



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

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

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The Global Community of Information Workers Who are We?

By Stephanie Kraft

There are many Christian researchers and information workers around the world. Some of us do original studies on questions of interest to the Church. Some of us create spreadsheets and fill them with the data our organizations and teammates need in order to make plans. Some of us produce maps for decision-makers so that they can be impacted with pertinent data. Some of us create catalogues so that others can

find information they need. Some of us simply maintain file cabinets with important documents and efficiently retrieve them when requested. We work with information and we desire to see the information we handle bless the world and contribute to the growth of the Kingdom.

We often work alone. Sometimes we work together. When we do partner with others, we often discover there’s a special blessing and synergy that emerges from our labors together. We find ourselves encouraged and empowered to persevere and produce more, and even better, than we did when we worked alone.

Should we be doing more to draw folks like ourselves together? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us at this time? In response to these questions, the WEA Missions Commission created a task force to pursue the creation of a global community of mission information workers. We want to demonstrate a spirit of inclusive humility. Inclusive? Yes, in that we want to embrace information workers from all continents, from varied expressions of the Church, and from as many organizations as wish to participate. Humility? Most certainly, as we recognize that absolute Truth resides only in our Lord Jesus. May we invite you to be stirred to this new vision with us?

A Vision for a Community

- A community that brings together mission information workers including researchers from all over the world
 - Unity
 - Productivity
 - Wisdom
- A community that welcomes, helps and encourages its members
 - to **welcome** all who gather, analyse, transform and/or publish mission information
 - to **help** each other and be helped with the information tasks we are currently doing
 - to **encourage** workers who are often isolated in their tasks
- A community that shares information about information
 - to **share information about information:** e.g. where to find it and how to manage it
 - to **connect information people** with each other
 - to identify and share **good practices.** What is currently working well for us?

Does this vision excite you? What could you contribute to a community like this? What would you like to receive?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What might you do to help the next generation get further than we have? How can you help equip and multiply researchers for the future? What steps might you take to break down the barriers to information flow between us? How can we do for other researchers

what we wish had been done for us when we started? The answers to these questions may be different for each of us. **Correct Me if I'm Wrong** 😊 but might not the creation of a humbly inclusive global community of mission information workers be a pretty good way for us to start?

For more information about this community, its history and contributors, please see http://www.globalcmiw.net/resources/towards_a_global_cmiw_2011-04-01.pdf

Palm Trees and PowerPoints – A Report on the Lausanne International Researchers Conference, April 5-9, 2011, Atibaia, Brazil *by Chris Maynard*

This was the first time I have been to a Lausanne Researchers conference. They are held every three years in a different part of the world. This one was in Atibaia, a town not far from São Paulo, Brazil. There was plenty of time to talk with many of my brothers and sisters from around the world – to strengthen relationships and to make new ones.



When I attend a secular conference, I expect that some session will be irrelevant to me or of poor quality. I was delighted that every paper and presentation at Atibaia was interesting. Sometimes it was the results of the research that educated me about the church or the world. Sometimes I learned from the techniques used in the research. And often the heart of the presenter revealed an aspect of the heart of God for our world.

Bertil Ekström (Executive Director of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission) opened the conference with a message from Jonah. He emphasised the need for incarnation and obedience in a confusing world. Todd Johnson gave us a tour of the Global Atlas of Christianity. I already had my own copy, but it was helpful to highlight some key findings – especially the fully global nature of Christianity. And I did not realise what a good resource I have for presentations in the CD that comes free with the Atlas. If you have the atlas, don't forget to look at the CD!

There was so much variety in the papers presented - a detailed survey of the indigenous tribes of the forests of Brazil; attitudes to the bible in "post-Christian" Australia and Britain; a long look at "the Great Commission" in Matthew; using commercial market segmentation in Germany to help plan church planting in Berlin. (The "Sinus Millieus" are available in other countries as well.)

It was good to have many contributions from Brazil. That is one of the advantages of moving the conference around. The bad news is there were very few people from Africa and Asia this year. The good news is that the Lausanne Researchers committee hope to hold the next conference in 2014 in Africa or Asia.



Who's Who in Mission Information *Special Profile: Ronaldo Lidório*

1) [CMIW] **Tell us about your family.** [RL] I've been married to Rossana since 1989. We have two children, Vivianne (16) and Ronaldo Jr. (14).

2) [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [RL] I am part of the leadership of a team of 43 missionaries working among twelve indigenous ethnic groups in the Amazon of Brazil. I also coordinate the Antropos Institute and the Research Department of the Association of Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missions, which is focused on unreached people groups in Brazil. Part of my time is spent consulting on church planting in resistant regions and doing research on groups that are un- or under- evangelized. Rosanna and I are

consultants in missiology and church planting for WEC International.

3) [CMIW] **What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [RL] The planting of churches among the Konkomba-Bimokpeln of Northern Ghana, as well as the translation of the New Testament into the LimonkpeIn language (which was released in 2004) brought us great joy. A part of this story can be read in “Unafraid of the Sacred Forest” published by Christian Focus Publications. More recently the completion of research among the indigenous ethnic groups in Brazil, finished in 2010, was another reason for rejoicing, as it is directing work to those places of greatest real need. The statistical report and recommendations can be read in English at www.indigena.org.br.

4) [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [RL] I would like to develop a research project similar to the one we undertook on the indigenous group of Brazil, but which has as its focus other socio-cultural segments in Brazil which are less evangelized, such as the Afro-Brazilian Quilombo communities and the Gypsies. I would also like to expand our activities in the area of training, both for field research and for church planting, in those areas that most need these initiatives in Brazil and beyond.

5) [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the virtual CMIW community?** [RL] Certainly! We have already created some virtual tools for training and database development which we hope to make available in English within the next twelve months. Basically, they are three research methods which we developed and which are being used in various contexts. The first is a type of cultural study for specific ethnic groups. We use it to identify elements of worldview in order to design an evangelistic approach that is appropriate and contextualized. It is called the Antropos Method. The second is a research tool useful for urban contexts, whether they be mono-cultural or multi-cultural, which enables us to identify socio-cultural segments and determine appropriate methods to share the gospel. This is called the Urbanos method. A third is specific for the planting of churches in multi-cultural contexts, especially in places that are resistant to evangelization. It is called “Methodology and Strategies for Church Planting.” A portion of this material can already be found at www.churchplanting.com.br. By God's grace, all three resources will be available in English within the next twelve months. I would love to make them available to this virtual community.

Information from the Word

Deuteronomy 29:4 [Moses said to all the Israelites,] “But to this day the LORD has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see, nor ears that hear!”

To understand, to see and to hear – these things are given to us. They are gifts from God. As mission information workers we are completely dependent on him to give us minds that understand, eyes that see and ears that hear. Give us these things today, Lord. Don't take them away from us.

Final Details:

- This bulletin is produced by the Community of Mission Information Workers Task Force comprised of Larry Kraft, Stephanie Kraft and Chris Maynard. Please send any suggestions of issues to discuss or any other ideas to “research@worksmail.net”.
- Articles in this bulletin are by Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution, Larry.
- We would like to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our brother Samuel of Design Supimpa in Brazil, who developed the logo found at the beginning of this bulletin. Feel free to contact him at “samuel@designsupimpa.com”.