grandchildren.

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

[GB] The Krafts introduced me to OCI, and I became the first official “Associate” of its Global Research Team which has grown from the two of them to the 14 of us now. My contribution to the team’s needs assessment and program evaluation research has primarily been in collecting data through web surveys sent to groups of members, partners, or participants in ministries. In responding to requests from inside and outside our organization, I often propose a research design, develop samples, analyze quantitative data with statistical software, code textual data with qualitative software, and write reports.

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

[GB] I don’t know how to decide which of the 50+ assessments and evaluations that I have done through OCI has brought the greatest satisfaction. Maybe it is just the challenge of designing research to answer such questions as: “How can we increase effective prayer?”, “Are we achieving our agency’s purpose?”, and “What are the best practices for mission workers?” While it is presumptuous for us as humans to think we can understand what is spiritually effective in the Lord’s sight, he created our minds, gave us experiences, and told us the fields are ripe for harvest. He also said he would be with us always. Learning that “A completely new alliance of 60 prayer leaders has formed” suggests that the research increased effective prayer, even if I still don’t know how to measure it. The requester on another project is “using it to point people to unengaged and less engaged cities.” A third says it “will also establish a benchmark that, I believe, will encourage and challenge others to take more seriously the evaluation of learning events.” My greatest satisfaction, though, comes from feeling that the Lord must approve of my contributions. He has kept sending me new research challenges for the past 12 years. This makes me look forward to each new day.

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

[GB] I thought when I retired that the research experience I had accumulated over my career would leave little legacy. I had found no organizations that shared the same commitment to provide useful

research of high quality without counting the cost. The Lord showed me that such organizations exist in missions research. My primary dream is that I can mentor others in the process of responding to research requests so that my experience will continue to be beneficial when I can no longer be an integral part.

I also dream that ministry planning will always begin with a clearly defined vision of the Lord's calling, then work backwards to identify ways to measure short-term (3-5 years) and immediate (within a year) outcomes, then focus the planning on the best possible practices and the needed resources to implement them. Data should be regularly collected for evaluation of results to determine if any modifications need to be made. For just an individual dream, maybe a project will come when I'll enjoy learning networks more and mesh it with quantitative analysis of cause and effect and qualitative analysis of stories and needs.

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

[GB] The Lord has not given me a research agenda of my own, only a love for collecting and analyzing data to see what stories they tell about how the Lord has worked in the past. These are often guides for how His people can work with Him in the future. I am open to helping, whenever I can, on practical ways to identify, collect, and analyze data to answer specific research questions. I am not an expert in any specific area and may not know the latest state-of-the-art tools, but have experience in web surveys, representative sampling, statistical analysis, and qualitative coding.

“HIS” is changing its name (a little bit)

by *Chris Maynard*, HIS Registrar

The “Harvest Information System” is changing its name to “Harvest Information Standards.” It is a small change, but it better reflects what we do. Happily, the acronym “HIS” remains unchanged! You can still find our work at hisregistries.org.

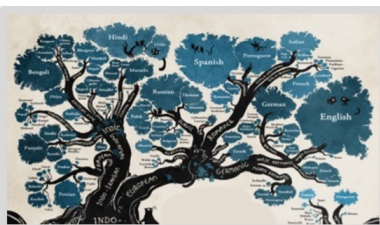
HIS manages data standards that are used by curators of mission databases in order to facilitate data sharing among them, and to allow users of those database to make comparisons between them. We are the ISO of the Christian mission world. Indeed, our language standard, first developed to track and aid Bible translation, has been adopted as a global ISO standard. We currently also pay attention to data standards in the spheres of People Groups, Religions, Ministry Resources, Dialects and Geography.

It will take us a while to implement our name change consistently, and you may begin to see other changes. At the moment, each of our standards is called a “registry”. We are aware that this is not the best way to describe our work in every area.

Things often move slowly in the area of data standards, but rest assured that the HIS editors will continue their patient, careful and long-term work on your behalf.



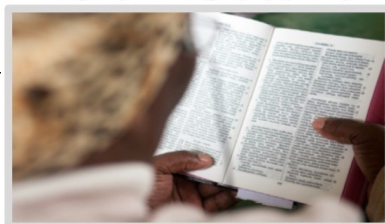
Registry of Geography (ROG)



Registry of Languages (ROL)



Registry of Peoples (ROP)



Registry of Ministry Resources (RMR)



Registry of Dialects (ROD)



Registry of Religions (ROR)

Information from the Word

In the Genesis 1 account of creation, it appears that God is concerned with both quantification and classification:

Gen. 1:16 " ...God made **two** great lights; Gen 1:20 " ...Let the waters bring forth **swarms** of living creatures" ; Gen. 1:24-26 "Let the earth bring forth living creatures **according to their kinds**: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth **according to their kinds**."

Have we ever allowed ourselves to fall into quality vs. quantity arguments? What can we do to promote more and better mixed-methods research?

Researchers Wanted!

We at New Generations are recruiting for three positions, in part-time or full-time capacity, as members of our global virtual research team.

New Generations (www.newgenerations.org) is an international ministry engaged in 55 countries and has been used by God to start 146 Disciple-Making Movements (DMMs).

The Internal Qualitative Assessment (IQA) is a global qualitative study into 27 DMMs, intending to understand the spiritual DNA of DMM, how transference happens, and the factors contributing to and inhibiting movements, carried out over the period of three years.

Research Project Manager – Profile: previous experience with research management and administration, qualitative analysis, team communication, budgeting, MS Teams / 365, basic understanding of DMM.

Research Assistant – Profile: previous experience with research, transcription data entry, coding, qualitative analysis, NVivo, MS Teams / 365, basic understanding of DMM.

Quality Coach (full-time) – Purpose: lead team of ten field coaches and jointly with them equip church planters in evaluation mindset and skills, assisting them to interpret DMM insights to course-correct . Profile: pastoral heart, team leadership and supervision experience, analytical mindset communication skills incl. writing stories and reports, MS Teams / 365, experience in DMM
Start date: potentially immediately

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, write to Dr. Emanuel Prinz, Head of Global Analytics, at eprinz@newgenerations.org for a job posting or with your application.

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 globalcmiw.org.