



# “Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global  
Community of Mission Information Workers

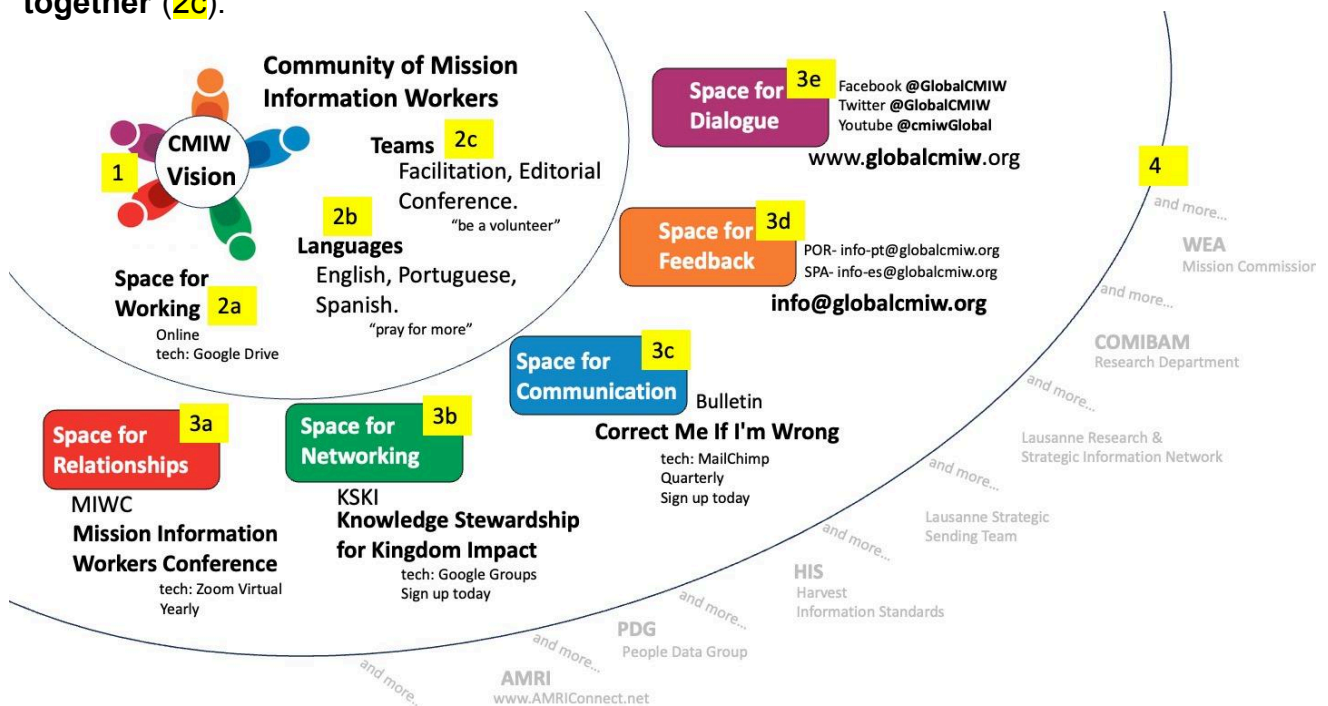
Volume 14, Number 3, July 2024

We have often used the July editions of “Correct Me If I’m Wrong” as a moment for reflection. We present this graphic in that spirit. It represents the development of the Community of Information Workers over the past thirteen years. It illustrates a number of different ways you can get involved in and connect with this community. We hope this graphic inspires you to engage in new ways!

## Celebrating Relationships, Resources, and Reach

by Rodrigo Tinoco

The Community of Mission Information Workers desires to “live up to its God-given responsibilities” as they are expressed in our vision statement ([www.globalcmiwi.org/Vision](http://www.globalcmiwi.org/Vision)). To better understand and visualize our progress to this point, we created this graphic to represent how our vision (point 1 (1)) has shaped the development and growth of our community. Just like the impact of a stone tossed upon still waters, our vision has produced ripples that created opportunities for us to “help(ing) each other and be(ing) helped with the information tasks we are currently doing.” We are intentional to “function(s) well remotely” (2a), “(be) is multi-cultural” (2b) and “work(s) together”(2c).



In the effort to “meet the challenge to model the new community out of every nation” we now have many spaces. A ‘Space for Relationships’(3a) to “equip all who are called into information work.” A ‘Space for networking’(3b) to “welcome(ing) all who gather, analyze, transform and/or publish mission information.” A ‘Space for

*Communication*'(3c) to “develop a clear view of what we do with information.” A ‘*Space for Feedback*’(3d) to “develop better understanding to improve our task in the future.” Finally, a ‘*Space for Dialogue*’(3e) to “connect(ing) information people with each other.”

In a simple and friendly way we purpose to “welcome(s), help(s) and encourage(s) mission information workers”(4) in the different environments in which each operates in the Kingdom of God.

No graphic will show how many things the Lord of the mission has accomplished in and through the CMIW. As you will have noticed, the phrases in bold are taken from our Vision statements. Consider reading and reflecting on the full text (<https://www.globalcmiw.org/Vision>). May we celebrate together. God is on the move.

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## An African Case Study

In our January 2024 edition we shared this invitation: *Do you have a story to share about how easy/hard, successful/challenging, satisfying/frustrating it may have been to provide actionable data to your mission’s leadership? Please tell us your story and we will share it with our community.*



Here, then, is a story of one information worker’s experiences in East Africa:

I am in my mid-40;s and have worked for a decade in missions research in a sensitive context. I have a spouse and two children. I’ve faced numerous challenges in my work. These included:

- **Access:** It has not always been easy to obtain information and resources in my context. Sometimes leaders have been reluctant to give me facts about what is happening under their leadership. This has especially occurred regarding church planting. For example, I’ve been asked to produce assessments but couldn’t access information that would have added clarity to my reports.
- **Control:** Some mission leaders found it difficult to allow me to conduct independent research. They wanted to dominate the flow of a question-answer session, control the kind of data that was collected and what was done with the data. They sometimes resisted answering my and other researchers’ questions and wanted to dictate how an interview would go.
- **Agendas and bias:** We all have them. We all want to promote our own. Some people haven’t valued research to make strategic decisions.
- **Time and the ability to travel:** These have been limiting, especially as I have a young family.

I have also experienced blessings:

- **Appreciation:** Doing research has not been easy but I have felt appreciated as a researcher. I have been able to uncover facts, observations, evidence, truth. This has especially been the case in academic circles, where there has been positive engagement and appreciation.
- **Relationships:** I’ve worked with some wonderful people, leaders in missions information work.

This is the advice I would give to my younger self:

*Understand your context first.* Doing research brings its own challenges. When you engage, be aware of both the challenges and opportunities.

*Seek the advice of senior researchers.* Find a mentor and/or coach who can give you orientation. Such an advisor can open access to information and networks. He/she can serve as a bridge.

*Recognize that within the missions community (i.e. those engaged in “field” ministry), there may be more tension than in academia.* Your findings may have implications for the work of others and may be perceived as threatening.

*Seek as much access as you can to relevant books, articles, and pertinent resources.* These may be hard to come by, so you will need to go after them.

*If you need to prioritize, put your family first and don’t regret the time you spend with them.* There will be time for what is most important.

If you are interested and able, *get further education.*

*\* The author wishes to remain anonymous. We respect this request and believe that an awareness of their experience can bring benefit even without attribution.*

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## **Another valuable MIW Virtual Conference!**

*For the Purpose and Practices of Mission Information Work  
by Lara Heneveld*



### **Interacting in community**

The MIW Virtual Conference was an empowering gathering, bringing together missional information leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts for a three-day virtual event June 3-5, 2024. The purpose of this online event was to accelerate the development of mission information and the mission information community. The LORD certainly blessed this effort, sponsored by the Community of Mission Information Workers (CMIW), Lausanne Research and Strategic Information Network, and Harvest Information Standards (HIS).

With over 270 registered to join from 48 countries, the US, Nigeria, Brazil, and South Africa were well represented, along with multiple participants from India, the Philippines, Cameroon, Gabon, Germany, Ethiopia, and others filling the virtual rooms. Those attending were treated to a rich variety of speakers, topics, connections, networking opportunities, practical insights, and knowledge.

### **Engaging Content and Thought-Provoking Discussions**

Throughout the conference, attendees were immersed in a diverse array of topics, from practical demonstrations and resource sharing to cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI)

updates. The outcomes inspired participants, fostering a dynamic and engaging environment during breakouts and post-conference open conversations. The conference's key plenaries included:

- An Unsystematic Theology of Data Gathering, Analysis, and Research Publishing and Dissemination, shared at the beginning of each day by Chris Maynard
- Steps of Data Gathering, detailed by Bert Hickman
- Using Global Mapping Resources and Reporting Information through Maps, demonstrated by Warren Lawrence and Loren Muehlius
- Research is Listening (Doing Oral Interviews), illustrated by Justin Long
- Common Approaches to Mixed Methods Research Projects, expounded by Daniel Hoskins
- Scatter Charts/Using Spreadsheets to Visualize Data, explained by Chris Maynard
- How Artificial Intelligence (AI) Might Impact the Role of a Mission Information Worker, clarified by Jon Hirst
- From Data to Engagement and Fruit: A Case Study in Africa, presented by Samuel Kebreab

These subjects were carefully crafted to allow participants to delve deeply into specific topics and acquire valuable insights from experts in the field, both from the presentations as well as during the question-and-answer periods that followed each session.

One of the standout features of the MIW Virtual Conference was the unparalleled opportunities it offered through the Zoom virtual platform. Attendees had the chance to connect with like-minded colleagues from around the globe, expanding their networks and forging valuable relationships that will endure long after the event.

### **Key Takeaways and Future Prospects**

From those who responded post-conference, the MIW virtual event was a resounding success.

The 2024 Mission Information Workers Virtual Conference fueled additional questions and innovations, with ideas ranging from bridging the world between hearing and deaf mission information workers and projects, to developing a potential mentor/mentee relationship platform. These and related topics will benefit from your participation, whether or not you were able to attend. Please consider joining us virtually on August 15 from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC, and feel free to share this event with others whom you think may be interested. You can contact [miwvcon@gmail.com](mailto:miwvcon@gmail.com) for more details; those who registered for the conference will be notified automatically.

Pray with us all that this time will leave a lasting impact and a desire to move forward collectively. Here are a few testimonials:

### **From Anna Klkamp (Brazil, Amazonas) Researcher for Riverside Communities**

I would summarize this conference as: Essential. The information presented was pertinent to all levels of research. We had well-known researchers discussing the step-by-step processes of good research, from preparation, to being sensitive during data collection, analysis, interpretation, the future of research with AI, and the importance of presenting data in a comprehensible and clear manner. I was convinced that following the steps and using the correct tools ensures quality research and contributes to understanding. I was impressed and happy to participate.

## From Valeria Ortiz (Argentina) Researcher at COMIBAM

Impactful and powerful. These two words represent the impression I have of the conference: The quality of the information, the spirituality, the respect for the elements that must be taken into account in a research process, and the analysis of the data. The interaction of the participants and the tools presented had a great impact on my understanding of research. It has challenged and motivated me to continue discovering the world of data.

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### See You There!

#### Save the Date! Meeting of Information Workers at Lausanne 4 in Seoul

If you are attending the 4th Lausanne Congress in Seoul in September, please save the date for a meeting of

Information Workers sponsored by the Lausanne Research and Strategic Information Network and CMIW. The meeting will be held just after lunch on **Monday, September 23**. The venue will be announced at the Congress. See you there!



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### MIW Training Corner

Those of us who participated in Daniel Hoskins' presentation in the MIW conference became aware of some excellent resources for doing qualitative research. Here, for the benefit of our whole community, are the tips he shared:

#### Good books:

“Missiological Research: Interdisciplinary Foundations, Methods, and Integration” by Marvin Gilbert, Alan R Johnson, et al.; “Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes” by Fetz and Shaw; “Narrative Research: Reading, Analysis, and Interpretation” by Amia Lieblich, Rivka Tuval-Mashiach, et al.; “The Curious Researcher: A Guide to Writing Research Papers” by Bruce Ballenger; “The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers” by Johnny Saldaña

#### Instructional videos:

Brief overview of ethnography <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOBh8haj4E0&t=19s>  
How to design an open interview protocol <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z8XV1S7548>  
How to conduct a field interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGQz8hZQ8fU>  
How to write an effective field note <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mp2UQQt4Mdl>  
How to analyze interview data (coding) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT-EDgwRvRU>  
Here is a series of short videos for writing up ethnographic research  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QbIE4uBLwU&list=PLZp7Vke\\_WTVqP3Wiw3nm-k3TAYTcWwLhJ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QbIE4uBLwU&list=PLZp7Vke_WTVqP3Wiw3nm-k3TAYTcWwLhJ)

Happy learning!

## Webinar on Research for Impact

The Women's Commission of the WEA and "Rise in Strength" invite members of our community to their free webinar/workshop entitled "Research for Impact" on Thursday

**rise**

**Shine**  
WEA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

**July 25th at 11am** GMT/UTC (12pm British summer time). Second in their series designed to address challenges and opportunities for women and men as co-leaders, the webinar features the following:

**Research helps us know WHAT is happening and to work out WHY, and then to ask WHAT we see God doing. Whether you want insight about your local community or want to see a global organization embrace diversity, we can all benefit from good research that has impact. This webinar explores the WHAT and WHY. We will also look at HOW research plays a role for Christian organizations that want to follow God's leading.**

The webinar is being hosted by Stacie Nicole Simmons, Communications, and will give voice to experts who will discuss HOW research can have maximum value, and WHAT tools can help us be good researchers. Featured will be Diane Marshall (Australia), Claire Gibbons (Thailand/NZ), Harriet Ngugi (Kenya/UK) and Elsa Pereira (Portugal).

This webinar is for anyone – men, women, leaders, students - involved in missions, NGOs, church life or the whole community. There will be space for Qs and discussion PLUS the chance to get follow-up advice. **You can register now at: <https://bit.ly/4cnF8LG>.**

**See you there!**

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### From COMIBAM:

*(It happened!!!) The Formation of a Research Team*



This year, the COMIBAM Research Department made significant strides in strengthening and expanding our research capabilities. One of the most notable milestones was the formation of a Research Team that met in Panama City, with 20 participants— 12 in person and 8 online, along with observers from various ministries. The meeting focused on strengthening the community of researchers and developing participatory dynamics and focus groups to envision the future of missionary research from the continent. Training was provided on fundamental topics such as Research Environments, Principles Within the Context of the Ibero-American Missionary Movement, Documentary Research, and Data Collection and Analysis Methods.



Additionally, we built a systematic process to foster a culture of research and collective discernment in the region. This effort included creating research hubs across the continent to enrich dialogue and strategic decision-making. Recently, at the Pastors Forum, we presented the results of our mega- research on the participation of the Ibero-American Church in God's Global Mission, based on data collected from over 1,000 churches across Ibero-America. In line with this, we meet once a month to discuss important topics and share the progress of our current research projects. We hope to gather more information regarding pertinent mission information efforts and ongoing research projects in the area.

For more information, please contact MSc. Fonseca, E. Leader of this department at [investigacion@comibam.org](mailto:investigacion@comibam.org).

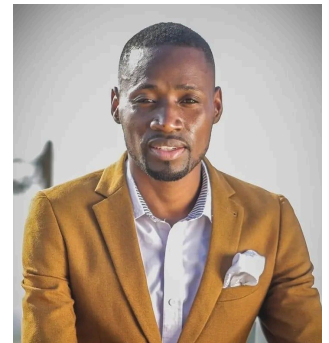
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## ***Special Profile: Pedro Kapingana***

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

**[PK]** I was born in the urban district of Estalagem in Viana, Luanda, the capital of Angola. I am married to Augusta César Manuel and father to Otchali.

I am licensed in Clinical Psychology from the Catholic University of Angola. I am currently pursuing a degree in Theology at the South American Theological Seminary-FTSA, specializing in Missiology with a focus on cross-cultural ministry through the Center for Advanced Studies in Missions-CEAM in Brasília. I am also a researcher and writer.



I currently live in Londrina (in the state of Paraná in Brazil), and serve as an assistant to Rev. Abenício de Jesus Salvador of the Pentecostal Assembly of God congregation in Ouro Branco.

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

**[PK]** I am the National Director of Evangelism and Missions at the Abundant Life Evangelical Church (IEVA), where I serve as an ordained pastor. I lead teams in church planting and renewal, as well as engage in research and missiological studies.

I am also the founding President of the Prophetic Hour Mission Agency (MHP), an Angolan missionary agency that works in mission awareness and mobilization, training and equipping of workers through its school; and church planting and revitalization, focusing on areas less accessible to the gospel.

For thirteen years now the Prophetic Hour Mission Agency Missionary has been organizing the Prophetic Hour National Missions Congress, the oldest congress dedicated to missions in Angola.

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

**[PK]** We have been raising awareness and mobilizing for missionary work in the Angolan church, as well as pioneering missions in rural and cross-cultural environments. For over 15 years we have served in missions in Angola with a large team, and this work seems to have been of great importance to what God is doing in Angola. Our efforts in the missio Dei have already resulted in the establishment of ten Christian churches and more than a dozen individuals sent to cross-cultural fields (both long and short term).

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

**[PK]** Our main challenges for the next ten years are to plant at least ten local churches and to commission at least ten missionaries for cross-cultural missions.

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

**[PK]** I would like to assist CMIW by providing missions data about the context of Africa, Angola, and corresponding research. I would also like to contribute biblical/missiological articles and texts.

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## Information From the Word

*by Stephanie Kraft*

*"One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found ... Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah'...The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip...Philip found Nathanael and said to him...'Come and see.'"*

John 1:40-46

Jesus' team was built through networking. Personal invitations were extended and accepted. Who invited you to participate in one of the groups represented in Rodrigo Tinoco's opening graphic? Is there someone you can invite to benefit more from the camaraderie and resourcing available through this community?

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### Note

CMIW bulletins include links to important websites related to the bulletin content. The CMIW Editorial Team is vigilant about security concerns. While most hyperlinks are spelled out, extremely long links are embedded in the text. We encourage readers to always examine embedded links before clicking as a habit of secure electronic reading.

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### Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team comprises Duane Frasier, Jennifer Poling, Larry Kraft, Rodrigo Tinoco and Stephanie Kraft.
- Please send any comments, suggestions or ideas to us at [info@globalcmiw.org](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org).
- Back issues can be found at [www.globalcmiw.org/cmiwbulletin](http://www.globalcmiw.org/cmiwbulletin).