



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

*The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers*

Volume 12, Number 4, October 2022

Gathering Information on Movements *A Synopsis by Stephanie Kraft*

Justin Long has been involved in mission research for more than 25 years. Over the past decade, he has studied rapidly multiplying Church Planting Movements. Some estimates in 2015 proposed 100 active movements. During the 2010s, Justin began collecting case studies and quantitative movement data. Several advocates encouraged others to share beyond their own networks and movement(s). Justin aggregated the data while adhering to

the security and confidentiality requirements of each data submitter.

By 2017 he had documented nearly 1,300 engagements and 600 movements, significantly more than were expected. The evidence of their geographic and ethnographic spread encouraged hope that “a movement team for every people and place” might become possible in the near future. Justin continues to collect and share updated data on movements to encourage practitioners and provide information on the remaining gaps.



Justin's team only gathers data to document total global numbers, regional trends, and identify gaps. No credit is claimed for these movements. Further, much of what movements share is sensitive and provided in confidence, held in trust for the [24:14 network](#). Various movements and teams do much of the research, and globally, research and leadership teams help make decisions about data use and protection. Information is not shared or published below the regional level. Interested people are directed toward the regional networks, which internally determine processes for connecting people and sharing information appropriately.

Families of Movements

In all, Justin and his team receive movement data from 40 different “families” or networks of movements, numbering from a few thousand to the millions. No network makes up more than half of the total. Some are region-specific, and others are multi-regional and even multi-continental. Nearly all the movement families have “concentrations of focus” on specific peoples or religions.

Global Totals

For the 24:14 effort, all reports use the CPM Continuum scale: “1” (a single team getting started), “5” (a full movement), “6” (local leadership), and “7” (movements send workers to start new movements). Reports include a specific place (country, province, city), people group, people cluster and/or language. Security requirements may restrict reporting to a specific country. Others might report activity among a language group or cluster, while others might report activity coded with [Joshua Project's](#) people group ID codes. Reported data is aggregated, coded, then totaled to the regional level, revealing where gaps may exist.

“Engagements” are counted when (a) team(s) focus(es) on a group at any level. Justin's team knows of 5,475 engagements. An engagement is counted as a movement when it consistently sees four generations of disciples gathered in churches, in multiple streams. These generally contain about 1,000 disciples or more. Counting this way, 1,967 movements have been identified.

Once movements reach the four-generation threshold, they usually grow to around 100,000 and sometimes into the millions. They may then plateau or start new movements. Once a movement

reaches four generations it rarely ends. Only 18 examples of endings (which Justin calls "fizzles") were found. In each, the disciples either transitioned into traditional churches or started new movements, thus growth was not lost.

Information gathered indicates that there are currently at least 114 million disciples in 8.6 million churches. What has been documented is limited. Some movements report yearly, others less frequently. Some intentionally under-report, or only report on streams of a particular size. Some reports get delayed and thus the data is old. Other movements are not sufficiently documented. These numbers therefore constitute a conservative "floor," not an estimate of the "ceiling".

A more complete analysis of the movements Justin and his team have documented can be found in his article entitled "Over 1% of the World: A Macroanalysis of 1,967 Movements to Christ." (https://www.globalcmiw.org/cmibulletin/over_1percent).

This article is an abridged version of Justin Long's "1% of the World: A Macroanalysis of 1,369 Movements to Christ," which is an updated version of Long's article originally published in *Mission Frontiers* and available [here](#).

Micro Data in Movements

by Trevor Larsen

How would you respond if a woman suddenly started doing a local cultural dance and chanting "Jesus Christ is the word of God" in front of 200 people, 90% of whom were unbelievers? The local believer, who was the emcee of this Muslim religious ceremony, which was being reinterpreted to give witness to Jesus, chose to have everyone else also start dancing and chanting the same phrase. Next, she offered prayer in Jesus' name for anyone ill. After a man on crutches due to a displaced kneecap received healing and exclaimed, "Alhamdulillah!" attendees' lighthearted chanted prayers turned sober. A woman's neck goiter deflated when people laid hands on her in prayer. Then fluid dripped from the ears of a baby who had an enlarged head due to hydrocephalus as the child received miraculous healing in Jesus' name.

As the community collectively processed gossip from these three miracles, reflective practitioners realized that God had touched people, so they helped the community interpret the event. Gradually special interest groups began Discovery Bible Studies using printed scriptures. Over the next three to nine months, as people interacted with scripture and then trusted in Jesus, seeker groups became believer groups averaging about five believers each.

During the next four years, as believer groups birthed other groups, two linked clusters of groups took shape, comprising 140 believers in 36 groups and eight generations. The group leaders (including the emcee and the mother of the miraculously healed baby) were woven together into leader groups. As numbers increased, 'small regions,' then 'large regions' and corresponding leaders were developed. Leader groups at each level are linked to a mentor at a higher level for additional assistance.

Each quarter, leaders coordinate with other leaders in generations further down to update spreadsheets tracking the (currently) 593,000 believers in our network's groups. The process is an equipping behavior that helps local leaders think critically and continue growing. It also gives an opportunity to recognize high-quality volunteer work and tie laborers' hearts together.



A small region's leaders sharing a meal while discussing ministry issues that emerged while collecting fruit data one quarter.

We track various metrics, including group members' initials and baptism status, leaders' names and maturity at each level, and members who have teaching gifts, counseling capacity, or managerial

skills for social projects. We track the progress of the top leaders using 18 indicators, including the median group generation and the ratio of believer groups to leaders' groups.

Microdata is a *spot check*, a *spotlight*, and a *warning light*. It functions as a spot check for quality. For example, if a top leader's ratio of groups to leader groups is 20 or more, they likely don't have enough leader groups or are not tracking them (indicating sloppy equipping). This data spotlights fruitful practices, many of which we have cataloged in our books at www.FocusOnFruit.org. It also is a warning light for issues that need to be addressed. For example, stagnation at generation three or four indicates the need to establish a leader group. As another example, when we chart groups, if the 'egg chart' is triangular with a widening base, it likely has healthy growth patterns. But, if the pattern of reproduction is long and narrow, this indicates the need for further equipping on the role of every believer in starting seeker groups.

Microdata informs the labors of a range of local people growing into ministry roles: *Disciple makers* (who also function as *pastors*) can better evaluate individual group members' progress. *Leader developers* can identify leadership deficits. *Reflective practitioners* (who are also *trainers*) notice fruitful practices and patterns. *Strategist practitioners* discern forces constraining or supporting growth. We gather data about things as specific as a miraculously healed baby with hydrocephalus and then continue to track how this and other events influence multiplication across groups, clusters, small regions, and large regions. In this way, we develop a representative picture of God's work across a network and gain insight on how to work together with Him for the advance of His Name.

Microdata that emerges from our annual Health Diagnostic Tool is tracked by cluster leaders, for them to assess and make improvements in the health of the clusters of groups they lead. This microdata is not sent to higher level leaders for the sheer volume would overwhelm them, but cluster leaders discuss aspects of it with their mentors.

Brazilian Congress on Missions CBM2022

by Rodrigo Tinoco

The 2022 Brazilian Congress on Missions (CBM 2022) will take place November 7-11, 2022. It is the principal multi-denominational event with a missions focus occurring regularly in Brazil. Held triennially, it is organized by the Association of Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missions ([AMTB](http://www.AMTB.org)). The purpose of these gatherings is a call to retain a clear focus on the singularity of the Word of God, in dependence upon Christ, through the Holy Spirit, such that the Church in Brazil would be altogether characterized by a wholehearted submission to the God of mission. Pray with us that Brazilian missions information ministries will indeed be totally submitted to our missionary God.



Mission Information Workers Conference

by Chris Maynard and Rodrigo Tinoco

Last month (September 2022) 155 people from 24 countries logged into the virtual Mission Information Workers Conference for an average of four hours each. The organizing committee was particularly pleased that 40 people from 11 countries in Africa participated and we were able to provide translation into Portuguese for 13 people from Brazil and Angola.

There were presentations on Global Gaps in international data sets, the Harvest Information

Standards (HIS), the Development of National Mission Information Workers (MIWs), Gaps in People Group data, the Bible and Mission Information Work, Research Impacting Gospel Advance, Technology, Training of MIWs, Lausanne L4, The History of Missions Research, Movement Data and Motus Dei, the Funding of MIWs, Links to Leadership, AMRIConnect, and much more. Participants enjoyed interacting and connecting during talks, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

It was roundly agreed we regularly want to be together as MIWs. For now, let's continue to encourage each other with Psalm 67 (NIV):

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—
so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.
May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.
May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.
May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.



Special Profile: Thalita Goulart

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

My name is Thalita Paula Monteiro Goulart, I am 32, and married to Marlon Alves Goulart. We are members of the Atitude Baptist Church in Niterói, a municipality of the state of Rio de Janeiro in the southeast region of Brazil. My background is in mathematics, licensed as a Statistician with Bachelors and Master degrees in Cartographic Engineering.



2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

I am a missionary statistician for the National Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. I have been in this role for seven years, and I work primarily in the gathering and analysis of strategic information.

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

There have been many challenges and specific efforts for missionary expansion, and I am directly connected to the areas of planning, scenario analysis, research, and mapping, among others. One project in which I was involved that became quite relevant was Vision Brazil 2020, where we mapped all Brazilian municipalities with regard to the number of Baptist churches and/or congregations, with the objective of seeing at least one church for every 10,000 inhabitants and 2% Baptist in the general Brazilian population. This mapping enabled us to understand very clearly where we were as a denomination and where we needed to go, identifying those places of greatest need and determining where our efforts and priorities should be concentrated. To update Vision Brasil 2020, we then launched another relevant project for Brazilian Baptists called the Baptist Census. In partnership with our state-level conventions, we obtained current numbers of Baptist churches and congregations, uncovering additional information about their characteristics, profiles, and development.

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

We dream about the expansion of our research efforts, including greater contributions and unity among God's people in programs and projects that contribute to the expansion of the Kingdom.

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

I am available to dream with you and to be a partner in projects that enable the gospel to reach ever greater numbers of people.

Information from the Word

In Matthew 2:1-3, the research question was "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Subsequent verses tell us that The Magi's search for information about the whereabouts of the promised Messiah unlocked a series of events that directly impacted the result of their research. As we information workers make our inquiries, do we acknowledge our possible role in influencing outcomes? Do we cultivate an awareness of how our practices, processes, and very presence can contribute to, or take away from, our mission purposes?

What an Opportunity!!

1) Would you like to participate with us in **sharing examples of "Information from the Word?"** This feature, which appears as the final article in each issue of our "Correct Me If I'm Wrong" bulletins, always references a specific Scripture relevant to our discipline. As a member of our 600+ community, you are invited to send us your own submissions of "Information from the Word" for publication. The rules are simple – fewer than 100 words including a direct quote from the Bible and at least one question. We will include your name with the submission so that our community might get to know you a bit better.

2) From time to time your Editorial Team chooses themes for these quarterly bulletins. We are planning to focus our January 2023 edition on "**Doing research in a hostile environment.**" Might you like to share a 500-word contribution from your own experience for us to consider carrying? If so, drop us a note at <info@globalcmiw.org> and we will vet your and others' submissions for possible publication in the January bulletin.

Final Details:

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