



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers

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Prayer and Research

From time to time, our Editorial Team enjoys highlighting specific themes that shape the work of Mission Information Workers worldwide. In this edition, we draw attention to the power of research and prayer — spotlighting initiatives like Prayercast, Joshua Project, and the growing missionary movements across Latin America. Each contribution reflects both the challenges and the creativity of those serving at the intersection of information and mission.

Information Plus Engagement Equals Power

By Suzanne Heegaard

In a world saturated with information, the way we communicate matters more than ever. [Prayercast](#), a platform designed to ignite global prayer, understands this principle deeply. By combining thorough research with captivating visual media, Prayercast creates emotionally engaging videos that not only inform but also inspire prayer for nations and people groups around the world.



The process begins and ends with an approach that ensures both depth and accuracy. The result is an artistic and compelling tool. Prayercast doesn’t rely on superficial content or guesswork; instead, they implement a structured and purposeful research approach.

The content of each prayer video is carefully crafted to represent the voices and perspectives of both indigenous experts and expatriate specialists. These experts provide valuable insights into the cultural, social, and spiritual dynamics of the featured country or people group. Their involvement ensures that the prayer focuses on relevant needs, while also bringing an understanding of local contexts. Prayercast gathers diverse perspectives, independent of one another, to ensure that the content is well-rounded and accurate. This process helps maintain the integrity of the prayer videos and builds trust with viewers.

While research lays the foundation, the emotional power of Prayercast’s videos comes from their ability to connect with viewers on a deeply human level. Research in the field of psychology reveals that our brains process visual information far more effectively than textual data. Therefore the way information is presented plays a crucial role in communication.

Through the art of visual storytelling, Prayercast captures the essence of each spoken prayer request, combining images, music, and voiceovers in a way that bypasses the cognitive filters we normally put up when presented with written information. Therefore, as viewers watch a video, they are not simply being informed about a country or people group—they are emotionally drawn into the story being told.

The emotional connection of the video encourages engagement, leading to informed prayer and action. Viewers are educated about prayer itself—how to pray, what to pray for, and why prayer matters—without feeling as though they are sitting through a lecture. This approach is subtle yet powerful, a mark of Prayercast’s innovation in the world of media and prayer.

In today’s media landscape, video is not merely a trend; it is the reality of the modern world. It is the dominant form of communication and language of today’s society, and Prayercast has recognized the need to meet people where they are. This is not just a matter of preference; it is a strategic choice to effectively communicate with a generation that consumes information primarily through visual media.

In conclusion, Prayercast’s unique approach to combining research with media is a powerful tool in activating global prayer. By leveraging expert insights, psychological principles, and the undeniable power of visual storytelling, Prayercast creates an experience that does far more than inform—it inspires, engages, and motivates people to take part in the global movement of prayer.

Suzanne Heegaard - Prayercast Director - <http://prayercast.com/>

How Joshua Project Research Fuels Global Mobilization

By Bud Houston

At [Joshua Project](#), data is only as valuable as the vision it serves. For 30 years, our research has existed not to build a perfect list but rather to help the global Church prioritize prayer and action among unreached people groups. As we advance toward completing the Great Commission, our approach to gathering and applying data is evolving.



Elevating Frontier People Groups

Our research continues to reveal the magnitude of unfinished work, particularly among Frontier People Groups (FPGs)—people groups with virtually no followers of Jesus and no known movements to Christ. These groups have fewer than 1 Christian for every 1,000 people and still desperately need pioneer cross-cultural workers.

Very few missionaries are sent to Frontier Peoples. Without local ministries or churches present to invite participation, this trend will likely continue. We must elevate their urgent need to the global body of Christ, catalyzing gospel breakthrough through fervent prayer, resource mobilization, and strategic engagement.

A New Era of Data Collection

The Joshua Project database is built on the collective intelligence of the Body of Christ through decades of collaboration with mission agencies, research networks, and field workers. Historically, most information came from large datasets and periodic updates from these Christian partners. However, in regions like South Asia where Christian input is limited, we rely more heavily on census data, anthropological sources, and other non-Christian research. This blended approach helps us reflect global diversity, even in areas with minimal gospel presence.

We're now implementing a proactive update process. Rather than waiting for occasional corrections, we're building systems to review unreached people groups regularly and enable real-time updates where engagement is actively occurring. We're incorporating innovative methods, including Delphi surveys, apps tracking missionary activity, and a growing network of National Representatives.

To promote data transparency, we're introducing Data Confidence ratings to help users understand information reliability, moving from displaying specific percentages to ranges that better reflect the reality of estimating progress in hard-to-reach places.

Enhanced Engagement Tracking

This enhanced data collection enables more nuanced tracking of engagement. Through collaboration with several organizations, we're developing new engagement scales to capture additional nuance in gospel progress among these unreached populations. Our solution includes Phases of Engagement and Engagement Strength assessments that transform one-dimensional progress tracking into three-dimensional measurement, capturing the breadth, depth, and health of mission efforts.

Prayer as Central to Mobilization

Prayer remains central to our mobilization strategy. As more nuanced information flows in, it better informs breakthrough prayer for these groups. Tools like **Unreached of the Day** and other prayer resources help believers pray with clarity and purpose. These efforts increasingly support **people group adoption initiatives**, where churches or networks commit to sustained prayer and engagement with specific unreached groups.

Data should lead to prayer, and prayer should lead to Spirit-empowered mission. As we refine our systems, we remain committed to serving the global Church with strategic information so that every people group is known, prayed for, and engaged until God is glorified through an abundance of Christ followers within every people group.

Bud Houston - Director of People Group Data - <https://joshuaproject.net/>

Report from the Tenth “Congresso Brasileiro de Missões”

By Bert Hickman

The tenth edition of the triennial “[Congresso Brasileiro de Missões](#)” (CBM; Brazilian Congress of Missions), one of the most significant missions meetings in Latin America, gathered in Águas de Lindóia October 6-10. Featuring plenary sessions by noted speakers, times of praise and worship, workshops and short courses, and exhibition booths by missions organizations, it attracted 2,000 participants. As a member of the editorial team of *Correct Me If I'm Wrong*, I was privileged to attend the CBM and to report on my impressions of the Brazilian missionary movement as reflected to me by several Brazilians.



An oft-cited statistic during many of the sessions was that Brazil is the second-largest (or third-largest, depending on the source) missionary-sending country in the world. This elicited smiles and cheers from attendees. But it also gave leaders with whom I spoke reason for pause. Many of them noted that the majority of Brazilian missionaries go to the worldwide Brazilian diaspora. This is not a bad thing, I was told, as Brazilians need the

gospel wherever they are. But leaders did lament that so little, percentage-wise, of the Brazilian missionary force is deployed to reach those who have never heard the gospel and have no opportunity to hear it.

This lament was reflected in a second statistic that was cited to me – only about 5% of Brazilian missionaries go to the world's "difficult" areas, where proclamation of the Christian faith is limited by government or social pressures. Most Brazilian missionaries, I was told, go to places where the gospel is easy to share. This is ironic, as other leaders noted to me how well Brazilians are received in other countries, precisely because they are "one of us." Rather than being privileged Westerners, Brazilians are seen as more akin culturally and socioeconomically to those in the receiving countries, and they are welcomed for that reason.

Another statistic I was quoted is that only 16% of Brazilians learn the local language of their place of service. If most missionaries go to serve the diaspora, this is not entirely surprising. But I did hear leaders lamenting the lack of language learning and citing examples of missionaries who had been on the field for 5 years or more without learning the language.

Perhaps most interesting to me was a discussion with a mission leader who noted that Brazilians are very much a "now" people. They want to do things immediately. As a result, focusing on the past (to learn from it) and on the future (to plan for it) are not as highly valued in Brazilian missions circles as they ought to be. Research consequently is also not appreciated as much as it could be. This leader is working, successfully, to promote the value of research in his context and expressed hope that it will expand to other ministries as well.

My takeaway – from speaking to "ordinary" attendees as well as leaders – is that Brazilians are passionate about missions. Leaders are hoping to direct that passion more toward unreached peoples and places, as well as increasing involvement in research, in the years to come.

Bert Hickman - Director of Research for [RUN Ministries](#)

We are invited to pray together ...

Did you know that for more than a decade there has been a monthly "Pray Tank" occurring for and by MIW's? These monthly meetings occur on the third Wednesday of most months and provide a platform for intercession:

- To stay faithful to our stated vision (see <https://www.globalcmiw.org/Vision>)
- To under-gird important research projects and events that we know about
- To pray for the personal and ministry concerns of those information workers who participate (and others that we know)

We were thinking we'd like more prayer-- that is, more people praying, and praying more often. To that end, we created some provisional additional opportunities for public prayer for and by information workers. The next two will be **Wednesdays, 12th November and 10th December at 14:00 UTC**. At the December gathering, those who meet will decide whether we will continue these special times or not.

If you would like to participate, please send your email address to Chris Maynard and he will forward the necessary link(s) to you. <chris.maynard@transforminginformation.com>

Special Profile: Melinda Lyons



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

My husband Greg and I joined Wycliffe Bible Translators as individuals over 40 years ago. My husband was a computer professional, involved with data of various sorts. His first project was to create a database of Wycliffe and SIL members in the mid 1980s, and he went on to do other kinds of data manipulation. I joined Wycliffe as a librarian, and I first served as a librarian for Wycliffe's main Bible translation school in the 80s. I then served overseas in a field office (Thailand) in the 90s.

In the 2000s, I became a language-learning specialist but later switched back to information-type work when we returned to the US. At that point I also took on the role of Prayer Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific and subsequently became International Registrar for the International Language Codes. I held those two jobs through the 2010's.

I have two children. My oldest son, born to us before our move to Thailand, is a computer programmer like his dad. He is married with three children and lives in the greater Washington, DC area. My younger son, born to us in Thailand, is a computer technician and works in a data center in Texas. I am widowed as of January 2025.

2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

This is a good question. Officially I am retired. However, I continue to be involved in a number of prayer networks. I no longer work with Wycliffe, but I continue to do things to promote informed prayer. Currently I am writing some pages for the prayer period designated specifically for the Buddhist world. This campaign will occur in early 2026. I may also be revising and editing some material for the Fellowship of Prayer Strategists (<https://prayerstrategists.net/>). I am also involved with Chris Maynard and his working group on strategic sending. I have always found myself in the background, involved with prayer.

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

Perhaps the first would be my involvement in Dallas in the 1980s as a member of SIL's translation training staff. I helped train the Bible translators who produced many of the translations done from the subsequent period. The second would be working with Bible Translators in the early 2000s as the Language Learning Consultant Coordinator for our teams in SE Asia. There are a few people who say their work was fruitful, specifically because of my help. Points 3 and 4 would be continuing to support prayer efforts for Bible Translation, first for Wycliffe when I became the South Asia/Pacific Prayer Coordinator, and then, when Wycliffe and SIL separated, on behalf of SIL work, primarily in Asia and the Pacific, then eventually worldwide.

Activities such as my service as Registrar for Language Codes (e.g., in the 2010s I was able to process a thousand change requests and register newly identified languages) have brought me great satisfaction. I have, however, experienced a unique joy when I felt God using me in a special way. In 1994, while on furlough, I went through a period of spiritual

renewal. As a part of that, I had a vision of the Heavenly City. It totally changed my life and drew me very close to the Lord, but the significance did not stop there. In 2004 Greg and I were on furlough, and we found ourselves in the House of Prayer in Kansas City, involved in an internship program for senior adults. While there, a participant from Michigan gave me a book and instructed me to “Take this book (entitled “The Golden Book”) back to Thailand.” When I asked her why, she responded that God had simply told her that she needed to give me this book for me to take to Thailand. As I looked at the book, which described events in an orphanage in the 1920’s in China, I noted that the content matched the vision I had seen ten years earlier. I concluded that it was a true story, so I took “The Golden Book” with me when we returned to Thailand.

A year and a half later, a revival/move of God occurred in Chiang Mai, one of the provinces in northwest Thailand. That province had several orphanages, and some of the children in two to three of those orphanages started having visions of the Heavenly City, just like those described in the book, and like my own. These children were transformed, waking up early to spend time with God and demonstrating love and dedication to Him. A certain Thai Pastor, Pastor Sydney, who occasionally served as a translator, heard about these orphans. He wanted to assure the orphanage staff and parents that God was at work. He learned of a book, a Golden Book, that described this kind of occurrence in the past. He searched for it but discovered it had been out of print for about 50 years. No one knew where he might be able to obtain a copy.

A friend of mine told me of Pastor Sydney’s request. I told her I had the Golden Book and gave it to her. Soon after that my friend and Pastor Sydney were both speakers at an event. She was reading the book waiting for her turn at the podium. She casually put the book down on her seat when she stood up to speak. At that moment Pastor Sidney saw the book. He grew wide-eyed when he saw it. I was later able to share the story with the lady who first gave me the book.

It could be that being God’s messenger at that moment, carrying and sharing that book given to me two years earlier by a relative stranger, was one of the most important things I’ll ever do. It had nothing to do with translation, but it enabled people in Northwest Thailand to understand this work of God. To be used by God brings great satisfaction.

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

This is an odd question for someone who thought she was retiring and that retirement would mean more leisure and possibly taking care of grandchildren. I consider librarianship to be a kind of information work for missions. I also consider the work of a prayer coordinator (i.e., providing information for prayer) to be an information worker role. Part of this work is doing the research, and part is the writing of it. This role is not always considered in this way in the missions community. Doing background research, such as what I am currently doing to write these articles for prayer for the Buddhist world, is part of what it is to be a prayer coordinator. It is not enough, however, to just know information drawn from various sources; it has to be presented clearly. Writing comes with spiritual opposition, which should come as no surprise to this community.

I will probably continue to be involved with prayer movements. I recently received an invitation to participate in a few areas for prayer mobilization that will need work in the

coming years. There is a real need to train younger people to research and edit information for prayer. Currently, we really don't know of an English writer/editor who is able to focus on the Buddhist world. We have no clue who God is going to raise up to take up this project in the future. I will continue to be involved in research and writing prayer information. The question is, "For how long?" Again, I thought I was retiring, but it seems like God had other ideas.

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

As I mentioned, I have always been involved with prayer. I am not looking for more work, but I am willing to assist with efforts that can be done from my home in Dallas. I intend to continue supporting the Strategic Sending effort. Perhaps God will inspire someone reading this bulletin to become more involved in research for prayer, and I can help train and orient them for that.

Information From the Word

By Chris Maynard



Acts 1:7-8 Jesus said to the apostles, "...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Are we done? The first apostles fulfilled the first three. The "end of the earth" from Jerusalem is one of the Marotiri Islands in French Polynesia, all of them uninhabited. The end of the inhabited earth is Rapa Iti which we understand has a Christian choir. Are we done witnessing? Or do we need to interpret this commission differently?

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.