ABSTRACT

EMRRT PRODUCT: TOWARD AN OPEN RESEARCH MODEL AND A SECURE ENVIRONMENT THAT CAN SERVE CHURCH PLANTING NEEDS ACROSS EUROPE

by Paul S. Dzubinski

This is an evaluation of the seven major research models connected with church planting in Europe, with a view to developing a core set of research data that can be used equally by all seven. I further want to describe how that data can be organized into presentations that reflect the common purposes of these same seven research models. Lastly I would like to describe the open yet secure environment where that data can be both collected and retrieved.

This paper is one of two papers. The second paper which will be presented by my colleague Andreas Wolf describes how and under what conditions a European researchers' community can function and mature together.

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Introduction

This paper is about three things: First it is an evaluation of the seven major research models connected with church planting in Europe, with a view to developing a core set of research data that can be used equally by all seven. What is a research model? First let us define research. It is the "methodical investigation into a subject in order to discover facts, to establish or revise a theory, or to develop a plan of action based on the facts discovered[1]" A model is an "an excellent

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example that deserves to be imitated.[2]" Therefore a research model would be an excellent example of a methodical investigation that deserves to be imitated. The research models included in the study are, in alphabetical order, Alliance for Saturation Church Planting (ASCP), Church Planting Movements (CPM) by David Garrison, City Reaching by Jack Dennison, CompuCoach by Robert E. Logan, Discipling a Whole Nation (DAWN) by Roy A Wingerd Jr., Informed Intercession by George Otis Jr. and finally Operation World by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk. Second this paper is a description of how the core research data can be organized into presentations that reflect the common purposes of these same seven research models. And lastly it is a brief description of the secure environment where that data can be both collected and retrieved.

It is hoped that when this research product is complete it will offer tangible research content directly applicable to the various church planting systems and their ministries. It will offer those who adhere to these systems the core research they need to begin making decisions for the progress of the Gospel in any province of any European country. The research information will be set in interactive presentations that enable both church planters and missions strategists to think through what is going on spiritually in a given province of Europe. The graphics and numerical data will be available to the user so that they can in turn develop their own presentations for the people with whom they serve.

These seven research models are relatively diverse. One has to ask, is a set of core data or a common denominator of data from the seven models even valid? Will it yield a solid core or, because of the diversity of views, yield a slightly useless set of facts? Let us take a look first at the diversity of the models themselves. Then let us look at the areas of research that they have in common. In this way it will become clear that, though diverse, they do offer a coherent core of desired data or common denominator of research.

Evaluation of the Seven Research Models

The Diversity of the Seven Research Models

Of the seven there is only one possible grouping of models. It has a historical tie. That group is DAWN, ASCP and City Reaching. Both ASCP[3] and City Reaching have strong ties to DAWN. ASCP share the principles of Saturation Church Planting with DAWN and City Reaching's founder served several years with DAWN. These three models are, however, distinct one from the other. For example, City Reaching especially distinguishes itself from the other two in that it only focuses on ministry to a city while the others focus on countries and or regions. Dennison, the creator of City Reaching, says of the DAWN method,

> ... this strategy to 'disciple a whole nation' had been tried in America and it hadn't worked!. . . If this approach were so biblical, so strategic, so productive in virtually every kind of circumstance around the world, if godly leaders everywhere were hearing the Lord say, 'This is your answer,' why not in America? As I began meeting with pastors and leaders across the country, the reasons for the general lack of acceptance in our country began to emerge. (Dennison, pp. 30-31)

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[2] Ibid.

[3] The DAWN method is clearly taught in the Omega manual number 5 along with saturation church planting

He lists four reasons why DAWN did not work in America. They are (1) that leaders are overwhelmed in ministry, (2) that America is strongly individualistic, (3) that there is a good deal of apathy and (4) that there is an ignorance of the need for evangelism. (Dennison, pp. 31-32). This led him to focus on the city as the largest geographical area for his ministry. Though City Reaching began in the United States it is now working in Berlin, Germany, in Bergen, Norway, in London, England and several other cities of Europe. DAWN has ministries in Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland.[4] ASCP has a ministry that focuses mostly in Eastern Europe and has research for 27 or more countries.[5]

The remaining four methods are indeed different. CompuCoach is loosely connected with Christian Schwarz' Natural Church Development. Once a church is started it is encouraged to follow the eight characteristics described by Schwarz. However, the planting of the churches themselves does not have much to do with Schwarz' model. CompuCoach is indicative of the kind of church planting that is done by church planters all across Europe. In this I am not saying that the CompuCoach church planting model is used all across Europe but that the usage of research to help start one church or a handful of churches is represented in my thinking by CompuCoach. The research is focused in a narrow geographical area. At this time CompuCoach, which is a smaller part of CoachNet, has its strongest European expressions in Spain[6] and Germany[7]. The Natural Church Development ministry is currently in twenty-four countries of Europe[8].

CPM or Church Planting Movements[9] was born out the observations made of an incredible phenomenon. David Garrison talking about receiving field reports from IMB missionaries recounts the following,

> *"David and Jan Watson serving in India made an incredible claim. Their report listed nearly a hundred cities, towns, and villages with new churches and thousands of new believers.*
>
> *Missions headquarters was skeptical. "This can't be," they said. "Either you've misunderstood the question or you're not telling us the truth."*
>
> *The words stung, but David held his tongue. "Come and see," he said." (Garrison p. 15)*

He then recounts how they made observations on what God was doing in what they termed church planting movements (CPM). They came up with what was a standard for conditions and events in a CPM. That described what God was doing. There are ten things that need to be present for a CPM to occur. Many of them are not things any mission or missionary could produce. Then there are ten things that often are present in a CPM. Likewise there are many things in that list which are not reproducible. Then there are seven things that if present will kill a CPM. These are definitely things that the pastor or missionary can avoid so as not to slow or stop a CPM.

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[4] Dawn Europe Network Web page: http://www.dawneurope.net/den.htm

[5] Alliance for Saturation Church Planting Web page: http://www.alliancescp.org/where.html

[6] CoachNet in Spanish: http://www.coachnet.org/es/

[7] CoachNet in German: http://www.coachnet.de/

[8] Natural Church Development International: http://www.ncd-international.org/partners.html

[9] Church Planting Movements: http://www.churchplantingmovements.com

Garrison, focusing on the seven things to be avoided and on a few other things that can be done to prepare for a CPM. The research model he suggests for church planting is not nearly as complete as the others but when it is coupled with the research for a CPM it does become a model we should consider here. There are CPMs among refugees of the Netherlands[10], Gypsies in France and Spain[11], internationals in Zurich, Switzerland[12], and is reflected in the efforts of the Alpha Program across Europe[13].

George Otis Jr.'s book, Informed Intercession, represents the movement of spiritual mapping in Europe and its use in evangelism and church planting. In the preface Otis, speaking in general about spiritual mapping, writes:

> *Armed with interesting research questions and case studies, thousands of spiritual mapping projects have sprung up recently in communities throughout the world. Most of these initiatives have been pursued with genuine care and resolve, although questionable motives and sloppy methodologies have disabled many others.*
>
> *Other campaigns have fallen prey to individualization. Data acquisition methodologies, analytical standards and report layouts resemble a basket of mixed fruit. For this reason, the current body of spiritual mapping research does not easily lend itself to comparative analysis.*
>
> *Recognizing this problem, The Sentinel Group has developed a standardized approach to spiritual mapping that allows for both coherence and customization. (Otis, Preface)*

This desire on behalf of the Sentinel Group to provide a standardized approach to spiritual mapping is motivated by a desire to see communities transformed by God, to see multitudes come to Christ and to see churches started. Otis believes that "there are definitive steps that we can and should take to position our communities for a visitation of the Holy Spirit." (Otis, p.55). The research model from Informed Intercession does just what it sets out to do, standardize the approach to spiritual mapping. For this reason the research model is clear in its purposes, in the questions and methods it uses and in the kinds of products or out put it desires.

Lastly there is Operation World. Of the seven models for research this is the only one that is not directly connected with some sort of evangelistic or church planting ministry. Its goal is as follows, "Our longing is that the book will be seen as a tool for prayer. The spiritual tone and vision that expresses the heart of our heavenly Father is what should be in the forefront. All other issues must be secondary." (Johnstone, from the section: The Ethos of Operation World). Operation World is

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[10] Church Planting Movement practitioners report in 1999, among the refugees of the Netherlands, 45 new churches were started in a single year. (Garrison p. 139)

[11] The Gypsy Evangelical Movement begins in Grance and Spain in the late 1950's. By 1964 there are 10,000 Gypsy believers. By 1979 there are 30 - 40,000 church members with 150,000 attending worship. (Garrison, p. 139)

[12] In 1996 two young Swiss evangelicals begin a cell church. In just five years the International Christian Fellowship grows to more than 3,000 members meeting in several hundred cell groups. (Garrison, p.139)

[13] "In England we find another sign of hope in the Alpha Program of home-based evangelism. The Alpha Program is an introduction to the core truths of the Christian faith built around a setting of opennes to inquiry. Lasting 15 weeks, the course focuses on non-Christians, often meeting in homes rather than in the church building, typically including a shared mea, welcoming skeptical questions, and resulting in an astonishing number of conversions." (Garrison, p. 152)

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among the models because it is an established and well thought out source of researched information about the evangelical church in Europe.

There is a good deal of diversity in the seven models. They represent most of the major church planting efforts across Europe. Operation World says that there are 174 missions organizations with a total of 3,674 missionaries serving in Europe (Johnstone, from the section: Missionaries Working in Europe). This does not count the European ministries within Europe. It is my observation that there are many organizations that use missions research to build enthusiasm for the church planting effort. Most of the ministries use basic demographics and statistics about their denominational churches in order to help them decide where to start new churches. There is also a good deal of discussion as to which evangelistic methods are most effective. Some research is being done in this area as well. However, the most comprehensive approaches to research and church planting in Europe are or are represented by the seven models just mentioned. Is there any agreement between these diverse models? If there is some agreement is it simply a diverse set of facts? Let us continue on to look for common denominators in their research models.

Unity of the Seven Research Models or Their Common Denominators

Main areas of agreement

A summary of these research models or the core data that these methods have in common revolves around two areas: information about the evangelical church in its varied expressions and information about the environment where the evangelical church finds itself. The first is often called Harvest Force and the second Harvest Field. It is, however, also important to take a look at the purpose for which these research models collect data and what they typically do with that data once they have it. These will influence our understanding of both the Harvest Field and Force information.

How the common denominators were found

Any evaluation of this nature is going to be subjective. However, I have tried to make it as systematic as possible. I took the main works of each of the models. After reading each of them I took special note of the sections that discussed how research was to be done, what questions were to be asked, what reports were to be made and to whom they were to be given. Some of the most detailed information came in appendices and some in chapters given over to the task of research. That information for each of the models was put in outline form. I then took those outlines and attempted to find larger groupings or divisions for all of the models. It appeared to me that of all the models, the ASCP had the most divisions and subcategories so I used it as the guide for organizing the others. However, there were, of course, categories within those divisions that did not fit within the ASCP model. Those categories were considered and added to an expanded guide. Each division was given a spreadsheet. The columns of each spreadsheet were the seven models and the rows were each of the categories. Not all the models had something in each category. Therefore, in order to find a common denominator only those categories with three or more models were considered to be part of a common denominator. These are shown in the appendices. The shift from all the subcategories (204) to the subcategories that were mentioned between 3 and 7 times (59) is a 71% reduction in content. At the same time using a frequency of mention of three may be considered too few to be counted as a common denominator. Three was chosen because of the subjective nature of this study. When comparing the difference in content between the two lists it shows that when the frequency of mention is four there is a 59% reduction

in content from the other list. For this reason and for the reason of subjectivity, the frequency of mention for the common denominator was set at three.

There are five large divisions: Purpose of the research, Harvest Field, Harvest Force, Analysis of the Data and Product or Report. Each of these five has categories and below those are often a set of subcategories. I attempt here to maintain as much of the original wording, categories and subcategories as possible. There has been some synthesis but I have tried to be true to the texts as I found them. Let us take a look at each in turn.

Division One: Purpose of the research[14]

There are three main purposes for research found in the common denominators. Here are the categories and their subcategories:

1. Information Generates Prayer

2. Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches

3. Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective

   - Work with intelligence because we have a realistic account of the resources, people, and conditions that are available.
   - Research helps the harvest force discover what it has available and what it lacks for the field (Lk 14:28-33).
   - It helps us count the cost and make realistic plans, believing that God will supply what is lacking.

These three purposes for research are expressed clearly by the following models: ASCP, CompuCoach, DAWN, City Reaching, CPM, Otis and Operation World. The first purpose, that of generating prayer support, is expressed by ASCP in the following way:

> *"Information causes people to cry out to God and depend on Him to do His work in the circle (Jesus made the region of Galilee His circled zone.). When Jesus saw the needs, He asked for prayer before anything else. Jesus commanded His followers to "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Mt 9:38)." (Weaver, p. 32 of Manual One)*

George Otis says that research is to sustain fervent corporate intercession (Otis, p. 103). And Operation World's whole purpose is tied up in a sustained prayer effort.[15]

The second purpose is expressed in Dennison's City Reaching as the Nehemiah effect. He describes it as follows:

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[14] See Appendix: Purpose of Research for more details.

[15] OPERATION WORLD: "The burden for prayer. Our longing is that the book will be seen as a tool for prayer. The spiritual tone and vision that expresses the heart of our heavenly Father is what should be in the forefront. All other issues must be secondary." In the section of their CD called "The Ethos of Operation World" From Operation World CD-ROM, Copyright ©2001 Patrick Johnstone

"Nehemiah's quest begins when his brother Hanani arrives with his friends from Jerusalem. He tells Nehemiah his story of sadness and despair that the gates to the city are burned, the walls are broken and the people are living in trouble and discrace. Nehemiah's life instantly changes forever! And it was simply the information that did it." (Dennison, p.163)

The third purpose, which is to equip the church to be more effective in its outreach, is broken down into three parts as emphasized by ASCP, DAWN and Otis. Here is how DAWN expressed the three ideas:

1. It identifies the needs and resources available to the church so that it can make realistic plans that depend on the strength and grace of God
2. It helps us to discover the context in which the church plant will take place. In the words of Jim Montgomery it is a "religious state of the nations." (Montgomery, p. 114)
3. It helps us apply a creative effort using what is available and not available to find new ways to start churches.

This equipping of the church to be more effective in its outreach enables it to clearly see how outreach is possible. This is truly a motivating factor and shows how research can motivate through concretely showing the church how it can fulfill its calling. The Omega Course put out by the ASCP puts it this way:

*"Research of the **harvest field**, the area where church planting will be done, and the **harvest force**—those who will be active in church planting—leads to a conclusion. This conclusion can be called, the "call to action." It is the sum of what research has discovered, interpreted from God's perspective." (Weaver, p. 30 of Omega Course Manual One)*

Division Two: Harvest Field[16]

The harvest field data was broken down into three categories with a good number of subcategories. Here is how they are laid out:

1. Demographic information.

- Total population
- Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children
- Number of working adults... include occupation information and income level
- Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped
- Percentage and location of ethnic minorities (what are typically called people groups).

2. Geographic markers can play a role in how and where people live and relate to others.

3. Sociological and cultural information

(There is some repetition in this list but that is the way the books laid it out.)

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[16] See Appendix: Harvest Field for more details.

- People's worldview and their felt needs, this information gives insight into ways in which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ.
- Views about God
- Holidays and how they are celebrated
- World view: fatalism, Spirits, Ancestors, Hedonism, and or Individualism etc. "A culture's belief system is grounded in the way people find ultimate meaning and purpose in life. The belief system answers the essential questions, What is real? What is true? Belief is driven by what is perceived to be real. . . .Western cultures tend to analyze and test, in order to prove something is true. Oppressed cultures believe their fate lies outside their control."[17]
- Problems in society (alcoholism, orphanages, lack of adequate medical care, elderly without care, etc.)
- Leadership: kinds and who
- Cultural heroes
- Politics

This information can be reorganized into two different and more helpful categories. The first is numerical data like demographics and certain kinds of research in the behavioral sciences. The second category is non-numerical or more opinion based and includes historical and political information. These new categories will help us to know how to present the data and how to think through the information. Numerical data (or quantitative data) is easily put into graphic form with charts and graphs whereas the non-numerical data (or qualitative data) will need to be explained clearly in articles and papers. Here is how the list could be reorganized:

Numerical/factual data

1. Demographics Information
   - Total population
   - Percentage, languages and location of ethnic minorities (what are typically called people groups).
   - Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children
   - Number of working adults... include occupation information and income level
   - Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped
2. Problems in society
   - alcoholism, orphanages, lack of adequate medical care, elderly without care, etc.
   - Stresses and strains, hardships
   - Destructive vices, troubling trends, conditions of pain

Non-numerical data

1. Sociological and cultural information
   - By learning about people's world view and their felt needs, we can gain insight into ways in which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ. Examples of this could be: views of truth and reality, fatalism, Spirits, Ancestors, Hedonism, and or Individualism, etc.
   - Exegete our culture

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[17] p. 103, The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting, "Manual Number Version 080197, Lesson Number: Lesson Title (Generic)"

- Predominate Philosophies
2. Views about God
   - Religion: Significant Events and Practices, Influential Deities and Role Models
3. Geographic information
   - Geographic markers can play a role in how and where people live and relate to others.
4. Holidays and how they are celebrated
5. Historical/Political
   - Leadership: kinds and who
   - Cultural heroes
   - Politics with a additional focus on its structural disintegration

Division Three: Harvest Force[18]

The harvest force is broken up into two large categories, one for the current church and one for the history of Christianity in the midst of other religions.

Existing Local Churches

1. Mark every local church in your region on your map.
2. Indicate the denomination of each church
3. Adult attendance.
4. People group each church is reaching (e.g. gypsies, youth, children, homeless, elderly, internationals, etc.)
5. Rate the successfulness of each church in their people group.
6. State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the lost
7. List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them
8. Describe the financial situation of the churches (outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc)
9. Type of leadership in the church (pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or part time, etc)
10. Total communicant members
11. Segments of society most responsive to the gospel
12. Segments of society that are the least evangelized and are unchurched
13. Growth of local congregations
14. Growth of denominations
15. The trend of growth

History of Christianity.

1. List the religions in the area

Let us keep the two new categories from Harvest Field in order to help us to know how to present the data and how to think through the information.

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[18] See Appendix: Harvest Force for more details

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Numerical/factual data

1. Indicate the denomination of each church. One of the models suggests that all denominations and independent groups should be listed according to their respective traditions
2. Adult attendance.
3. Total communicant members. Membership vs. attendance could be tracked.
4. People group each church is reaching (e.g. gypsies, youth, children, homeless, elderly, internationals, etc.). Take the total number of the people group and show how many of them are being reached through x number of churches and or denominations.
5. State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the lost. A percentage of participation could be gained by knowing the number of churches and denominations and comparing this with the number of those that are participating.
6. List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them. The various church ministries can be listed and then charted for their popularity or usage in churches across a region.
7. Describe the financial situation of the churches: outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc. Each of these can be tracked for a group of churches.
8. Type of leadership in the church: pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or part time, etc.. These too can be tracked across a region.
9. Growth of local congregations
10. Growth of denominations
11. The trend of growth

Non-numerical data

1. Mark every local church in your region on your map. Additional information that could be helpful would be the size and nature of the church and the number of congregations in a given area.
2. Segments of society most responsive to the gospel. This can be tracked numerically by looking at recorded conversions for each part of society but this also demands more information.
3. Segments of society that are the least evangelized and are unchurched. This can also be tracked numerically by looking at how many ministries are in an area and where the ministry activity is located. This too demands a bit more information, reasons and possible solutions.
4. Historical/Political
   - List the religions in the area along with their history in the area and their current relationship to the evangelical churches.

Division Four: Analysis of data[19]

The research model that has done the most with this area is that of the ASCP. The other models make some contributions but basically the ASCP expresses them more clearly. It seems that the other models having spoken generally about analysis discussed the product of their research in more detail. There are five categories of analysis that break down Harvest Field and Force. The original Omega manual for Saturation Church Planting has all of these points as questions. The

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[19] See Appendix: Analysis of data for more details

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category called 'Number of churches' encourages the researcher to have a vision for the future and the remaining categories help the researcher to analyze the current situation. This analysis looks to find the best practices that fit the true spiritual needs of a given geographical area.

Number of churches

1. Number of churches needed to fulfill the Great Commission in your target area.
2. Number of churches needed so that every man, woman and child in this target will be able to see, hear and understand the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way.

Select your methods

1. Choose methods that will meet the needs of the people.
2. Use as models methods that are working with good results in other churches in the area.

Determine your resources

1. List the others with whom you can share this vision and who can cooperate together to reach the goal.
2. List the labor, finances, and gifted individuals are available.
3. List the churches in the area that have a desire for evangelism and church planting.
4. List those who are open to pray for evangelism and church planting efforts and for God to make Himself to be known in the lives of people in their communities.

People's understanding or faith

- Decide if evangelism can start with Jesus Christ or if it must begin with talking about the existence of a supreme, creator God

Existing church

- What has the Church accomplished (this could also be listed under the numerical or qualitative data)

Division Five: Products or reports[20]

There are three products or reports that are used by the majority of the research models. They are 'A Call to Action', 'Mobilizing the Harvest Force' and a 'Field Report'. What follows below is a list of what would be contained in each of these. Those who agreed the most in this section were ASCP, DAWN, Otis and Operation World.

Call to Action

1. Basic demographics describe the situation of the people. This could include the following: geography, peoples, economy, politics, religion, prayer, praises, country statistics, church growth, church detail, missionaries from and missionaries to the country.

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[20] See Appendix: Products or Reports for more details

2. Felt needs: describe the situation of the people which should include any chronic problems the researcher sees in the society.
3. Summarize the spiritual condition of the people of your target area. The researcher can deal with disturbing trends, chronic problems or unique circumstance.
4. The churches among these people
5. Percentage of the people attend church
6. Percentage of people who identify themselves as followers of Christ
7. Openness to the Gospel
8. Other religious groups are working among the target area
9. Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear and see the Gospel in a relevant way
10. Describe what specifically God's is calling you and your team to do in order to reach the people in your target area.
11. Describe how you will devote yourselves to prayer for the people in your target area.
12. List what resources (people, churches and ministries) can be mobilized to help reach the people of your target area.

Mobilizing the Harvest Force

1. Tell a true story of something that will cause people to feel the pain that those without Christ are suffering where you did research. Compassion For The Lost
2. Ask others to pray for these needs.

Field Reports

1. Key Demographics: population, peoples, economy, religion prayer, praises, country statistics, church growth, church detail, missionaries from and missionaries to the country.
2. Key contacts should also be included in the report. Networking in the field is important.

Of these reports the 'Call to Action' is the most complete. It also includes all of the common denominator purposes: generate prayer, inspires vision and equip the church to be more effective in its outreach. The call to action here is asking the church to take steps to start new churches. It gives the information needed to see what the available resources are and asks the church planter to think through what God might want him/her to do based on what He as already provided. The second report obviously focuses on generating prayer while the third report addresses though is not focused on, information that can be used to help in outreach. Below is a reorganization of the 'Call to Action' along the lines of numerical and non-numerical data.

Numerical/factual Data

1. Basic demographics describe the situation of the people.
2. The churches among these people
3. Percentage of the people attend church
4. Percentage of people who identify themselves as followers of Christ
5. Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear and see the Gospel in a relevant way
6. List what resources (people, churches and ministries) can be mobilized to help reach the people of your target area.

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Non-Numerical Data

1. Felt needs: describe the situation of the people which should include any chronic problems the researcher sees in the society.
2. Summarize the spiritual condition of the people of your target area. The researcher can deal with disturbing trends, chronic problems or unique circumstance.
3. Openness to the Gospel
4. Other religious groups are working among the target area
5. Describe what specifically God is calling you and your team to do in order to reach the people in your target area.
6. Describe how you will devote yourselves to prayer for the people in your target area.

Putting it All Together in a Report

Here is where it is easy to see that the common denominator described above truly is a consistent whole. Each of the divisions (Purpose, Harvest field and force, etc.) were individually handled and there was not any fine tuning done between them. Any synthesizing or summarizing was done within each division and not between divisions. I took the report called 'Call to Action' and inserted into it the subcategories from Harvest Field, Harvest Force and Analysis of Data. There were only five subcategories that did not fit[21]. These subcategories did not have places within the 'Call to Action' report. They focus on history, politics and some leadership issues. These are not included in the report. That means that 88% of all of the common denominator subcategories fit into the report. This clearly shows that the information that the seven research models have in common are united in both purpose and product. The report along with the subcategories are as follows:

Numerical/factual Data

1. Basic demographics describe the situation of the people.
   a. Harvest Field
      i. Demographics Information
         1. Total population
         2. Percentage, languages and location of ethnic minorities (what are typically called people groups).
         3. Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children
         4. Number of working adults... include occupation information and income level
         5. Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped
2. The churches among these people
   a. Harvest Force
      i. People group each church is reaching (e.g. gypsies, youth, children, homeless, elderly, internationals, etc.). Take the total number of the people group and show how many of them are being reached through x number of churches and or denominations.
      ii. Growth of local congregations

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[21] The subcategories that did not fit came from the Harvest Field division. They are: 1. Geographic markers can play a role in how and where people live and relate to others, 2. Holidays and how they are celebrated, 3. Leadership: kinds and who, 4. Cultural heroes and 5. Politics with a additional focus on its structural disintegration

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        iii. Growth of denominations
        iv. The trend of growth

3. Percentage of the people attend church
   a. Harvest Force
      i. Adult attendance.
      ii. Total communicant members. Membership vs. attendance could be tracked.
4. Percentage of people who identify themselves as followers of Christ
   a. Harvest Force
      i. Adult attendance.
      ii. Total communicant members. Membership vs. attendance could be tracked.
5. Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear and see the Gospel in a relevant way
   a. Analysis of data
      i. Number of churches needed to fulfill the Great Commission in your target area.
      ii. Number of churches needed so that every man, woman and child in this target will be able to see, hear and understand the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way.
6. List what resources (people, churches and ministries) can be mobilized to help reach the people of your target area. [This category has both numerical and non-numerical data]
   a. Harvest Force
      i. Indicate the denomination of each church. One of the models suggests that all denominations and independent groups should be listed according to their respective traditions
      ii. State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the lost. A percentage of participation could be gained by knowing the number of churches and denominations and comparing this with the number of those that are participating.
      iii. List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them. The various church ministries can be listed and then charted for their popularity or usage in churches across a region.
      iv. Describe the financial situation of the churches: outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc. Each of these can be tracked for a group of churches.
      v. Type of leadership in the church: pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or part time, etc.. These too can be tracked across a region.
   b. Analysis of Data
      i. List the others with whom you can share this vision and who can cooperate together to reach the goal.
      ii. List the labor, finances, and gifted individuals are available.
      iii. List the churches in the area that have a desire for evangelism and church planting.

Non-Numerical Data

1. Felt needs: describe the situation of the people which should include any chronic problems the researcher sees in the society.
   a. Harvest Field
      i. Problems in society

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        1. alcoholism, orphanages, lack of adequate medical care, elderly without care, etc.
        2. Stresses and strains, hardships
        3. Destructive vices, troubling trends, conditions of pain

2. Summarize the spiritual condition of the people of your target area. The researcher can deal with disturbing trends, chronic problems or unique circumstance.
    a. Harvest Field
        i. Views about God
            1. Religion: Significant Events and Practices, Influential Deities and Role Models
    b. Harvest Force
        i. Segments of society most responsive to the gospel. This can be tracked numerically by looking at recorded conversions for each part of society but this also demands more information.
        ii. Segments of society that are the least evangelized and are unchurched. This can also be tracked numerically by looking at how many ministries are in an area and where the ministry activity is located. This too demands a bit more information, reasons and possible solutions.
        iii. Mark every local church in your region on your map. Additional information that could be helpful would be the size and nature of the church and the number of congregations in a given area.
    c. Analysis of Data
        i. What has the Church accomplished

3. Openness to the Gospel
    a. Harvest Field
        i. By learning about people's world view and their felt needs, we can gain insight into ways in   which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ. Examples of this could be: views of truth and reality, fatalism, Spirits, Ancestors, Hedonism, and or Individualism, etc.
        ii. Exegete our culture
        iii. Predominate Philosophies
    b. Analysis of Data
        i. Decide if evangelism can start with Jesus Christ or if it must begin with talking about the existence of a supreme, creator God

4. Other religious groups are working among the target area
    a. Harvest Field
        i. By learning about people's world view and their felt needs, we can gain insight into ways in   which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ. Examples of this could be: views of truth and reality, fatalism, Spirits, Ancestors, Hedonism, and or Individualism, etc.
    b. Harvest Force
        i. List the religions in the area along with their history in the area and their current relationship to the evangelical churches.

5. Describe what specifically God is calling you and your team to do in order to reach the people in your target area.
    a. Analysis of data
        i. Choose methods that will meet the needs of the people.
        ii. Use as models methods that are working with good results in other churches in the area.

6. Describe how you will devote yourselves to prayer for the people in your target area.

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i. List those who are open to pray for evangelism and church planting efforts and for God to make Himself to be known in the lives of people in their communities.

We will now use this report to show how this information can effectively be presented to accomplish the three purposes : generate prayer, inspire vision and equip the church to be more effective in its outreach. This is the common denominator report but it is not the end. Much can be done with the information. Each of the models in turn can take this data and add any church planting model specific data that they need to have in order to accomplish their ministries. There are also other church planting ministries that are not represented in this paper but could also use this information adding on to it their own information. The common denominator is meant to be just that, something common that all of those in church planting can use. In the following section we will discuss how to present the common denominator and how it might be repurposed for other church planting ministries.

Presentations that Reflect the Common Purposes

In this section we hope to show that by using the 'Call to Action' report the researcher will have enough information to motivate those with whom they work and serve. The easiest way to discuss this is to walk the reader through the prototype of the secure web page developed from the common denominator and the 'Call to Action' report.

The web page, its data and the presentations that go with it attempt to describe the situation in every province of every country of Europe. The web page breaks Europe down into regions, countries, states (i.e. Bundesländer, Comunidades Autónomas, etc.) and provinces. In the first figure the home page is shown. The regions of Europe that we are using at this time are: A. Russia (to Ural), Ukraine, Belarus, B. Central European, C. Balkans plus Greece, D. Latin Catholic nations E. Germanic nations, F. Anglo-Saxon plus Irish and lastly G. Scandinavia, Nordic, Baltic. The user can go to any of these regions and from there go to any of the countries. Other divisions of Europe are being considered. The 4k program by YWAM is very interesting and should be considered as a standard. For the present we will be following the divisions as already described.
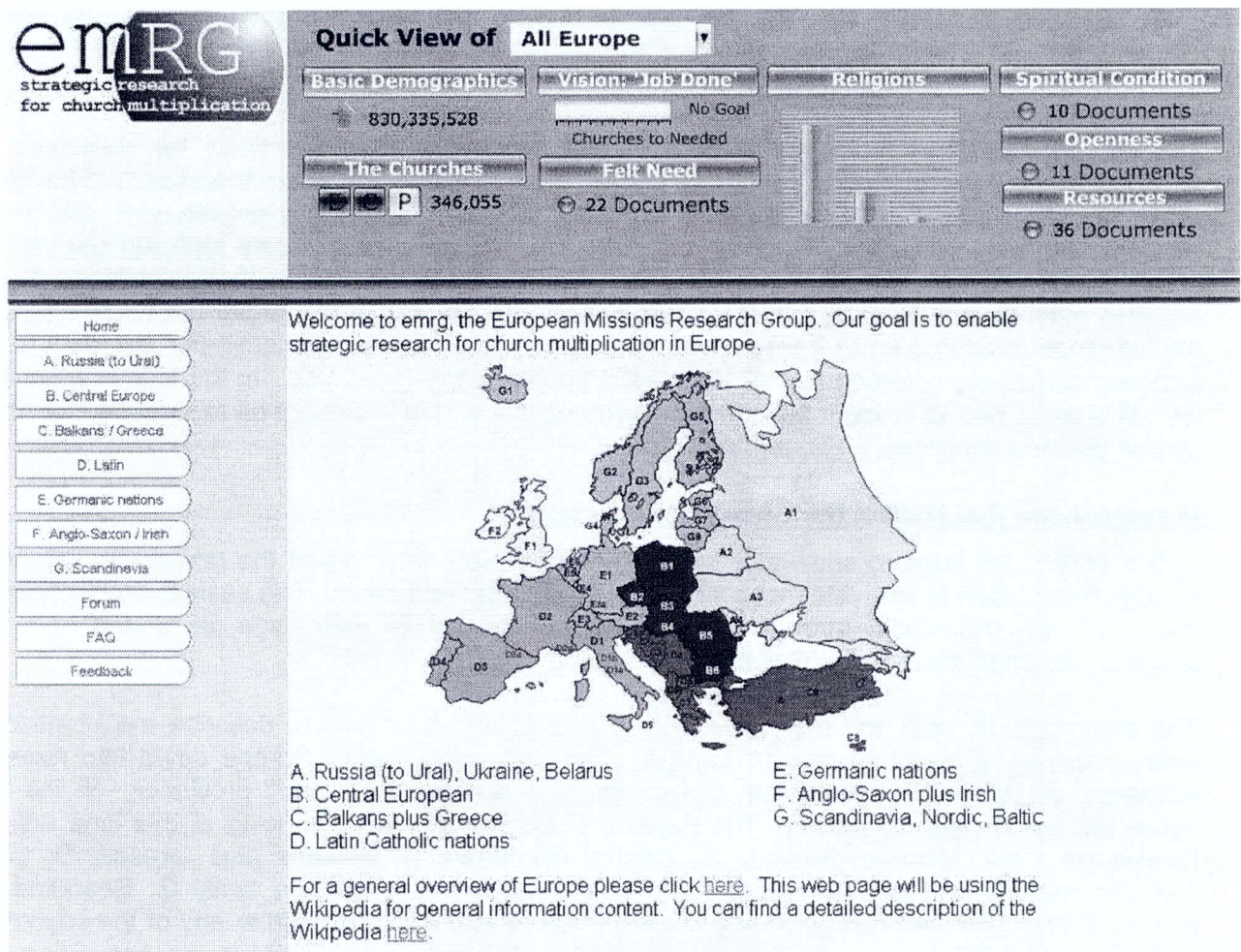
Figure 1 Home page of the emrg.

Please notice the top banner which has a "Quick view of All Europe" in it. This is an interactive flash presentation that gives key indicators about every European country and about the number of documents that are currently in the emrg web page relating to the various areas of the 'Call to Action' report. The major areas of the report are: Basic Demographics, The Church, Vision 'Job Done', Felt Need, Religions, Spiritual Condition, Openness, and Resources. Here is what the "Quick View of Spain" offers us for information:

Figure 2 Quick View of Spain

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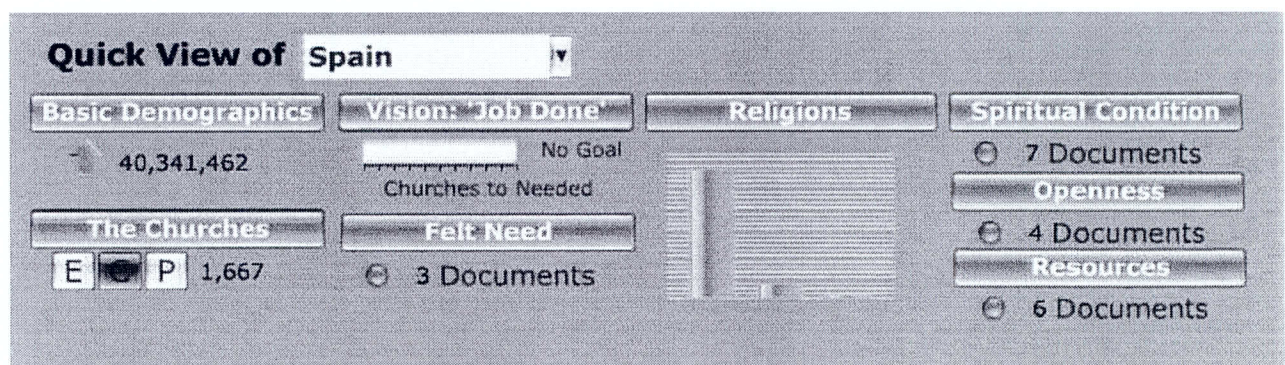It tells us that the population is 40,341,462 and growing which is indicated by the arrow pointing up. There are countries of Europe that are getting smaller. The Church section tells us that there are 1,667 churches. The letters E, C and P represent Evangelical, Charismatic, and Pentecostal. There are four color possibilities: Green represents a statistic of between 10% and 7% of the population, light blue is for 6% to 5%, yellow for 4% to 3% and red for 2% to 0%. The section 'Vision: 'Job Done' only is relevant for countries that have a country wide goal for church planting. That goal will be reflected here if there is one. The four sections, Felt Need, Spiritual Condition, Openness and Resources all say how many documents are in the database for their section. If the reader will remember these are the areas of the report that are not primarily numerical. The section called Religions shows a chart for the three major religions in the country. For Spain they are Roman Catholicism, other and Muslim. Each of the labels for the areas is also a button. When the user chooses a country and then clicks on the label she will be taken to the web page that addresses that topic for that country.

Let us look at each of these areas looking especially at presentation.

Basic Demographics

In all of the areas the first thing the user will see is a description of that area including its major divisions. There is a presentation that goes with the are of demographics. This presentation may vary a bit from country to country but will look something like figure 3. At the top the reader will notice that there is pull down menu. This allows the user to go from state to province. All of the statistics are presented at the province level. In many cases there is enough access to census material that a presentation could go down to the town level. The presentation in figure 3 only goes to the province level but we have statistics at the level of the municipality and in some cases as far down as the postal codes.

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| All spain ▼ | All spain ▼ |

Total Population of All spain
38,747,584

All spain
Under 18: 14,241,752 Over 18: 47,206,626

All spain
Marital Status

- Married
- Single
- Divorced
- Widowed

All spain
Under 18

- Male, under 18
- Female, under 18

All spain
Employment

- Professional
- Administration or Sales
- Agriculture
- Homemaker
- Service
- Construction or Heavy Industry
- Manufacturing
- Student
- Retired
- Unemployed
- Other

All spain
Education

- Without Education
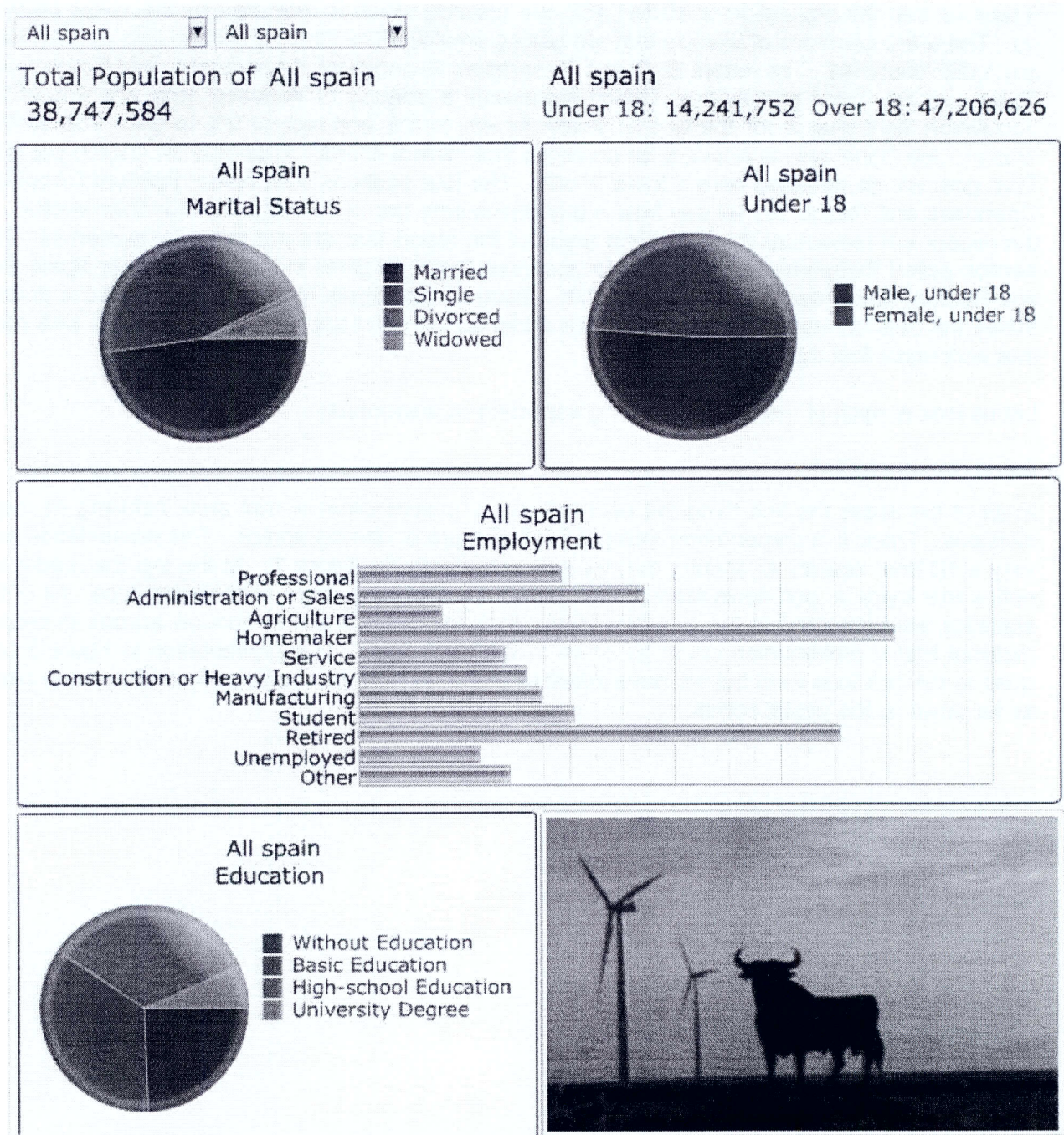- Basic Education
- High-school Education
- University Degree

Figure 3 Basic Demographics

When the user chooses a different location from the pull down menu the charts change to reflect the statistics for that area. Each of the graphs is also interactive. When the mouse is placed over them the specific numbers for each part of a chart is displayed in a pop up box. These presentations can be downloaded or the user can print them out or save different views of the statistics and charts.

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The following is a list of the Basic Demographics that should be included in a complete presentation:

1. Employment and income
   Number of working adults including occupation information and income level
2. Divisions of the population
   Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children
3. Total population
4. People groups
   Percentage, languages and location of ethnic minorities (what are typically called people groups).
5. Elderly and disabled
   Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped

Spain: Basic Demogrphics
- Galicia 0
- Andorra 0
- Melilla 0
- Ceuta 0
- Rioja, La 0
- Madrid 0
- Navarra 0
- País Vasco 0
- Murcia 0
  - Employment and income
  - Divisions of the population
  - Total population
  - People groups
  - Elderly and disabled
- Co. Valenciana 0
- Extremadura 0
- Cataluña 0
- Cantabria 0
- Baleares 0
- Canaries 0
- Castilla-León 0
- Castilla-La Mancha 0
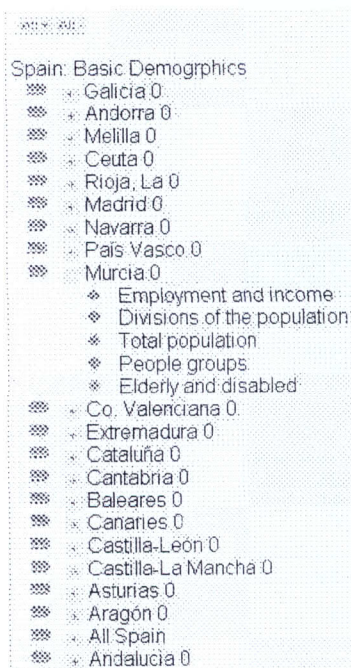- Asturias 0
- Aragón 0
- All Spain
- Andalucia 0

Figure 4 Document Tree

This area, along with all the others, has a document and internet links section attached to it. It is true that this particular area is mainly statistical in nature but there will also be documents that discuss the importance of various demographics. The user will also have access to these. He can read them on line or download them for later.

All of the areas of the web page need to be interacted with. The basic facts and numbers are just a starting point. That is why the web site also comes with a forum so that users can interact with one another as they begin to evaluate how some aspect of the information presented will effect their ministry. How can the researcher use this information to generate prayer, inspire vision and equip the church to be more effective in its outreach. Both the web site and the forum are secure environments where only authorized users may enter.

Figure 5 shows the forum. The forum serves two main purposes. The first is as mentioned above. It serves as a place to discuss the importance of the information being gathered into the research model. Once a user is authorized she is free to examine the forums. It is true that each country is different and sometimes even provinces have their own languages and cultures but there the researchers should exchange information and opinions across regions. This will make the discussion much richer and enable the participant to see data from perspectives that would otherwise not be open to him. This also fits into the concept of mentoring researchers which my colleague Andreas Wolf touches on in his paper.

The second purpose of the forum is for corrections, additions and suggestions. This is vital for a growing community. A significant amount of data is going to be uploaded to the web site and there are invariably going to be improvements needed. As the Scriptures say, "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed." [22]

This is the idea behind the forum. It too will be broken down by region of Europe, country, state and province. The more emphasis that is put on the local area the more useful the information will be to the local church planting effort.

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[22] Proverbs 15:22 New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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| Log In | | | Normal Log In ⌄ | GO |

emrg basics

	Forum	Hits	Posts	Topics	Last Post
	Announcements & Updates	4,033	12	9	In : Olga Urz By Paul H March 07, 2005 12:54:42
	emrg General Support	12,402	593	104	In : Vladimir By Petr Cincala March 22, 2005 07:31:34

emrg data, brainstorming and solution finding...the best part

	Forum	Hits	Posts	Topics	Last Post
	Corrections, additions and suggestions These are the forums where you can tell us about data that needs changing or things that might be wrong with the web page. ⊞ Sub Forums	1,732	95	19	In : Sam Matthews By Andreas Wolf March 12, 2005 03:17:28
	Your Suggestions We are always looking for better ways to serve you. Here is where you can tell us your thoughts.	6,049	443	104	In : Heinrich Wil... By Scott Friderich March 14, 2005 08:11:24
	The Countries and People of Europe In these sub forums you will find the country and topic that interests you. Let us together, in the strength of the Lord, push church planting forward! ⊞ Sub Forums	7,793	321	63	In : Francisco Por.. By Ruth R.. March 31, 2005 09:29:06

Online users
Currently 0 member(s), and 3 visitor(s) online in 10 minutes   **View Complete List**

Board Statistics

Total Members	583	
Total Forums	5	
Total Topics	362	
Total Posts	1,716	
Newest Member	DennisC	

Locked/Closed forum

Password protected forum

Forum contains new topic/reply

Forum contains no new topic/reply

Quick Jump Forum

Figure 5 Forum for the Common Denominator

In order to make the demographic data more relevant to the church planter it must be combined with the next section which is called 'The Churches.'

The Churches

This second area also focuses on statistics. The key topics are as follows:

1. Growth of local congregations
    Number of churches
    Growth of membership
    NCD statistics might be helpful here.
2. Growth of denominations
3. Percentage of the people attend church
    Adult attendance
    Total communicant members
    Percentage of people who call themselves followers of Christ This should not count people who are say they are believers but are not attending any local congregation.
4. The trend of growth
5. People group each church is reaching
    People group (i.e. internationals) that each church is reaching . Take the total number of the people group and show how many of them are being reached through x number of churches and or denominations.

Most of these are addressed in the main presentation developed for this area. Figure 6 shows the first part of the interactive presentation. This part shows population alongside churches and the locations of churches.

The blue gauges on the left of the figure graphically compare each province or autonomous community to the largest of all of them. For instance, the largest Spanish population for 1998 was in Andalusia which had 7.236.459 inhabitants. You would notice that the blue bar would be at its fullest if Andalusia (all) were chosen. It also has the most churches and therefore is the standard for that as well. Also note that there is a box next to the Members/Attendees gauge. That is the percentage of members/attendees to the population.

Then in the box below the blue gauges there are two important numbers. The first says how many churches there are for every 25.000 people. In Almería, Andalusia there was a little more than one church for every twenty five thousand people. This can be used to see the progress of the gospel. The next important number focuses on the goal of saturation church planting. This goal is to have at least one church for every one thousand people. This then is the number of churches still needed to reach that goal.

Underneath the blue gauges is a map. In the figure it is a map of the province of Barcelona in Catalonia. Each red dot represents a church. Since the map is of a large area not all of the churches will be seen. However, it does give the user an idea of the distribution and locations of churches. In the case of figure 6 the churches cluster around the city of Barcelona.

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Basic Information On Church Growth In Spain

Comunidad (state) Provincia (County)
Cataluña ▼ Barcelona ▼

Barcelona

Population

Municipalities

Total	Male	Female
4.666.271	2.261.746	2.404.525

310

Membership/Attend.

Number of Churches

0,33%

15177   % of Pop.

243

⊙ 1,30 church for every 25.000 people

⊙ 4.427 churches are needed to have one for every 1.000 people.

percentage of members/attendees to the population.

Then in the box below the blue gauges there are two important numbers. The first says how many churches there are for every 25.000 people. In Andlucia, Almería there was a little more than
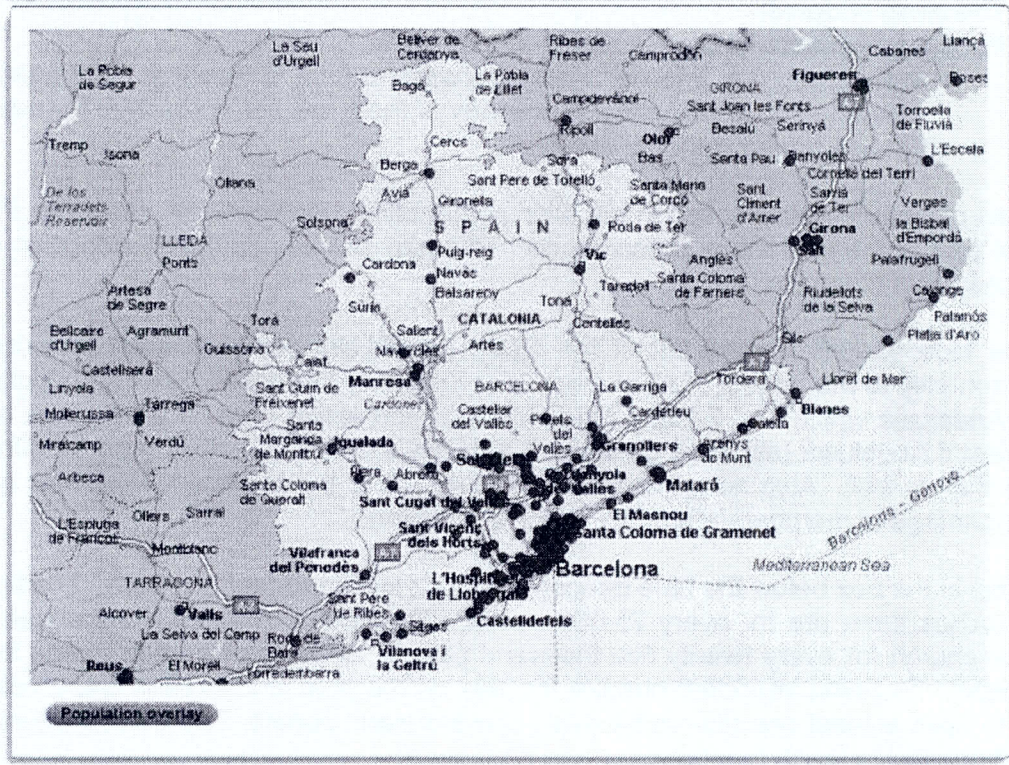

Population overlay

Figure 6 The Churches Overview

Note that there is a button beneath the map called 'Population overlay'. When the user clicks this button an image of the population based on municipal areas is displayed over the map of the church locations. It is possible to see the church locations through the overlay of the population (see figure 7)

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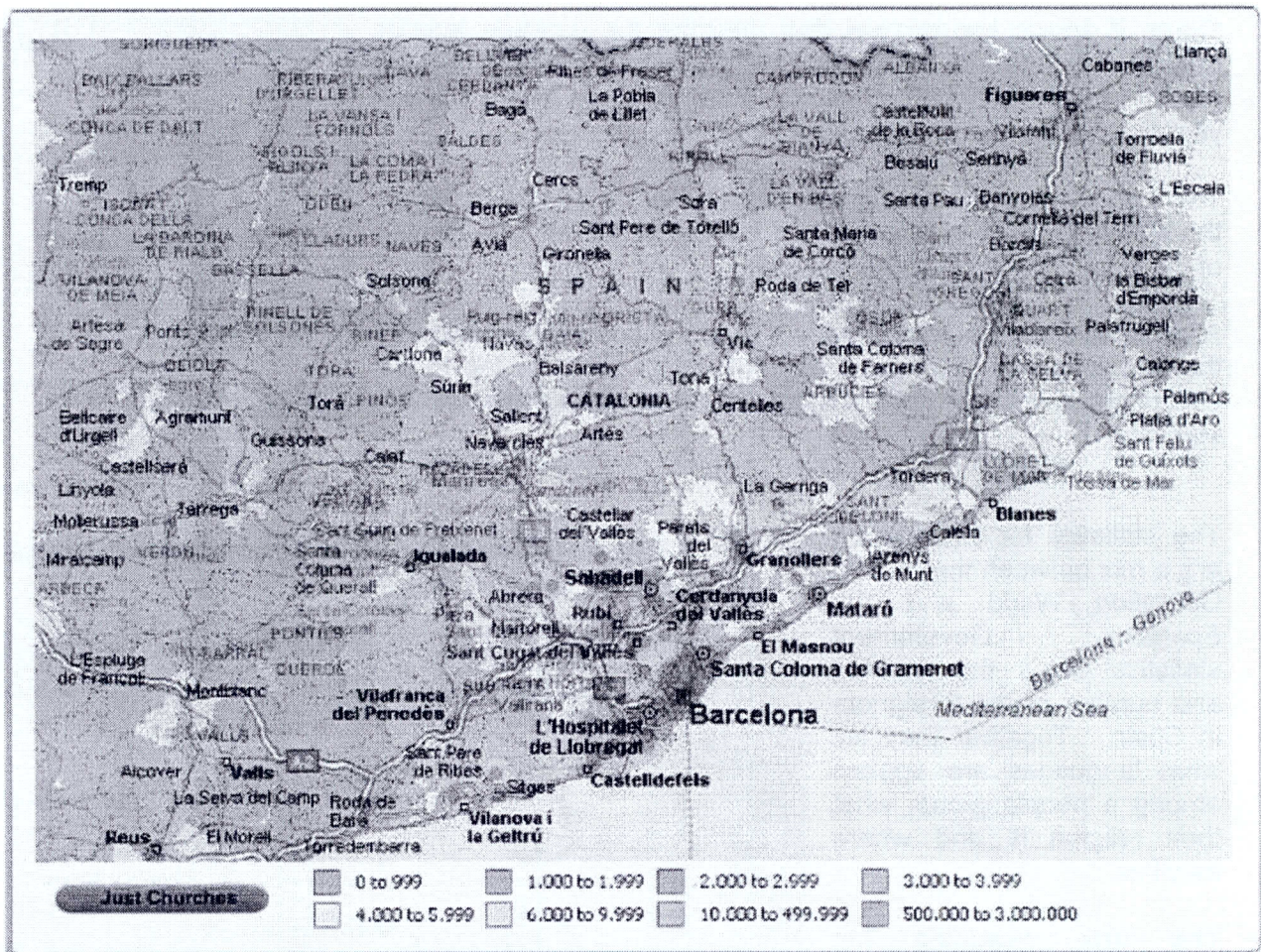
Figure 7 Population overlay

In order to view only the church locations all the user needs to do is click on the button 'Just Churches' and this will take her back to the previous view.

On the left side of the presentation is a menu. The first button on the menu will return the user to the original status that we have already be discussing. The second menu button is 'Number of Churches.' This opens up a new part of the presentation which tracks the growth of the church over time. In Spain's case, thanks to Esther Rodriguez and the Pocket Testament League, we have 27 years of records.

Figure 9 27 Years of Church Growth

Figure 8 Avg. Annual Growth

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Figure 8 shows two gauges that describe the average annual growth of the church. The top one shows the average annual growth over the 27 year period. The bottom gauge shows the five year time period that was the best for church planting.

This brings us to the next graph (figure 10) the comes up when the button 'Growth' is selected. It brings up the average growth of the church during five year periods.

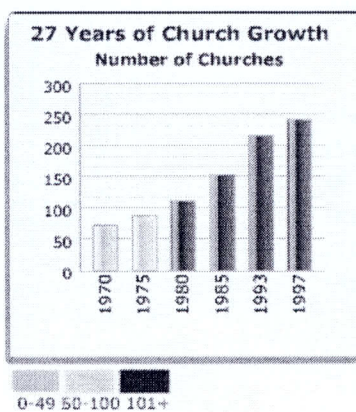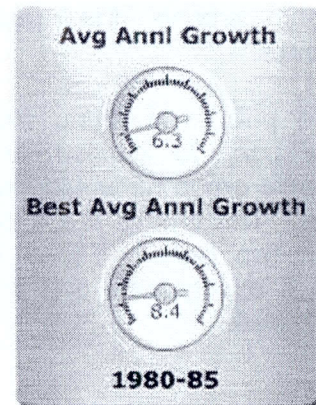After these menu choices there is a series of buttons that address the people groups that are living in Spain. Each of the major continents is represented. Figure 11 Shows a number of key statistics.
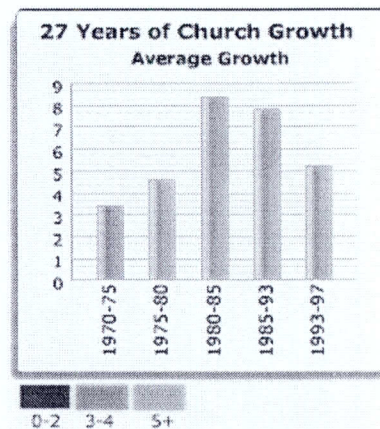
Figure 10 Average church growth

The statistics for this section are a mix between those from Operation World and the Spanish Government statistics about the location and number of the foreigners in Spain. Together they tell what languages are spoken among a people group, what their religion is and where they live.

The data regarding the evangelical population is based on Operation World's understanding of the country of origin and not the people currently living in Spain. It does, however, help us to know the general spiritual tenor among the people groups.

The pull down menu allows the user to choose which people group he would like to see. The groups are divided into two parts. Those with more evangelicals and those with less.
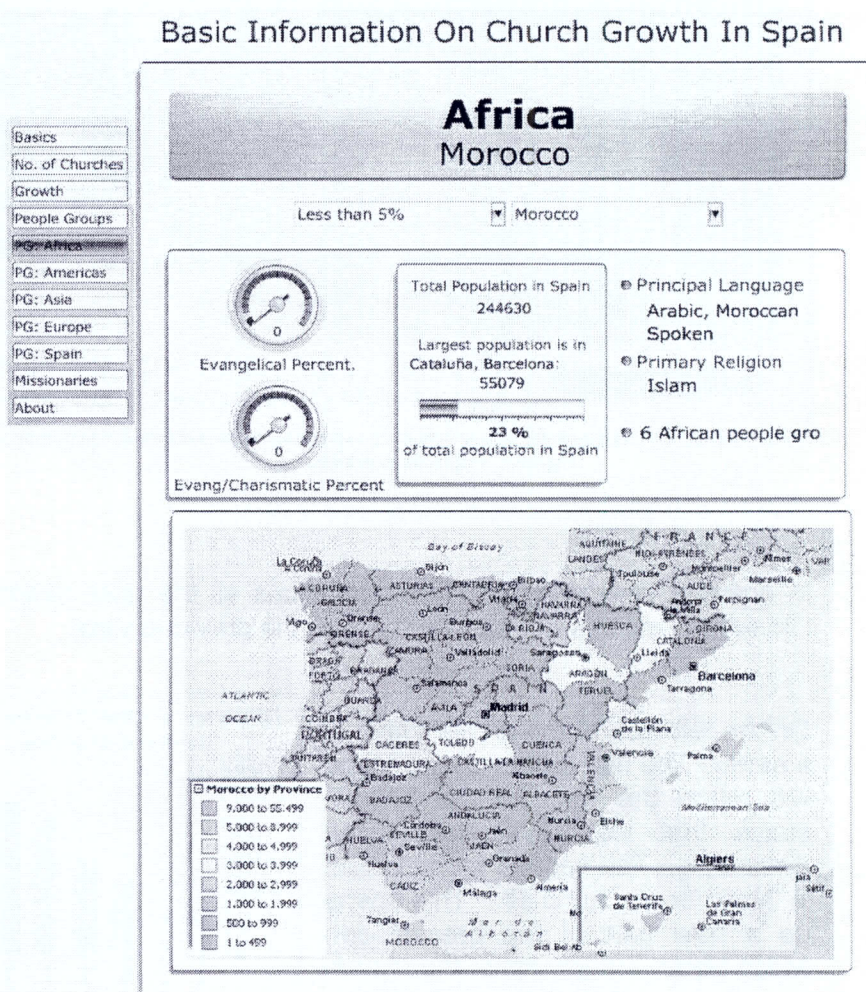
Figure 11 People Groups

The research model asks the researcher to investigate what the national church is doing to among the people groups and what advance for Christ is being made among them. This presentation as yet does not go that far.

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Vision: 'Job Done'

This third area clearly falls under the second purpose for research which is to build enthusiasm for the task of church planting. The clarification of this area is as follows: "Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear, see and understand the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way."

A missionary from Latvia named Samuel Bible came up with an interesting idea which we then put into a presentation. It looks like this:

Membership/Attend.   Number of Churches

5.70%

120,750   % of Pop.   1,050

◉   1,070 churches are needed to have one for every 1.000 people.

The red dots are 560 churches that exist already. If you move the slide on the right you will see white dots or future churches appear on the map. The gauges and percentage marker are accurate assuming an average church membership of 114 across all denominations.

Figure 12 Latvia Dreaming

The description in the graphic is a clear expression of how the presentation works. The growth of the church that you see as you move the slide bar up reflects the idea that churches start churches near to where they are. This is a generalization but serves to show how the gospel could progress through a country. It would be helpful to add to this the number of leaders needed to serve these churches as well as the number of schools and correspondence courses needed to train those leaders. These could change as the number of churches also changes when the slide bar is moved.

Felt Need, Religions, Spiritual Condition, Openness, and Resources

The remaining five areas are mostly document libraries. They will be fully searchable and downloadable. They are to be discussed in the forums and shed a lot of light on the church planting process.

Quick overview of the five areas

Felt Needs

Felt needs here are defined as a description of any chronic problems in the society. This research model tracks four main categories. These are:

1. Destructive vices[23] This category can also be tacked using statistics.
    Alcoholism
    Drug abuse
    Gambling
    Pornography
    Prostitution
2. Troubling trends[24]
    New forms of old sins like nature worship, cypebrsex and designer drugs
    A broadening acceptance of behaviors that were formally unacceptable like alternative lifestyles, abortion and teen sex. This would also include the side effects of these behaviors like AIDS is to sex outside of marriage.
    It is also important to find out who is pushing or advancing these troubling trends.
    A developing brazenness or boldness to sin.
3. Conditions of pain[25]
    This focuses on the major causes of suffering in a community.
4. Stresses, strains and hardships
    Orphanages: large number or poorly taken care of
    Lack of adequate medical care
    Elderly without care
    War and terrorism

Religions

The seven categories regarding religious groups in this section are basically clear. The key here is the information that we have on the provincial level. It is true that there will be an abundance of information on the country level. We are, however, looking to put as much local information as possible in the hands of local church planters.

The seven categories are:

1. History or the religions in the area
2. The religions relationship to the evangelical churches.

---

[23] Otis, George, Jr. Informed Intercession. 1999, Renew Books, Ventura, CA, p.p.232

[24] Ibid, p.p. 232-233

[25] Ibid. p. 231

This includes specific groups in a local area as well as an official policy that the group might have regarding evangelicals.

3. World view

The world view of a religious group is the lens through which its adherents see the reality around them. However, the world view that you might find in a book will probably be different from what you might find in a conversation with someone from that group. If there is a large group of active members of a group in your area it would be good to do interviews with them focusing on their world view, how it differs from the official view and how that world view is received by the people in the local area.

4. Influential deities
5. Influential Role Models
6. Significant Events
7. Significant Practices

Spiritual Condition

Spiritual condition looks at and sometimes tries to measure the response people are having to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It also addresses the availability of the gospel to groups of people. It does not discuss the 'competition' the gospel has for the hearts of the people. That is the topic of the area called Religion.

1. Least evangelized and unchurched

This can be tracked numerically by looking at recorded conversions for each part of society but this also demands more information.

a. Lack of a church in a geographical area
b. Lack of churches in a people group
c. Lack of church representation among social economic groups

2. Mark local churches on a map
3. Accomplishments of the Church

a. Segments of society reached with the gospel.
b. Ministries to the needy
c. Standing in the society at large (reputation)

4. Most responsive to the gospel

a. Geographical areas
b. People Groups
c. Social economic groups

Openness to the Gospel

Openness to the gospel is seen as having three main categories:

1. Predominate Philosophies

This focuses on defining the collective philosophy or world view of the people in an area. Examples of this could be: views of truth and reality, fatalism, Spirits, Ancestors, Hedonism, and or Individualism, etc.

2. Exegete our culture

We must learn to exegete our culture to discover needs and mindsets which will indicate what would be Good News to these people.

3. Learn how to share Christ within the local world view.

Although there is some overlap with the other two points this focuses a bit more on methods than it does on ideas. The emphasis here is on the word 'how.'

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Resources

Resources that can be mobilized to help reach the people of the target area.
These people, churches and ministries can assist in reach people for Christ. This category is more than just a contact list but also talks about the unity of the church in a given area or province. [This category has both numerical and non-numerical data]

1. Like-minded churches
    List the churches in the area that have a desire for evangelism and church planting.
2. Level of participation cross denominations and churches
    State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the lost. A percentage of participation could be gained by knowing the number of churches and denominations and comparing this with the number of those that are participating.
3. Possible collaborators (People and possibly Christian organizations)
    List the others with whom you can share this vision and who can cooperate together to reach the goal.
    List the labor, finances, and gifted individuals are available.
4. Churches
    Describe the financial situation of the churches
        Describe the financial situation of the churches: outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc. Each of these can be tracked for a group of churches. This also addresses the CPM's indicator of 'poison candy' or foreign money.
    Indicate the denomination of each church.
        One of the models suggests that all denominations and independent groups should be listed according to their respective traditions
    Type of leadership in the church
        Type of leadership in the church: pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or part time, etc.. These too can be tracked across a region.
    Activities provided by the church
        List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them. The various church ministries can be listed and then charted for their popularity or usage in churches across a region.

These document libraries add to the three fold purpose: generate prayer, inspire vision and equip the church to be more effective in its outreach. In some ways they offer much better handles and practical perspectives on the sometimes confusing area of church planting.

As can be seen from the description of the web site it does not, by itself, write a neat, easy report for the researcher. It does, however, provide enough information to accomplish the purposes for church planting research. It is a collaborative effort. Two brains are better than one.

Conclusion

At the beginning of this paper we set out to discuss three things: First it is an evaluation of the seven major research models connected with church planting in Europe, with a view to developing a core set of research data that can be used equally by all seven. Second this paper is a description of how the core research data can be organized into presentations that reflect the common purposes of these same seven research models. And lastly it is a brief description of the secure environment where that data can be both collected and retrieved.

The evaluation of the seven research models showed a cohesive whole despite their diversity. They unite well around the three purposes of generating prayer, inspiring vision and equipping the church to be more effective in its outreach. For this reason this common denominator shows itself to be a research model or an excellent example of a methodical investigation that deserves to be imitated.

One of the great values to putting this model on the web is the collaborative effort that we could make in Europe. There are many people doing research for the progress of the Gospel. It is my hope that this model could serve as a common place where they all might be able to talk and help one another. That it would unify our efforts and make us stronger and our work even more useful. The various research models that contribute to the common denominator can use that data and add whatever else they need to it in order to accomplish their mission.

It must also be said that the design of the research environment which was not discussed at length in this paper is an open environment. By that I mean that it is like the open source programs that are in the computer world of Linux, Unix and the university. It is hoped that this effort would be assisted by a great number of like minded and enthusiastic servants of Christ who enjoy researching God's ministry to Europeans.

There are some things that would make this model better. The most helpful thing for this would be to set up a time when the seven creators of these research models could sit down together and discuss the things that they all have in common. I recognize that every research model changes a bit over time. As it is used it gets refined and improved. I assume that this has happened to the seven models some of which were written down on paper several years ago. They have probably improved by now.

The model needs a solid set of definitions for each of its key terms. This was not addressed at all here. Another useful thing would be a set of questionnaires and small research plans that researchers could use when adding information to this collaborative effort. These standards would make the data more even and more easily comparable from one situation to another in Europe.

The last thing that would be very helpful to the model is if researchers like yourselves would evaluate it and contribute to its growth to maturity. Your comments and criticisms are encouraged.

Paul Dzubinski

Appendix: Purpose of Research

Chart

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer	Information Generates Prayer
3	Information causes people to cry out to God and depend on Him to do His work in the circle. When Jesus saw the needs, He asked for prayer before anything else. Jesus commanded His followers to "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Mt 9:38).					sustain intercession	The burden for prayer. Our longing is that the book will be seen as a tool for prayer. The spiritual tone and vision that expresses the heart of our heavenly Father is what should be in the forefront. All other issues must be secondary.

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches	Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches
	Good data mobilizes the people God has called to the harvest force in response to prayer. After Jesus commanded His disciples to pray, He sent them out to reap the harvest that was waiting for the workers (Mt 9:36-10:1).		To provide information to help motivate the Church toward discipling the whole nation. This is accomplished when Church leaders have set realistic national and denominational goals for church planting, evangelism and other ministries for discipling the nation; (Wingerd, p. 30)	Nehemiah Effect: Nehemiah's quest begins when his brother Hanani arrives with his friends from Jerusalem. He tells Nehemiah his story of sadness and despair that the gates to the city are burned, the walls are broken and the people are living in trouble and discrace. Nehemiah's life instantly changes forever! And it was simply the information that did it. (Dennison, p.163)	The chapter "How it All Began" reflects the impact information can have. In this case it motivated Garrison to study CPM's so that he could 'reverse engineer' them and attempt to reproduce them. (Garrison, Preface)		

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective	Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective
4	Work with intelligence because we have a realistic account of the resources, people, and conditions we have available.	Identifying needs and resources	helps us to discover information. contextual data: "Religious State of the nations" (Montgomery, p. 114)			Discernment	
4	Research helps the harvest force discover what it has available and what it lacks for the field (Lk 14:28-33).	Identifying needs and resources	helps us to Change our current understanding. helps us to Find new ways to apply understanding.			Discernment	
4	It helps us count the cost and make realistic plans, believing that God will supply what is lacking.	Identifying needs and resources	productive methodologies, institutional data: "Success of Former Undertakings" (Montgomery, p. 114)			Discernment	

Frequency of four mentions reduced the content of the category list by 20%

The crossed out category or subcategory had only three mentions

~~Information Generates Prayer~~

Information Inspires Vision to Plant Churches

Information Equips The Harvest Force To Be More Effective

Work with intelligence because we have a realistic account of the resources, people, and conditions that are available. Research helps the harvest force discover what it has available and what it lacks for the field (Lk 14:28-33). It helps us count the cost and make realistic plans, believing that God will supply what is lacking.

Appendix: Harvest Field

Chart

Count of entries	ASCP Demographic information.	CoachNet Demographic information.	DAWN Demographic information.	CityReaching Demographic information.	CPM Demographic information.	Otis Demographic information.	Operation World Demographic information.
6	Total population	Total Population	Institutional data	demographics	Importance given but left undefined		Total Population
4	Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children	Genders and ages	Institutional data	demographics			
3	Number of working adults… include occupation information and income level		Institutional data	demographics			
3	Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped		Institutional data	generational identification			
5	Percentage and location of ethnic minorities. What languages do they speak?	Ethnic Groups	Institutional data	ethnicity			Major and Smaller groupings of peoples. The total number of ethno-linguistic peoples

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Geographic information	Geographic information	Geographic information	Geographic information	Geographic information	Geographic information	Geographic information
3	Geographic markers can play a role in how and where people live and relate to others.				Importance given but left undefined		Area. Given in square kilometres, the area does not imply approval or disapproval of the political status quo of disputed territories but is a reflection of the actual situation in May 2001. In this category are such areas as the Western Sahara (included under Morocco) and the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas — included as a British dependent territory).

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information	Sociological and cultural information
5	By learning about people's worldview and their felt needs, we can gain insight into ways in which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ.	exegete our culture	Contextual data		Importance given but left undefined	Philosophies	
5	Views about God	Attitudes	Contextual data	religion		Religion: Significant Events and Practices, Influential Deities and Role Models	
3	holidays and how they are celebrated	Interests	Contextual data				
3	World view: fatalism, etc	Attitudes	Contextual data				
5	Problems in society (alcoholism, orphanages, lack of adequate medical care, elderly without care, etc.)	Needs	Contextual data	Stresses and strains, hardships		Destructive vises, troubling trends, conditions of pain	
3	Leadership: kinds and who	Interests	Contextual data				
3	Cultural heroes	Interests	Contextual data				
3				Politics		Structural Disintegration	Politics

Frequency of four mentions reduced the category list content by 50%

The crossed out category or subcategory had only three mentions

Demographic information.
Total population
Number and percentage of population who are men, women, youth, children
Number of working adults.... include occupation information and income level
~~Number of retired and elderly, and disabled/handicapped~~
Percentage and location of ethnic minorities. What languages do they speak?

~~Geographic markers can play a role in how and where people live and relate to others.~~
Sociological and cultural information
By learning about people's worldview and their felt needs, we can gain insight into ways in which they can be meaningfully shown the love of Jesus Christ.
Views about God
~~holidays and how they are celebrated~~
~~World view, fatalism, etc~~
Problems in society (alcoholism, orphanages, lack of adequate medical care, elderly without care, etc.)
~~Leadership: kinds and who~~
~~Cultural heroes~~
~~Politics~~

Appendix: Harvest Force

Chart

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches
4	Mark every local church in your region on your map.		Location	Total number of congregations		Size and Nature of the Church	
5	Indicate what denomination of each church	Denominations		List all denominations and independent groups according to their respective traditions		Size and Nature of the Church	The denominational listings
4	adult attendance.		Status	Average attendance		Percentage of weekly church attendance	
4	people group each church is reaching (e.g. gypsies, youth, children, homeless, elderly, internationals, etc.)		Identity	Determine the sociological emphasis – ethnic and linguistic composition.		Ethnic churches and representation of social classes of each	

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches
3	Rate the successfulness of each church in their people group.			Factors that seem to be causing growth. Percent of population churched (possibly by geographical area)	Rapid Reproduction		
4	State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the lost			The current level, scope and forms of existing united prayer efforts	Extraordinary Prayer	Believers in a community unite in prayer	
3	List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them				Abundant Evangelism	Evangelistic Activity and Progress	

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches
3	Describe the financial situation of the churches (outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc)		Description			Church finances including property and how the church useses those resources	
3	Type of leadership in the church (pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or partime, etc)	Ministers				Recognized Christian community leaders or not.	
3				Total communicant members		Size and Nature of the Church	Church attendance
3				Segments of society most responsive to the gospel		presents of a "Bible Belt" in the community or a concentration of churches	The percentage of Christians
3				Segments of society that are the least evangelized and are unchurched		Places where the gospel has never taken root.	The percentage of Christians

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Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
3	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches	Existing Local Churches
				growth of local congregations		Evangelistic Activity and Progress	Growth rates
3				growth of denominations		Evangelistic Activity and Progress	Growth rates
3				The trend of growth		Evangelistic Activity and Progress	Growth rates
	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.	History of Christianity.
3	List the religions in the area					Other religions	religions

Frequency of four mentions reduced the category content by 75%

The crossed out category or subcategory had only three mentions

Existing Local Churches

Mark every local church in your region on your map.

Indicate what denomination of each church

adult attendance.

people group each church is reaching (e.g. gypsies, youth, children, homeless, elderly, internationals, etc.)

~~Rate the successfulness of each church in their people group.~~

State the level of participation cross denominations and churches that is unified prayer for the lost in the community and outreach to the

lost

~~List all the activities provided by the church and note participation in them~~

~~Describe the financial situation of the churches (outside money, donations, planned budget, week to week, etc)~~

~~Type of leadership in the church (pastoral, elders council, paid, not paid, fulltime or partime, etc)~~

~~Total communicant members~~

~~Segments of society most responsive to the gospel~~

~~Segments of society that are the least evangelized and are unchurched~~

~~growth of local congregations~~

~~growth of denominations~~

~~The trend of growth~~

~~History of Christianity.~~

~~List the religions in the area~~

Appendix: Analysis of Data

Chart

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Number of churches	Number of churches	Number of churches	Number of churches	Number of churches	Number of churches	Number of churches
4	Number of churches needed to fulfill the Great Commission in your target area?		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward		Positioning for Action	
4	Number of churches needed so that every man, woman and child in this target will be able to see, hear and understand the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward		Positioning for Action	

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods	Select your methods
4	Choose methods that will meet the needs of the people		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward		Positioning for Action	
3	Use as models methods that are working with good results in other churches in the area			Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward		Recent Divine Initiatives	
Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources
4	List the others with whom you can share this vision and who can cooperate together to reach the goal		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward		Positioning for Action	

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources	Determine your resources
3	List the labor, finances, and gifted individuals are available		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward			
3	List the churches in the area that have a desire for evangelism and church planting		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward			
3	List those who are open to pray for evangelism and church planting efforts and for God to make Himself to be known in the lives of people in their communities		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward			

People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith	People's understanding or faith
3	Decide if evangelism can start with Jesus Christ or if it must begin with talking about the existence of a supreme, creator God		what is yet to be accomplished to complete the Great Commission	Careful balance between the spiritual and practical steps the church must take to move forward			
Existing church	Existing church	Existing church	Existing church	Existing church	Existing church	Existing church	Existing church
3			What has the Church accomplished	Spiritual dynamics and personalities behind current circumstance		Recent Divine Initiatives	

Frequency of Four Mentions (60% reduction in content)

The crossed out category or subcategory had only three mentions

Number of churches
Number of churches needed to fulfill the Great Commission in your target area?
Number of churches needed so that every man, woman and child in this target will be able to see, hear and understand the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way

Select your methods
Choose methods that will meet the needs of the people
~~Use as models methods that are working with good results in other churches in the area~~

Determine your resources
List the others with whom you can share this vision and who can cooperate together to reach the goal
~~List the labor, finances, and gifted individuals are available~~
~~List the churches in the area that have a desire for evangelism and church planting~~
~~List those who are open to pray for evangelism and church planting efforts and for God to make Himself to be known in the lives of people in their communities~~

~~People's understanding or faith~~
~~Decide if evangelism can start with Jesus Christ or if it must begin with talking about the existence of a supreme, creator God~~

~~Existing church~~
~~What has the Church accomplished~~

Appendix: Products or Reports

Chart

Count of entries	ASCP CALL TO ACTION	CoachNet CALL TO ACTION	DAWN CALL TO ACTION	CityReaching CALL TO ACTION	CPM CALL TO ACTION	Otis CALL TO ACTION	Operation World CALL TO ACTION
3	basic demographics describe the situation of the people		Report the conclusions				Geography, peoples, economy, politics, religion, Prayer, Praises, Country statistics, Church growth, church detail, missionaries from and missionaries to the country
4	felt needs describe the situation of the people		Report the conclusions			chronic problems	Prayer requests
4	Summarize the spiritual condition of the people of your target area.		Report the conclusions			Subject matter can deal with disturbing trends, chronic problems or unique circumstances	Prayer requests

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION
4	The churches among these people		Report the conclusions			Status of Christianity	Prayer requests
4	Percentage of the people attend church		Report the conclusions			Status of Christianity	Prayer requests
4	Percentage of people who identify themselves as followers of Christ		Report the conclusions			Status of Christianity	Prayer requests
3	Openness to the Gospel		Report the conclusions				Prayer requests
3	other religious groups are working among the target area		Report the conclusions				Prayer requests
3	Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear and see the Gospel in a relevant way		Report the conclusions				Prayer requests

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION	CALL TO ACTION
3	Describe what specifically God's is calling you and your team to do in order to reach the people in your target area.		Report the goals				Prayer requests
3	Describe how you will devote yourselves to prayer for the people in your target area.		Report the goals				Prayer requests
3	List what resources (people, churches and ministries) can be mobilized to help reach the people of your target area.		Report the goals				Missions and other organizations are listed

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE	DETERMINE HOW TO MOBILIZE THE HARVEST FORCE
3	Tell a true story of something that will cause people to feel the pain that those without Christ are suffering where you did research. Compassion For The Lost		Report the challenge to the Church				Prayer requests
3	Ask others to pray for these needs.		Report the challenge to the Church				Prayer requests

Count of entries	ASCP	CoachNet	DAWN	CityReaching	CPM	Otis	Operation World
	Field Reports	Field Reports	Field Reports	Field Reports	Field Reports	Field Reports	Field Reports
3	KEY DEMOGRAPHICS: Population, Peoples, Economy, Religion		Report the conclusions				Geography, peoples, economy, politics, religion, Prayer, Praises, Country statistics, Church growth, church detail, missionaries from and missionaries to the country
3	Key contacts		Report the conclusions				Missions and other organizations are listed

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Frequency of Four Mentions (69% reduction in content)

The crossed out category or subcategory had only three mentions

Call to Action

basic demographics describe the situation of the people

felt needs describe the situation of the people

Summarize the spiritual condition of the people of your target area.

The churches among these people

Percentage of the people attend church

Percentage of people who identify themselves as followers of Christ

Openness to the Gospel

other religious groups are working among the target area

Number of churches that need to be planted in your target area so that every person has an opportunity to hear and see the Gospel in a relevant way

Describe what specifically God's is calling you and your team to do in order to reach the people in your target area.

Describe how you will devote yourselves to prayer for the people in your target area.

List what resources (people, churches and ministries) can be mobilized to help reach the people of your target area.

Determine How to Mobilize the Harvest Force

Tell a true story of something that will cause people to feel the pain that those without Christ are suffering where you did research.

Compassion For The Lost

Ask others to pray for these needs.

Field Reports

Key Demographics: Population, Peoples, Economy, Religion

Key contacts

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