



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

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Community of Mission Information Workers

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What is a People Group Advocate?

By Duane Frasier

There are thousands of people groups in the world and we have a constantly improving picture of ethnic realities globally. This year marks the 230th anniversary of William Carey’s missionary manifesto, punctuated by detailed maps he had wept and prayed over.

This bulletin includes an article by a “people group advocate” who has used the capabilities of today’s digital maps to track the migration of members of a specific people group, echoing Carey’s habit of pairing missions passion with strategic information.

The idea of “adopting” people groups is not new, but at times has struggled to move much beyond prayer. The people group advocate does not neglect prayer, but also seeks to be active in several steps to ensure a people group has adequate access to the gospel and a body of believers.

Particular focus on adoption of or advocacy for people groups is gaining in interest and momentum. Some examples of initiatives are those being done by Pray For Zero (<https://seedcompany.com/get-involved/pray>), Finishing The Task (<https://finishingthetask.com>), AIMS (<https://aims.org/upg-adoption>), Frontiers (<https://www.frontiers.org.uk/get-involved/adopt-a-people-group>) (with a specific Muslim concentration) and a significant Frontier Peoples adoption project in the planning stage.

There is interest in reviving the Adopt-A-People approach from decades past, but with a new “champion” approach. We have more robust people group data than in any period in history. It is an opportune time to braid together information and action on behalf of people groups who have long waited their turn for gospel blessing.

* **Duane** serves with Joshua Project in Colorado Springs. He and Erika have two sons, Michael and William, whom they are raising to be people group aware.



People Group Advocacy

Anonymous author

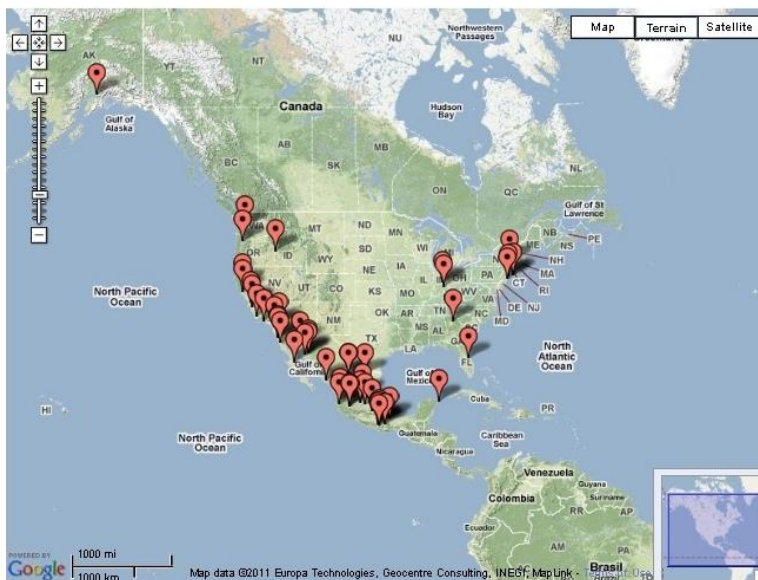
Nearly three decades ago, I was serving in a migratory destination for farmworkers in northwestern Mexico where collectively thousands of members of scores of different indigenous language communities from southern Mexico arrived. God gradually led me to develop a ministry focus on one of those language groups in particular.

As my involvement with this people group has expanded in many ways over the years, I have struggled to find a term for my role. I sometimes use “people group advocate,” though that still

does not give the full picture. A large focus is on making vernacular audio and video Scripture resources readily accessible to speakers of this language, through a diversity of media formats and platforms. To accomplish that, I desire to learn where they are located, even down to the level of very small “diaspora pockets.”

A variety of “push” and “pull” factors over the last six to seven decades has led to at least two-thirds of the members living outside their villages of origin. The group in question only numbers in the tens of thousands, and it is one of 300+ distinct, indigenous language communities of Mexico. Government stats do not go down to the level of such language group distinctions. Thus, I found it necessary to do my own research to find out where they are scattered, to then develop strategies to make God’s Word available to them in those diverse locations.

I started by doing informal interviews with some local speakers of the language with regard to where concentrations of speakers had migrated. I got some very specific tips, like a particular laundromat and a flea market where I could easily make contact with them. Google Alerts have been VERY helpful, with ones that I set up over a decade ago still bringing results in my inbox every day. A book published nine years ago by a secular researcher specifically on the history of the diaspora of this group filled in a lot of information.



My research findings have been mostly for my own use and not mainly for public consumption. I have used a variety of on-computer and cloud-based text and spreadsheet documents to record what seems important to me, as well as some mapping programs, like the old Google Earth desktop program and a now-defunct version of Google Maps. Effectively integrating all the data types has proven impossible.

A network for the distribution of physical Scripture resources (e.g. CDs, DVDs, microSD cards, audio players, BibleBox WiFi hotspots) in villages, marketplaces and many diaspora locations through key local contacts is in place. But with a diaspora spanning an estimated 200+ specific communities in 40 or more states in two countries, social media options like a YouTube channel, an Android Scripture app, and Facebook have helped fill in the gaps. During the past 5 years paid Facebook ads have been especially helpful to “push” people to the respective Bible resource page on the ScriptureEarth.org website. The use of the recently discontinued “connections” targeting option allowed me to place Facebook ads before the eyes and ears of speakers of the language in even the smallest diaspora pockets, the stats of which also gave new insights on probable diaspora pockets that had not been previously detected.



Virtual Mission Information Workers Conference

Lausanne Movement

CMIW is planning a virtual conference in hopes of accelerating the development of the mission information community. Please mark your calendar for the week of **September 19-23, 2022** as the probable date. We are looking for volunteers who can ensure this will be a multilingual event. More details will be available soon.



AMRIConnect is now live! You can access this secure, multilingual, online platform for mission research at <https://www.amriconnect.net/>. As you will see once you register and participate, the platform is growing rapidly. New individuals and organizations are registering regularly, uploading their research information to share with others, and forming groups for collaborating around common interests.

AMRIConnect aims to meet such mission research needs as a global imbalance in capacity, ignorance of research agendas, and lack of majority church voice. AMRI (Alliance of Mission Researchers and Institutions) developed over three years ago out of Oxford (U.K.), Akropong (Ghana), and elsewhere.

Perhaps the simplest way to introduce AMRIConnect to others is stated in the AMRI vision statement (at <https://www.amriconnect.net/en/about-amri>): "a community of Christian institutions, networks, and individuals engaged in mission research, facilitated through a secure online platform." There is further information on that same "About AMRI" page, as well as in the article about AMRIConnect published in the July 2021 CMIW bulletin (at https://globalcmiw.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/2021_v11n3_CMIW-Bulletin_UN%20v3.pdf). There are also several introductory YouTube videos available via the AMRIConnect homepage; you can also go directly to the AMRIConnect YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/channel/UCfXIZ23EN8AS0bBd3MUbf5Q>, where you will also find the February 17 launch celebration recording.

Join in at <https://www.amriconnect.net/> and "Share, Connect, Collaborate"!

Wait, don't read on just yet...

Might you think you have nothing to share? No one with whom you can connect? Or collaborate?

Please think again. Our CMIW Editorial Team recently received a possibly-never-published manuscript of a paper entitled "Evangelical Research: An Overview" written by Ed Dayton* in 1971! Although much has changed in the ensuing five decades (names of organizations, publications, and mission resources), some of Ed's observations in this paper could easily have been made yesterday:

[Click to read Ed's paper from 1971](#)

"Evangelical Research: An Overview"

by Ed Dayton (1971)

If you have a few moments to drift back with Ed into missions research history, you will be genuinely inspired to grab ahold of the AMRI invitation, join as an individual or with your institution, and upload some of the work you have done to benefit others. You'll want to take motivation from the failed efforts that Ed laments—past attempts to create and utilize collaborative platforms for sharing missions information. You will shake your head to read of all the initiatives that went un- or under-utilized, and you will praise God that His information laborers have not given up the dream of working together for the common goals of the glory of God and the growth of His Church.

Spoiler alert: Don't be put off by the archaic vocabulary ("Data Banks") and absence of inclusive language (e.g. to "develop a cadre of **men** with expertise in analysis"). Dayton's typography of research done by missions information workers (i.e. Pure, Academic, Applied, Policy, and Strategy) leaves room for all of us to play our part.

AMRI welcomes us all. We need not be university students, seminary profs, or a denominational CEO for our missions research projects to be of interest to others. In fact, the greater the representation of members of the Community of Mission Information workers in this call to learn from each other, the greater the likelihood that past disappointments can contribute to tomorrow's wins. In the process we might even find ourselves resonating with Dayton's affirmation that "We need to have fellowship around the facts."

Stephanie Kraft

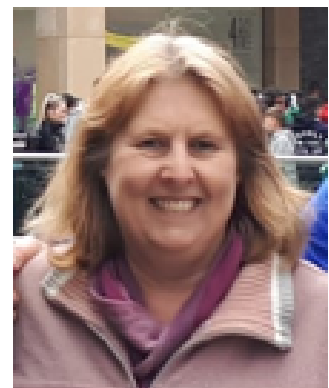


* **Ed Dayton** was the founder in 1967 of the Mission Advanced Research and Communication Center (**MARC**), a division of **World Vision** International. He also served as Chair of the Lausanne Theology and Strategy Working Group and in that capacity was responsible for organizing the Second Lausanne Congress in Manila in 1974.

Special Profile: Jenny Oliphant

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

I was born 16th March 1969 and raised in Dorking, UK. Jesus found me when I was very young through the words of the carol "Away in a Manger" and he has been answering my heart cry "and fit us for heaven to live with you there" even since. I have been married to Stuart for 25 years, we met at All Nations Christian College, UK. Stuart works as a registered counselor in private practice and in Member Care with a mission agency at their UK base. He is also part of their International Member Care Team as Member Care Facilitator for Iberoamerica. Our two boys were born in Argentina. Daniel is now 22 and graduated in "Culture and Media" at Leeds University. He now works for a recruitment agency. He is engaged to Kate and they plan to marry in August 2022. Matthew is 20 and is studying "Film Production" at Winchester University.



Before I was married, in a gap year and University breaks (Leeds University 1988-1991), I explored my calling into overseas mission work and took part in Suzette Hattingh's Intercession team at the Euro Fire conference in Portugal. I also worked in Israel with CMJ (Church's Ministry among the Jews) for six months and joined YWAM in Bolivia for two years.

In 1996 we married and joined Latin Link to work with University Student Ministry (IFES) in Argentina. We were also involved in Mission Mobilization, Candidate Selection and training for those leaving Argentina to serve in Cross Cultural Mission. Over the 14 years in Argentina, I was also the editor of the Global Prayer Digest (in Spanish), on the board of RMM (Red Misi3n Mundiales- COMIBAM Argentina) and started a national prayer movement for unreached peoples.

During the last year of our time in Argentina, God spoke to us about international mission and support of Latin American workers who were on the field. We returned to the UK in December 2012. We are based at our sending church Gold Hill Baptist Church, where I am deacon for prayer and part of the cross cultural mission team.

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

Currently I am coordinating two global prayer networks, first the Ethne Prayer Team (www.ethneprayer.org) which focuses on mobilizing prayer to see all unreached peoples have access to hear and understand the Gospel. I also facilitate a newer global coalition called 24:14 (Matthew 24:14) with the vision to see Kingdom movement engagement in all unreached people and places by 2025. These global networks are spread over 12 regions. We are all volunteers and partner with prayer leaders in organizations, networks, churches and church planting movements. Our websites for more details are <https://prayerstrategists.net/> and <https://www.2414now.net/>.

I am also on the global prayer team for Go Decade which produced daily prayer requests throughout 2020 and 2021 for the mobilization of 100 million believers to pray and witness to one billion people in 2020, with May 30th as the Global Outreach Day (<https://www.go2020.world/>). I am a leader in the International Prayer Council in the focus group for unreached peoples (<https://www.ipcprayer.org/about-ipc.html>) and a member of the International Partnerships Associates, formerly known as InterDev (<https://www.ipassociates.org/>). It is a joy to partner with the Global Prayer Family and I am thankful for the increase and acceleration in prayer for the nations and peoples of our world since the first 10 days of prayer online back in September 2019, which a small team of us hosted through zoom.

Through the Ethne Prayer team I am involved with the coordination of prayer resources for the global body of Christ that are distributed in many languages. These include: 15 days of Prayer for the Hindu World, 15 days of Prayer for the Buddhist World, 31 Frontier Peoples, Global Prayer Digest with Joshua Project, 14 days of Prayer for Persian World, Disciple Keys.

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

It was a surprise to me and a joy to serve in Argentina with the Casa Cooperation, which was a “mission hub” that supports and encourages mission sending from Argentina. As a part of that team I coordinated the *Guia Mundial de Oracion* (Global Prayer Digest), which had been an important prayer tool in the Argentinean church for decades. That involvement led to great satisfaction in a national prayer retreat for unreached people group and participation with the COMIBAM network in Argentina. The most memorable and life changing event from this time in my life was being sent from Argentina as their representative at the World Prayer Assembly in Indonesia in May 2012. The spiritual significance was not lost on me as a Brit, and I was deeply impacted by this opportunity.

Since returning to be based in the UK, I have taken on the Ethne prayer and 24:14 roles and latterly with IPC, IPA, Global Family, Go decade roles. I feel that producing world prayer resources in multiple languages, which are designed to be simple to use, has mobilised thousands perhaps millions (here we need some research from CMIW) of people to pray for unreached peoples. I was a part of birthing the 15 Days of Prayer guides for the Hindu World, 15 Days of Prayer for the Buddhist World, The 31 Frontier People Guide and Disciple Keys.

Of course, alongside tangible resources it is the impact and friendship with others that is the most significant and satisfying. I have gained true friendships with other like-minded intercessors and mobilisers from across the world. I am enriched by the cultural diversity and insights that each person brings and it's a taste of the unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17.

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

I seek to be an advocate for intergenerational prayer and mission, looking forward to links with intergenerational mission outreach at local church level as well as the national, regional and international network levels. I dream that through technology and younger leaders' entrepreneurial

and innovative talent that we will see disciple making movements multiply across the people and places in the world that currently do not have enough believers to witness and share Jesus' message of freedom and salvation. I also dream of seeing local, national or indigenous believers reaching across historical divides to be messengers of reconciliation and forgiveness as they live and work amongst neighbouring ethnic groups. This also applies to our involvement and love towards diaspora communities around the world. My dream is to continue to serve the global body of Christ in the call to pray for all nations, all peoples, and all areas of our society and community life, that God's Glory would be known as the waters cover the seas—that God's ways and Kingdom would be seen on earth in the transformation of justice and truth, restoration and release.

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

Accuracy and intelligent analysis of the world data, regarding peoples and places that have very low numbers of believers and little opportunity to hear the Gospel, is essential to the global prayer and mission movements. We are aware of security risks and issues when we highlight positive increases in those turning to follow Jesus in hostile situations. However, the research from the CMIW community gives the picture of the task before us and enables more specific prayer strategies and campaigns to focus on the remaining task. Since the work before us is a God-size task, I believe that sharing, collaboration, close friendships and good communication are very important. I therefore am very willing to continue to serve the CMIW community in mutual support for prayer mobilisation and accurate research work.

Information from the Word

"For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love." (Philemon 1:8-9a NRSV)

Here Paul writes to his collaborator Philemon about the gospel's expectation concerning Onesimus. This letter was also to be read to the Church. Paul hoped for an appropriate response to the insights he shared. Precision and intelligent analyses of world data with respect to unreached peoples are, in a sense, like letters to the churches. The Lord expects the gospel-informed Church to know what to do with the insights we share. Research can be a clear indicator of where and how to minister. But are we information workers presenting every call with love and prayer?

Final Details:

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