



# “Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global  
Community of Mission Information Workers

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## Our Community of Practice

**Much of the world today is fueled by knowledge.** Knowing “who”, “what”, “where”, “when”, and “how many” propels processes from automobile manufacture to church planting. Getting the knowledge we need to do what we want is not always easy. We’re discovering, however, that cultivating communities of practice can help.

**What is a community of practice?** It is a group of people who come together around a common interest and expertise. They create, share and apply knowledge across the boundaries of their

families, teams and organizations. While some communities form naturally, others benefit from encouragement to become proactive and purposeful.

In our July 2011 bulletin, we shared the bare bones of our vision for what the Community of Missions Information Workers might become. We want to bring together mission information workers from all over the world, welcoming, helping and encouraging each other to share information about information. In this newsletter, we want to put a bit more meat on that skeleton.

**What might characterize our community of practice?** Perhaps we could become...

- **A community that functions well remotely.** We want to include those who cannot travel and reduce the travel of those who can. Some face-to-face meetings may be essential to enable us to connect with each other as real people.
- **A community that understands its identity and boundaries.** We will be an ever-changing community as people move in and out of mission information work. We will be distinct from, yet integrated with, other Christian workers. Our members will have different specializations but a common commitment to the Kingdom.
- **A community that understands its responsibilities to God.** We will encourage the Godly use of information with integrity. We will motivate each other to develop a clear view of what we do with information, asking ourselves “How does God see this?” We will ask ourselves and each other what information is important and what are its limitations. And, as the Lord enables, we hope to become...
- **A community that trains and equips.** Research is not just for an elite. We wish to equip all who are called into information work, to inform leaders in the right use of information and the wise leadership of information workers, and to facilitate the strategic use of information.

In our rapidly changing world, communities like ours can be more robust and enduring than specific projects, positions, or even organizations. Agencies are constantly being reorganized, and projects come and go. Teams are brought together and then disbanded. As one engineer reported, “You are redeployed so often, the only source of stability is your community of practice. It is great to have them. These are people you know you will be with the rest of your career.”<sup>1</sup>

With all this flux, our community of practice can become something of a home for those of us who share our identity as mission information workers and our passion to use information to glorify Jesus.

But please ... correct us if we’re wrong 😊.

*Stephanie Kraft*

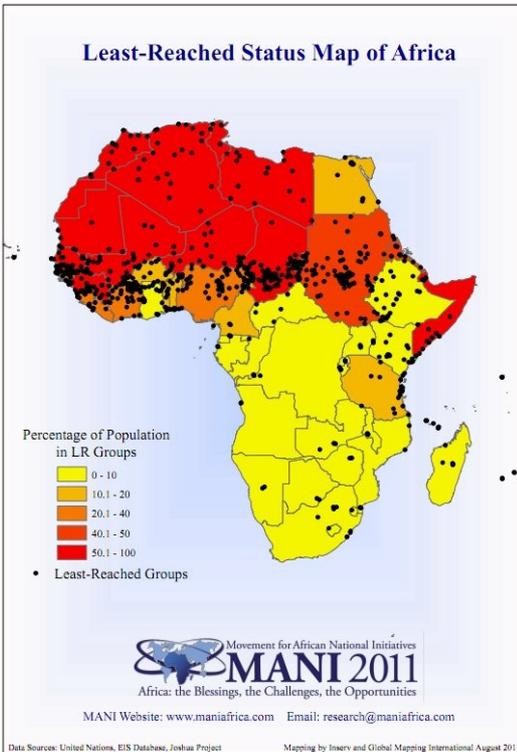


<sup>1</sup> Wenger, McDermott, and Snyder, Cultivating Communities of Practice, Harvard Business School Press, 2002, p. 20

## An African Data Initiative

by Chris Maynard

How good it was to be with our brothers and sisters at the continental consultation held in Abuja, Nigeria, in September! The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) had been planning this for some time and 600 people were there from 60 countries. The theme was “Africa: the blessings, the challenges, the opportunities” and Africa certainly has plenty of all three.



Information played an important part in the conference. In particular, there were several hours of plenary session time given to reviewing the “Country Assessment Process” (CAP). Since early 2009, MANI has been encouraging a country by country process to assess and update the basic information about people groups in all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The goal has been to validate and possibly update existing ethno-linguistic people group information, with a focus on the least-reached people groups. With the new information, MANI hopes to encourage the African Church to initiate strategic ministries to the least-reached peoples in Africa.

The Joshua Project listing of ethnic people groups ([www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)) was used as a basis. Approved changes were made in conjunction with the country teams along with a team of international research experts. Oversight came from the DATA Team (Database Advisory Team for Africa), a team of regional facilitators and other experts. And the results have been collated in a database called the “Ethne Information System” (EIS).

Although not all goals were achieved by MANI 2011, significant progress was made, challenges identified, and lessons learned. Many regions plan for continuation of this process, which will move the Church in Africa towards an authentic African database and serve the African and Global Church community in better understanding the African Harvest Field and Harvest Force.

This process included mobilizing country teams, training, documenting sources, creating a review process, involvement and communications with numerous country and global experts (anthropologists, linguists, database managers, global list custodians), managing information, and data analysis. Some 34 countries submitted recommended data changes. Submissions from the Horn of Africa and Indian Ocean Islands were especially extensive and well verified. Some CAP edits have already been accepted by global experts.

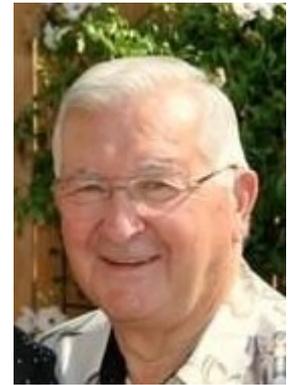
- 660 People Groups in Sub-Saharan have had some piece of data reviewed and edits accepted by the Review Team.
- 13 new People Groups were added to the list of peoples.
- 67 People Groups were deleted.
- It is estimated there were about 1,854 verified edits to the EIS database.

All data gathering for the CAP was done on a voluntarily basis, with no salaries being paid. Joshua Project proved to be a reliable data source and helpful partner in the process.

The overall task is bigger, but MANI 2011 is not the end of the Country Assessment Process, but perhaps the first small step for Africa to populate its own database for its own purposes. Overall management of the CAP process is now passing from Barbara Bills to Willie Botha. If you want to contribute to or learn from this exercise, visit [www.maniafrica.com](http://www.maniafrica.com) and follow the link to “Research”.

## Who's Who in Mission Information

### Special Profile: Bob Waymire



1) [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [BW] In 1930 I was born in a small town in the Nevada desert, son of a carpenter. In 1957 I was hired by Lockheed Missile in Sunnyvale, CA as a research engineer. I later became a Systems Engineer, then Program Engineer on the Polaris and Poseidon submarine launch missiles, spending times at Cape Canaveral and in Holy Loch, Scotland.

In Feb of 1969, at age 39, my secretary at Lockheed led me to surrender my life to Jesus Christ, who has been my Lord ever since. In October of 1971 I became involved with Luis Palau, and the next month I married Judi Holt. I saw several Lockheed friends accept Christ, and in early 1973 I left aerospace (working on missiles of death), and began full-time working on "messages of life."

My work with the Luis Palau Evangelistic Team was in the areas of planning and media-production. Palau was also with OC International, (then known as Overseas Crusades), and in 1975 I went full-time with OC in Planning and Research. In 1976, with Jim Montgomery, I began the Research and Strategy Dept., and began traveling to many countries describing/motivating the DAWN Strategy. I began the Global Research Database and consulted with Patrick Johnstone, David Barrett, and MARC (Unreached Peoples). We did a nationwide survey of the Philippines in '78, and in 1979-80, with Pete Wagner of School of World Mission, wrote the *Church Growth Survey Handbook* based upon our Philippine research.

In 1983 I took "leave of absence" from OC and started Global Mapping Project, now Global Mapping International. Through much of the 80's, we worked closely with YWAM in the areas of research mobilization and training, and also with Luis Bush in Latin America, and later globally in the AD2K Movement, catalyzing National Research and Strategy Initiatives in over 100 nations. In 1991 I turned GMI's reins over to Mike O'Rear, who had been with us from the beginning. By then Judi and I had moved to Etna, CA, and GMI moved to Colorado Springs.

From 1980-2008 I spent time each year in India helping to mobilize national research and state and national Saturation Church Planting strategies, and unreached peoples research. We assisted in establishing research centers/functions, and later computerized mapping centers and training. GMI trained master mapper trainers who trained dozens of computerized mappers in India.

In 1990 I was invited to join the AD2000 and Beyond Movement as Coordinator of the Research Mobilization Network and saw national research catalyzed in over 100 nations. In the late 90's we spent some time in Discover Your City seminars in the US, writing *Discovering Your City* for that effort.

From 2000 to present we have mainly focused on India research and strategy, and grant writing, with some time in Eastern and Western Europe, and in writing/publishing. Now semi-retired (or fizzled) at 81, I am enjoying life immensely with family and friends...and via the Web, inter-acting with friends around the world.

2) [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [BW] I mostly do consulting and writing. I periodically spend some hours and days assisting ministries in India, mainly through planning and drafting/processing grant applications for their funding.

Via the Web, I interact with a number of missions ministry people on every continent. I review/edit a variety of books and manuscripts. I do consulting and participate in meetings that usually involve information planning and strategy, or analyzing and "reaching" whole nations/continents.

Judi and I also have local ministries in Bible Studies and counseling.

I serve on the Board of Directors of three missions-related organizations, and periodically I teach/share in the Perspectives Courses.

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

- Assisting in the development of the research and analysis component of the DAWN Strategy while working with Jim Montgomery at OC.
- Being a "plank owner" in New Eastern Europe for Christ in 1991, and the privilege of working with these dedicated people who had been suppressed (many imprisoned) by the USSR; assisting in their development and practice of research and information management; working

with them for the next decade in the development of the Saturation Church Planting/DAWN strategy, mainly through The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting. Seeing how God “preserved” His people during the toughest of times; working with so many dedicated and capable men and women.

- Receiving the vision & provision of human resources from the Lord in the early 80’s for developing computerized mapping and information management systems to serve the Christian missionary enterprise and the Global Church; seeing God’s obvious hand in the people He brought to resource Global Mapping, especially Mike O’Rear (GMI’s president since 1991), and Bill Dickson, GMI’s VP.
- Helping raise global awareness in global missions and national churches of the need, strategy and process of obtaining and analyzing accurate and up-to-date information; being a network coordinator for National Research Mobilization (along with Niyi Gbade from Nigeria) with the AD2000 and Beyond Movement; meeting on different continents with people dedicated to the process of gathering and managing the information needed to develop good strategies, and to evaluate effectiveness. It has been a great privilege to work with a wide spectrum of ministry leaders from all over the world.
- Assisting in India (for 21 years) the development of national research and information ministries and structures; seeing computerized mapping and mapping training developed to serve the nation; helping to develop and plan early statewide strategy initiatives for Saturation Church Planting, including among unreached peoples.
- Teaching the Perspectives Courses to mainly college age students (really all ages) to help inform, motivate, and mobilize new generations for involvement in “reaching the unreached,” and “discipling nations.”

4) [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [BW] Hmm...well, at my age long, range planning is a little tentative. I would like to:

- Be available to the body of Christ at large for discussions/consulting/planning/with minimum traveling projects.
- Encourage ministries local and global dedicated to increase quantity and quality of the Kingdom.
- Stay involved in the local community where we live.
- Serve the organizations whose Boards I’m on.
- Continue writing – including memoirs.

5) [CMIW] **Is there some way you’d be willing to help the CMIW community?** [BW] Yes, “willing to help” is the operative word and “yes” is the answer; “some way” is more contemplative. As I am able... and ‘Lord willing’...

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## Information from the Word

Luke 1:1-4 is interesting for information workers. Is Luke sharing his methods with us? In verse 3 he writes, *“Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you.”* (NLT)

- *“Carefully investigated everything”* – he gathered lots of information.
- *“From the beginning”* – he thought history and origin were important.
- *“I also have decided”* – he made a deliberate decision what to do with his research
- *“A careful account”* – he took care with his language and expression.
- *“for you”* – he kept his target audience in mind.

Is there more we can learn from this passage?

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### 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 [cmiw@worksmail.net](mailto:cmiw@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](mailto:samuel@designsupimpa.com).