



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers

Volume 15, Number 3, July 2025

From time to time, our Editorial Team likes to offer themed editions to dig deeper into significant Community developments. This bulletin highlights the good research being done by and about Iberian and Latin American workers, at home and abroad. The data-gathering was coordinated and executed through **COMIBAM (Ibero-American Missionary Cooperation)**, a movement which promotes collaboration among mission stakeholders (e.g. churches, agencies, training centers, and the workers themselves) in all regions of the world. We also have a lovely contribution from the UK. Way to go brothers and sisters, irmãos & hermanas!

The COMIBAM Research Department

By “El Investigador”

The development of movements can be quite complex. Whether they be new waves of disciples or collaborative ministry initiatives, the tasks of tracking growth and change require collaborative efforts that go beyond a single researcher. From this premise, the Research Department of COMIBAM intensified its efforts to work shoulder to shoulder with pastors, denominations, national networks, and organizations throughout the region.

Subsequently, three permanent "Research Stations" were established:

- ↔ A station to monitor the church.
- ↔ A station to monitor organizations, ministries, and programs.
- ↔ A station to monitor the current realities of workers in the field.

In addition, emerging issues, such as new generations, mega-cities, diasporas, and other key developments, were raised and are being assessed through specific surveys. The objective is to continue mapping the worldwide missionary ecosystem with precise diagnoses that strengthen capacities and increase the impact of missions in and through Iberian and Latin American workers.

Further, understanding movements requires being fed multiple sources of data. When COMIBAM's current Research Director took on this role three years ago, he recognized that his priority must be to form a team and decentralize the work. Strategically, he promoted the creation of research centers in each **National Missionary Cooperation** (CMNs – COMIBAM's Spanish acronym denoting representatives in each country). He created a backbone that integrated the logistical aspects of mission with field realities, giving centrality to the local church in its role of fulfilling the Missio Dei. Serving from the Middle East, he drew upon his prior experience in Bible Translation and proposed a research model that not only collects data but generates spaces for reflection, collective wisdom, and discernment – concepts he learned from a Wycliffe Global Alliance mentor.



From the start, he understood that he needed to include the country with the most representative missionary force in the region: Brazil. In a conversation at the Brazilian Congress in Mission, he, Rodrigo Tinoco, Felipe Fulaneto and Allison Medeiros, began to dream together about the future of collaborative research. This gave birth to a preliminary meeting of Ibero-American researchers under his management. Key players such as Rodrigo Tinoco (Brazil), Nydia García (Mexico), Juan Lee (Korea), Erasmo Escudero (Panama-Spain) and Jessie Ritchey (USA), who were accompanying the process as observers and mentors, were then invited.

The long-term goals were aligned with the vision of COMIBAM's Executive Director, Cristian Castro: to see more workers being sent and supported by their local churches, a greater integration of the new generations, strengthened missionary collaboration, and an increasingly polycentric profile. Special recognition must be given to Valeria Ortiz (Argentina), who has been a pillar in the connection between the research team, the national coordinators, and the research delegates in each country.

It is openly acknowledged that research has been essential to the history of the growth and development of Iberian and Latin American missions. The legacy of COMIBAM's pioneers includes contributions by figures such as the late Federico Bertuzzi, who left a deep imprint on the documentation of this development. Noteworthy too are the inspirational contributions of Levi Carvalho and Ted Limpic. The current intention is to build a broad and useful perspective for each national movement.

Looking to the future, COMIBAM's current research leadership desires to consolidate a strong pool of data and statistical analyses. This endeavor is currently led by Guillermo in Chile (see our Profile at the end of this bulletin). In addition, they want to develop a current of deep missionary reflection, so that research is interdisciplinary and actively contributes to the overall objectives. Finally, they want to strengthen links within the Iberian region, recognizing the valuable work of the Spanish Missions Platform, especially its research group led by Eddy Guille and the contribution of researchers such as Máximo Álvarez with his missiological maps, among others.



COMIBAM's Research Department

The challenges are still many. COMIBAM is committed to continue to foster a true culture of research and discernment, being a platform where data flows and is useful, accessible, and serves the Kingdom, not personal interests.

And finally, it is a platform open to new researchers. COMIBAM is in the process of recruiting more researchers to the area. You are welcome:

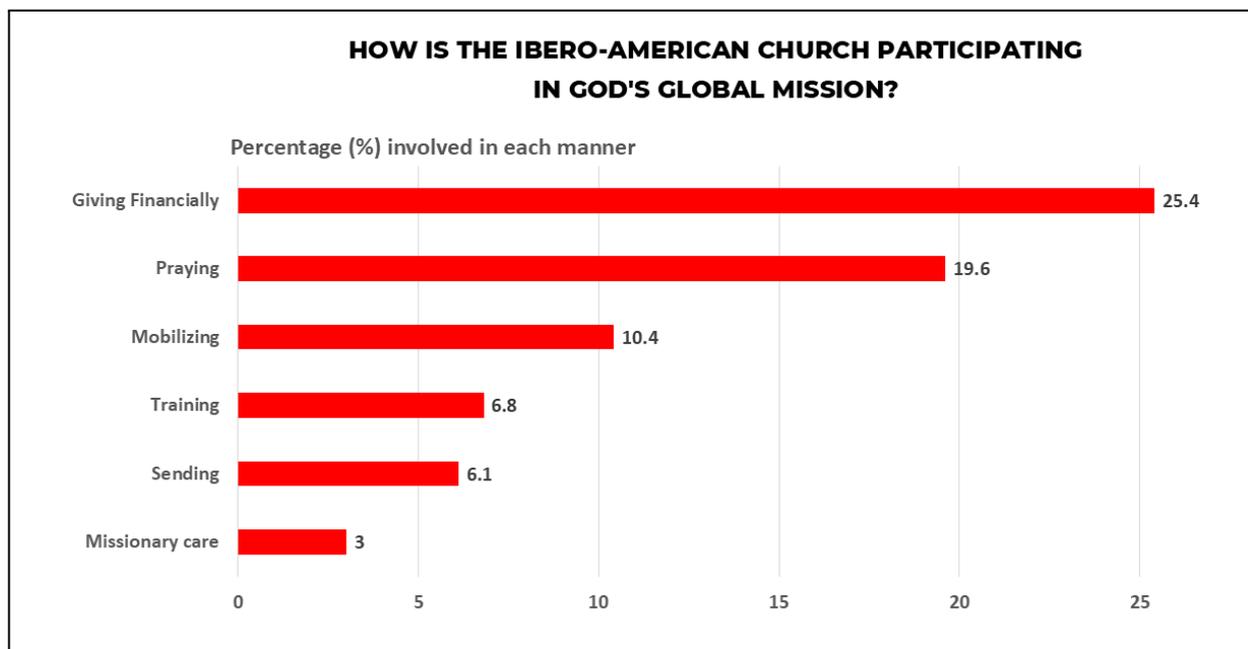
apoyoinvestigacion@comibam.org!

The author, "El Investigador," has completed studies in linguistics, sociology, economics, and development. For more than 10 years he has been involved in different stages of the worldwide missionary movement, combining his field experience with expertise in executive management within sending organizations, including Scripture engagement.

The Local Church as Protagonist in God's Global Mission

To pay attention to the Church is to speak of the Body of Christ, so that to study how it participates in the global mission of God is to speak of a healthy, biblical model in spite of the multiformity of models that may exist in the field. In COMIBAM we understand that ecclesiology and missiology are directly linked, and as a movement we have always accompanied the Church and pastoral ministry in their pilgrimage of faith and obedience.

The participation of the Ibero-American Church in the Global Mission of God is understood as a direct response to God's call, not only as a mandate, but as an expression of love and obedience. This vision is rooted in the conviction that mission is not an optional or peripheral activity of the church but a reflection of the character of a missionary God who seeks to redeem all nations.



A study, carried out by COMIBAM's research department, analyzed the level of involvement of churches in eight regions of Ibero America. The research was conducted in two complementary editions, with more than 1,700 participating churches during the years 2023 to 2025. The first edition offered a panoramic diagnosis; the second, a more in-depth focus on churches already active in mission.

The results showed that 25% of the churches give regularly for mission, 19.6% pray intentionally, and only 6.1% are sending missionaries. Comprehensive missionary care is limited to less than 3% of the churches. These data reflect a still incipient commitment, more concentrated in immediate actions than in sustainable processes.

However, the study also identified factors that strengthen participation. Missionary awareness among members (31.2%), pastoral leadership with missionary vision (16.5%), and training (13.8%) are the main drivers. In contrast, the greatest obstacles include lack of

economic resources (26%), lack of information (19.3%), and lack of commitment (12.2%). A determining element is the existence of Missions Committees in the churches. Those with committees showed much higher levels of participation in all areas: financial offerings, prayer, sending, training, and integral care. In these churches, 87% of the missionary sending and 90% of the integral care are channeled through these committees, which is evidence of their strategic value.

There was also a clear trend toward cross-cultural mission, both locally (56.6%) and globally (61.3%). Churches are serving indigenous people, Afro-descendants, migrants and Muslims. This responds to the diversity of the Latin American continent, as well as to the conviction that mission must cross not only geographical but also cultural and linguistic borders.

Geographically, churches send or support missionaries mainly in the Americas, but also in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, indicating a growth in the global vision. However, participation in the Bible Translation Movement is still limited (11.4%), even though many churches serve unreached people groups.

A pending challenge is the integration of mission in the life of the churches. Almost 33% do not celebrate special missionary services (i.e. events), and only a small percentage do so on a monthly or weekly basis. This suggests that, in many cases, mission is not yet part of the congregational DNA.

Finally, the study concludes that for missionary participation to be solid and sustained over time, there must be intentional work in biblical formation and leadership. Mission cannot depend only on external events or motivations but must be integrated into the daily spirituality of the Church.

COMIBAM, from its leadership, insists that the body of Christ in Ibero America is called not only to send but to live in mission, locally and globally, as a response to the heart of God. In the absence of serious, responsible studies within the environment of the denominations and churches in Latin America, COMIBAM was given the task of developing this research, which sheds light on how the Church in Latin America is participating in its global call and fulfilling its role among the nations.

First edition of the study: Participation of the Ibero-American Church in God's Global Mission (Fonseca, 2024)

The General State of the Ibero-American Missionary Movement

The Ibero-American missionary movement has traveled a path of almost 40 years since its formation, experiencing advances, challenges, and a constant evolution in its participation within the global mission of God. However, until now, no document had been developed that could serve as a clear explanation regarding the participation of Ibero and Latin American missionaries in this task, what elements have been strengthened, and what aspects need to be balanced in our understanding and practice of mission.

The recent study presented at the Fifth Ibero-American Congress was not intended to be an exhaustive census or an exercise in self-sufficiency. Rather, we wanted to undertake an exercise of self-evaluation: Where are we today as an Ibero-American missionary

movement? How has our pilgrimage in mission developed? What advances have we achieved and what challenges do we face?

Comparativo histórico de misioneros Iberoamericanos (1987-2025)

Historical comparison of Ibero-American missionaries (1987-2025)

Comparação histórica dos missionários ibero-americanos (1987-2025)



Fuente: Investigación - Mapeo de Obreros Latinos basada en múltiples fuentes de iglesias, organizaciones misioneras y análisis estadísticos necesarios, además de reconocimiento de campo.

In order to obtain a comprehensive view of the state of the Ibero-American missionary movement, this study relied on various sources of information, including:

- Surveys of local churches
- Previous studies and existing data
- Research on the missionary ecosystem
- Analysis of workers in the field

It is thus our desire to make known to this community of researchers the existence of a basic report, a book which describes our reality, from which rich dialogue with the Ibero-American missionary movement can emerge. The report represents a diversity of networks, organizations, programs, and ministries in mission, and of course denominations and churches committed to God in proclaiming His Gospel to the nations. It is our intention through this document, in a careful and technical way, to integrate all the available information, summing observations from all the regions that make up Ibero America.

This very accessible book is available in the COMIBAM store and is designed for all audiences. It is less academic in its format, but it is dense in content. We hope it will be a valuable resource to all those who are involved in mission and who participate in one of our four strategic areas: mobilization, training, sending, and field ministry.

For more information, please contact: investigacion@comibam.org

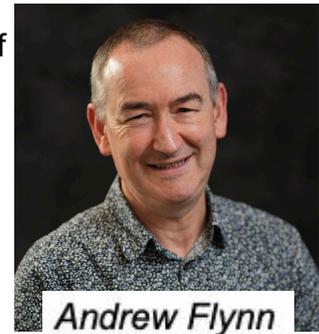
© COMIBAM. Adapted from the book *State of the Ibero-American Missionary Movement* (Fonseca, 2025).

Data Literacy and Christian Mission

By Andrew Flynn

[Christian Vision](#) (CV) is an evangelistic ministry with around 370 employed staff in 40 countries and a global missional footprint. In 2019, after a decade embracing the digital

space for evangelism, it was apparent that CV would need to intentionally develop 'organisational muscle' in data and analytics. That year an organisation-wide survey on data literacy sought to identify how staff engage with data, what data skills exist in teams, and to what degree data is embedded in organisational culture and decision making.



The 2019 survey revealed that working with data was an important part of their job for 90% of staff – and this was consistently true across all countries and roles. Almost everybody agreed that the importance of data was only going to intensify in the years ahead, with many feeling under-equipped: 66% expressed a desire to develop skills in this area. This led CV to adopt a data literacy training programme provided by analytics software company Qlik[1], which over three years has been rolled out to the entire global organisation.

Data-Informed Decision Making

Fundamentally and philosophically, CV holds the view that the value of data is only truly realised when it informs decision-making, when it is actionable. While CV is blessed to have a central resource dedicated to data and analytics, it turns out that in 2024 just about everybody's job at CV, irrespective of location, job role, or seniority, in some way involves the collection, generation, or transformation of data. While data literacy may not turn everyone into a data scientist, it does help staff be more able to read, understand, analyse, and communicate with data, and ultimately make decisions with data. Culturally it provides for a common language.

CV uses data in multiple ways, including:

i) We collect digital engagement metrics at scale to responsively optimise processes and maximise outcomes – for example in digital marketing to promote the Gospel to unreached people. Often this involves automation.

ii) We use external data to create our own data models. We get some data from public or subscription datasets and draw from research. Typically we align this carefully with our own organisation's purpose and capabilities so that it can inform our strategy and help to generate useful actions.

iii) We intensively integrate and aggregate daily operational data to help assess our effectiveness. This enables us to learn and to generate strategic insights. We can apply this through the analytics value chain (descriptive-diagnostic-predictive-prescriptive) – and share it with the global church as actionable resources.

Spirit-Led

The idea of mission and ministry being data-driven can sit uncomfortably with people of faith. How can this be compatible with being led by the Holy Spirit? We prefer the term 'data-informed,' and the way CV has resolved this is expressed in one of its values:

We are Spirit-led:

"We are not merely executors of well-laid plans; we are led by the Holy Spirit. Our strategies are informed by the best available information, yet our most critical guidance comes from Him. Our decisions rest on prayerful consideration and

spiritual discernment, both corporately and individually. The work that He does through us flows from the work He is doing in us.”

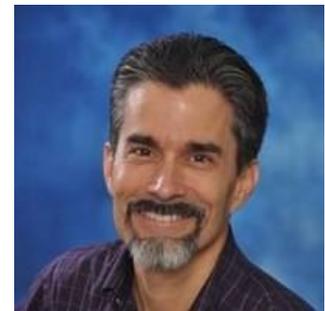
[1] <https://www.qlik.com/us/services/data-literacy-program>

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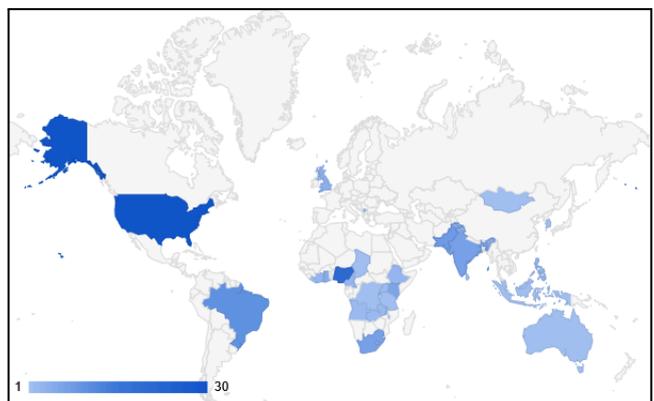
Fourth Annual Mission Information Workers' Virtual Conference Focuses on Networking

By Dan Eyestone



From June 16 to 18 this year, 185 ministry leaders, researchers, and information workers gathered virtually for over two hours daily of encouragement with Biblical perspectives on information work, equipping with research methods and tools, and engagement with other “MIWs” through networking sessions. Each day had between 115 and 145 attendees. Of the 289 who had registered by the end of the first day, 51% gave Africa as their home, 20% gave North America, 13% Asia, 11% Latin America, and 5% Europe.

Three major emphases were carried throughout the conference. First, each day had a session focused on the Biblical foundations of research. Day One launched with a concert of prayer in multiple languages followed by a presentation on the pastoral aspects of survey research among displaced peoples. Day Two drew from biblical examples to develop a framework for research for developing strategy. On Day Three we were exhorted to seek not just truth through our research, but to ensure that all our work points to the Truth – the Lord Jesus Christ. The second emphasis was on introducing research methods and tools. These



included personal interviews, survey research, using Geographic Information Systems to organize, link, and present information, and using national church surveys to inspire targeted church planting. The last day featured the excellent examples of national research being done within the Asia Evangelical Alliance in Mongolia and Indonesia. It is our prayer

that these examples will inspire and motivate ministry leaders and researchers in other countries to learn from one another and develop national research functions.

Networking was the third emphasis. In response to past requests for more networking, the conference gave 30 to 40 minutes daily to foster personal relationships among MIWs and launch networks of those in nearby countries or “communities of interest.”

Attendees offered comments such as

- I had never considered the concept of pastoral care as part of research. ... I very, very much appreciate the exposition of the topic today.
- I was happy to learn that [research] is not just about gathering data. Meeting for in-person interviews facilitates some encouragement to persecuted Christians.
- Topics are short so, while I might not have chosen to attend a longer session on them, I stuck around and was inspired.
- Loved the variety of speakers: that people of different backgrounds and perspectives were given a platform to speak.
- The discussion time in breakout rooms should be more than 30 minutes. ... We have so much to learn, ask and share.
- It was beautiful meeting new people.
- The contents of the presentation are practical and empowering.
- You have selected really inspiring topics and [provided] great opportunities for networking.
- Thank you for the great work, enabling leaders to know the importance of research in guiding global missions.
- I really appreciate those topics that are broadly applicable to many areas of research, such as the Biblical Basis for Research.
- The biblical foundations of research presentation was an eye-opener for me.
- Every year gets better and better. Having the chat rooms available was great, as people were better able to connect in cohorts of like-mindedness.
- Beautifully executed. Excellent organization. Holy-Spirit led. Thank you!!

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

By Chris Maynard

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Paul in his letter to the Romans.



At the Virtual Conference in June I floated the idea of a 30 minute open prayer meeting for Mission Information Work. I got enough positive responses from you to persuade me to go ahead with a six month experiment.

The “CMIW Prayer Meeting” will run on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 14:00 UTC for the next six months (at least). This will also be a way of sharing news with each other, and I guess that there will be a little time for networking. Here is the link:

Topic: CMIW Prayer Room. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95231643762?pwd=UNWg3INjIK8QLWmmiBIPFfkCY7AJUQ.1>

Meeting ID: 952 3164 3762 - Passcode: 265209

See You There!

October - Brazil - CBM2025

Many Brazilian and Latin American researchers will be together in Águas de Lindóia (SP), Brazil, from October 6 to 10, 2025. This will be during the Tenth Brazilian Missions Congress 2025 (CMB2025). The theme of the congress will be "Your kingdom come, your will be done." CMB2025 is the main multi-denominational event with a missionary focus held in Brazil. It takes place every three years. <https://amtb.org.br/cbm2025/>

Special Profile: Guillermo Pérez

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

Blessings! My name is Guillermo Pérez. I am 37 years old and a statistician by profession. I was born into a Christian family, but I had my encounter with God around 22. I am married to Sara Pilichi, and have three beautiful children: Victoria, Aarón, and Antonia. I currently live in Talcahuano, Chile, and as a family we participate in the Missionary Church of Grace (IMG), which is dedicated exclusively to mobilizing and sending people in God's Transcultural Mission. I always thank God for being part of His Heavenly Kingdom.



2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

Currently, my wife and children and I are preparing to go to Italy as missionaries. We are training in theology and also in the language. At the same time, in my local church, I serve the Lord as the head of the deacon team. My wife and I are in charge of the youth group and also teach the Bible school for young people. Regarding God's mission, I am developing myself as a candidate to be sent and mobilized. I also support the COMIBAM research department as the department's statistician.

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

When I studied Statistics, I always wondered how my career would benefit the Kingdom of God. For me, it was a blessing to learn that my career could contribute a grain of sand to God's mission, and this became a reality when I was able to connect with COMIBAM's research department. The fact that I can support the analysis of data related to relevant topics in God's mission and that these data can be used to mobilize the church to go to the mission field is joy enough to make me feel satisfied and thank God for having the honor of contributing to what I am most passionate about — God's mission.

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

In the short term, my wife and I are planning an exploratory trip to Italy to better understand the host church and explore the possibilities for legal entry into the country. In the medium term, we will be able to fulfill the call God once placed on me and my family to go to Italy to make disciples, to plant biblical churches based on the love of God, and to support and serve the host church together. In the future, we hope to create a non-governmental organization (NGO) that supports God's mission and missionaries, that trains, informs, and

serves as a bridge to help many missionaries who want to reach Europe. We will also have a research department within this NGO to assist the local church in Italy and mobilize them for God's mission.

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

Yes, I could help with my knowledge of statistics and provide information through COMIBAM's Research Department. I could also support data analysis for future projects.

Information From the Word

by Bert Hickman

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter
and the glory of kings to investigate a matter.
Proverbs 25:2 (ESV)*



Some things are hidden by God because he is so far above us. But perhaps he has concealed other things to give us the joy of discovering them. Glory springs from one's fundamental character and identity. Do you consider your research work as part of your glory, showing forth who God has called and gifted you to be? Do you think that the activity of research – and not just the results or the actions based on research – is valuable and pleasing to God? How are you helping other current and future researchers discover and present their glory to God?

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.

Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team comprises Bert Hickman, Jennifer Poling, Larry Kraft, 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.