



“Correct Me If I'm Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the
Global Community of Mission Information Workers

Volume 13, Number 3, July 2023

This edition of our bulletin represents a celebratory moment for our Community. July 2023 marks the twelfth anniversary of the launch of our quarterly bulletins. In addition, the past year included the launch of our Virtual Conference initiative, which we hope to continue strongly into the future. We have formatted this edition with a festive feel – colors extracted from our logo and an invitation to interact with us about our regularly-reviewed vision statement.

The bulleted points of the vision statement (published at <https://www.globalcmiw.org/Vision>) are peppered with questions. We warmly welcome your responses and feedback to info@globalcmiw.org).

You are the Lord's people. Obey him and celebrate! He deserves your praise.
Psalm 33:1 (CEV)

Our Vision

We want to become a community that:

Welcomes, helps and encourages mission information workers

- welcoming all who gather, analyze, transform and/or publish mission information
- helping each other and being helped with the information tasks we are currently doing
- encouraging workers who are often isolated in their tasks

How can CMIW connect with MIW's who work in different circles, orbits, and contexts -- and in different languages?



Shares information about information

- indicating where to find information and how to manage it
- connecting information people with each other
- identifying and sharing good practices

Functions well remotely

- including those who cannot travel
- reducing travel for those who can
- supporting some face-to-face meetings
- enabling electronic communication through newsletters, virtual meetings, discussion groups, etc.

Understands its identity

- an ever-changing community as people move into and out of roles, organizations and even mission information work itself
- distinct from, yet integrated with other mission workers
- its members having different specializations

How does CMIW connect with mission-related academic researchers?



Lives up to its God-given responsibilities

- encouraging the godly use of information – with integrity
- prioritizing prayer - praying ourselves and facilitating prayer through our information
- developing a clear view of what we do with information – how does God see it?
- understanding why information is important – what are its limitations?

Equips God's people to handle information

- equipping all who are called into information work, not just relying on a few
- facilitating strategic use of information
- learning from leaders what they want from information workers
- informing leaders how to use information and lead information workers



Concretely, how do MIW's regularly learn from mission leaders what kind of information they want?



What are ways that MIW's can be financially supported?

Gives attention to global, regional and local responsibilities

- serving the local and emerging as well as the centralized and well-resourced
- moving responsibility for information closer to its source
- seeking to enhance both local control and appropriate global availability

Is multi-cultural

- meeting the challenge to model the new community out of every nation
- celebrating women and men equally participating
- working to include speakers of different languages in the community

How can this happen concretely and meaningfully?



Is watchful of giving advantage to our enemies

- recognizing that the very existence of our community is a threat to security
- promoting appropriate information security measures
- preparing for spiritual counterattacks

Works together

- facilitating “all of the above”
- developing better understanding to improve our task in the future
- reproducing and multiplying itself in the younger generations to ensure continuity



Who and where
are younger MIW's?

Mission Information Workers (MIW) Conference Report

by Chris Maynard

The second MIW Virtual Conference in April provided another cost-free, online experience where people can register and attend without financial or time commitment of a face-to-face meeting. So it was that we had nearly 400 registrants and 180 active participants, about half of whom attended for at least three of the eight hours of the conference.

We certainly “welcomed and encouraged each other!” The meeting room was open 30 minutes before and after the conference for people to gather, meet and interact. This open discussion time was especially lively at the end of each day, stimulated by what had been presented.

It was good, as was the case in the virtual conference of September last year, to be able to have interpretation into Portuguese, and in one of the after-sessions we all benefitted from some impromptu interpretation from Portuguese into English.

The three main themes were “Regional People Group Data & Gaps,” “Unifying Missions Data,” and “Building Research Capacity.” Each of them is a key theme, and none of them will progress very far without cooperative work – reaching across our organisational boundaries.

Back in September we had thought that we might run one of these conferences every six months. In the lead up to this second one, the organising team realised that it will be better to leave twelve months to allow for other cooperative activities to happen in between. It is our desire that more specific work can be carried out in the interval. Whether that happens or not remains to be seen. The next general MIW virtual conference like this one is likely to happen around the same time next year.

Finally here is some feedback from our post-conference survey. I chose four people at random from the 44 who gave us written feedback (unbiased). Here are the best bits from their comments (biased).



"I especially liked the Story Telling and Information and Prayer sessions."

"I was so happy to see the international nature of participants."

"Organizing [a] conference like this will be very helpful especially for the front line missionaries, for effectiveness."

"The room for participation was great."

A topic that recurred in the comments was about the challenge we have of catering for such a diverse audience, but on average 36 people found each session valuable, and only three did not (among those who answered those questions). Several people told us of technical difficulties connecting with the conference, or of clashes with other commitments. Many appreciated that recordings are available for them to recap, and to view sessions that they missed.

Indeed, all of the formal sessions are now available on CMIW's YouTube channel, along with recordings from last year. Each conference is grouped as a "playlist", but you can select an individual session to listen to. (If you are busy, you can even listen at a higher speed!). See: <https://www.youtube.com/@cmiwwglobal/playlists>.

MIW Training Corner



Mission Infobank (www.missioninfobank.org) is a website that provides free "research resources from and for missional Christian leaders." Much of the information provides links to other missions and their resources such as Joshua Project, Operation World, The World Bank, IMB/SBC, Gospel Recordings, CMIW and PrayerCast. Many resources are also available for download, many of those being from Global Mapping International, the organization where the website originated. This site is now provided for you by LightSys Technologies.

Special Profile: Adeolu Olanrewaju

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

I was born into a missionary-pastor family. So, I grew up following my father to rural communities where he was reaching the lost. I enjoyed the ride on his old rugged motorcycle but I was not really sure if I wanted to follow in his steps. I wanted to study hard, get a good job and at most be a mission supporter. I have my bachelors in Dramatic Theory and Criticism as well as Masters and PhD degrees in Intercultural Studies. I am married to Adebukola and blessed with three growing kids. We make our home in North-central Nigeria.



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

I began my missionary service with my local denomination; an opportunity that took me across people groups in Nigeria, Republics of Benin and Niger. I joined the national missions network of my home country, the Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA) about ten years ago. I have had the privilege of serving as the Academic Dean of the Nigeria Evangelical Missionary Institute and NEMA's Head of Publications. I also served as the Director of Research and Strategy and currently I head the Finance and Administration Department. Serving in NEMA is a huge privilege, quite laborious but deeply fulfilling.

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

It's really exciting to be part of the global missions movement that is committed to ensuring that no people, place, language nor person is left. I recall, a few years back, when the leadership of NEMA took the challenge of delisting Nigeria from countries with unengaged peoples. I was part of a small team that was saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that this goal is met. To the glory of God and as far we have tracked, there are currently no unengaged peoples in the country. We are now believing God to ensure that no unreached people group is left. This experience and more strengthened my heart for the possibility of finishing the task.

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

I just long to see many more peoples, languages and nations especially among the remaining unreached and unengaged peoples come to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. My heart yearns to see movements of obedient disciples particularly in places and among peoples that continue to resist the Good News. I long to see the Light flood every dark corner of the earth.

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

Being part of the CMIW community has been a huge blessing to my life and ministry. I have learnt a lot from others across the globe. I will be happy to be part of initiatives of establishing or strengthening national missions information work. I will also be happy to make contributions to closing gaps in regional data.

Information from the Word

by Adeolu Olanrewaju

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." Nehemiah 1:4

Hanani and some men had brought unpleasant information to Nehemiah. The news was devastating but Nehemiah's immediate response is worth learning from. **He prayed!** We are not lacking in mission information, we are simply lacking in the appropriate response. Mission information is not an end in itself; it must lead us, first, to the place of seeking God's face. That is the reasonable thing to do. If a little more of the time and energy spent in analysing and strategising on research reports may only be deployed into prayers,

we probably would be close to finishing by now. That is why as a community of mission information workers, “we want to live up to these God-given responsibilities – prioritizing prayer; praying ourselves and facilitating prayer through information.”

Note

CMIW bulletins include links to important websites related to the bulletin content. We on the CMIW Editorial Team are vigilant about security concerns in connection with those links and test them carefully before including them in our bulletins. That is why the links are normally spelled out, so that readers can be assured of the site being linked. At the same time, links that we consider unwieldy in length are normally embedded in the bulletin's main text. As an exercise in reader vigilance, the editorial team encourages readers to examine embedded links before clicking on them – a habit we encourage everyone to maintain in all electronic reading.

Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team comprises 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/cmibulletin.