



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

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

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Rounding out our Vision

What global privileges we enjoy! International foods, music, communication, relationships-- we share riches which were, just a generation ago, reserved for a few. It is a great joy to use those privileges for the gospel. In fact, without these connections, a global community of mission information workers could not exist.

As we began in our first edition in July 2011 and continued in October, so we want to round out our vision statement by articulating that we are:

- **A community that gives attention to global, regional and local responsibilities.** We do not just serve the centralized and the strong, but we give ourselves to the local and the young shoots. We seek to move responsibility for information closer to its source. We seek to combine local control of information with global visibility.
- **A multi-cultural community.** We want to meet the challenge to model this new community out of every nation. We are diligent to include non-English speakers in the community.
- **A community that is watchful of giving advantage to our enemies.** We recognize that the very existence of our community is a threat to security. We therefore purposely promote appropriate information security measures.
- **A community that works together.** We are invested in each other as we facilitate all that's implied in our vision statement. As our understanding of one another as gifted people grows, we'll cheer and assist each other toward the accomplishment of our parts in His task.

Our logo to the above left represents our global identity. The various colors of the rounded bodies echo our uniqueness as individuals. The asymmetrical grouping suggests each contribution is special and different ... and not perfectly balanced! But the fact that we come together at the core demonstrates our connection to each other and to Christ.

We hope your heart resonates with this personal invitation to be part of a global community and we extend the warmest welcome.

Stephanie Kraft for the WEA-MC CMIW Task Force

Our Developing Community

As a mission information worker, how do you interact with your peers outside your own agency? How are you part of the existing global Community of Mission Information Workers? Method number one: you get this newsletter – **Correct Me if I’m Wrong!** This gives you a low-key contact with the rest of us.

If you want to **publish research papers** for us to read in a reputable journal, then the International Bulletin of Missions Research is available. And there are other publications that will accept research papers and articles. The on-line version is free at www.internationalbulletin.org

If you want to **meet and interact with other researchers** then the Lausanne Researchers Conference is the place for you. Here you will meet academic lecturers and professors, freelance researchers offering services to churches and denominations, and researchers embedded in large



*The Lausanne International Researchers
Conference 2005– Limassol, Cyprus*

international mission organisations. It is especially useful if you want to benefit from the fertile interaction between these different realms. It convenes every three years which suits the pace of much academic research. www.lrin.org



The Lausanne International Researchers Conference 2011 – Atibaia, Brazil

If you **like technology and want to see us get the very best out of it** for the kingdom, you really must get connected with ICCM (International Conference on Computing and Mission). They have high quality, high intensity meetings for self-confessed “techies”. These are annual in the USA and in the Netherlands, and occasional in other parts of the world. They don’t wait for three years but meet annually because in the world of technology there is always something new to talk about. www.iccm.org

If you want to **integrate structured data from different parts of the research community** – especially where it relates to countries, languages and peoples – you must be aware of HIS (Harvest Information System). And you will be eternally thankful to the HIS stewards who almost sweat blood to maintain the integrity of their registries of key reference data. Without them, integration would be near impossible. It follows that if you want your own data to be widely used and integrated you should incorporate HIS standards into your data. <https://extranet.imb.org/sites/HIS/default.aspx>

If you want to **freely share your data and your materials** with a wide “missions” audience, then the Mission InfoBank holds that promise. It is run by GMI, and in some ways its roots go back to a vision of Bob Waymire for a global research database. It has a database and a library. www.missioninfobank.org

If you are **researcher into specific people groups**, or even just have a little information about one group, there is now a wonderful way to share that with the world – Etnopedia. Etnopedia was built and promoted as a translation framework, and it is certainly that. What is less well understood is that it is a great place to contribute original information about peoples in your preferred language, which can then be translated. The main languages at the moment are English, German and Spanish, but there is no limit if there are volunteers available. www.etnopedia.org

If you want to **interact on-line with other researchers and information workers** in the three years between Lausanne conferences – ah! There seems to be a problem. Several people have set up a website but failed to attain that “buzz” that seems essential to an online community. But our attention has recently been drawn to a social network called Christian Research In Action Network (CRIAN) promoted by the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Could this be what we are looking for? transformingresearch.ning.com

As a mission information worker, how do **you** interact with your peers outside your own agency? Please let us know. We want to connect mission information workers to the people and the information they need.

Who's Who in Mission Information

Special Profile: Anton Ponomarev

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [AP] As you can probably tell from my surname, I am Russian by birth but when I was born my country was still called the Soviet Union. In a way, my upbringing was the opposite of what you might call a Christian childhood – both my parents were nuclear engineers and I grew up in a small satellite town behind a barbed wire fence with not a single church or a professing believer in sight. As many children in Soviet Russia, I was baptised in secret and even my parents did not know about it until the 1990s. However, my real journey to know Christ only started when I was a student in Moscow and I began to develop an interest in theology, thanks to some extraordinary Christian professors.



I came to the UK for my postgraduate studies but the rest of my family are all in Russia.

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [AP] I work as Associate International Director with Faith2Share, an international network of mission agencies and movements with a passion for collaboration in mission. As we have quite a light structure I am heavily involved in most aspects of our ministry, but in particular I am looking after our connections with what you might call new and emerging mission movements, especially in the Global South. Another aspect I enjoy is facilitating regular leadership consultations and serving mission leaders from many different countries and cultures through training, prayer support and ministry sharing opportunities.

3. [CMIW] **How has mission information been significant in your work for Faith2Share?** [AP] Many of our members don't have access to the information we have, so we look for facts that will help them make good decisions and work on this together with them. For instance, we may connect people from the grass roots in creative-access countries (where security is a big issue) to leaders in established agencies. This can be a big eye-opener. In many churches and denominations there is an out-of-date or stereotypical view of mission today. I love to challenge that and show people what is really happening. For me "mission information" is only valuable if it will challenge and inform my audience.

4. [CMIW] **What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [AP] As a Russian living in the UK, I sometimes have the advantage of belonging neither to the western dominated Global North nor to the Global South and this gives me a unique perspective on what can be tense South-North dynamics. By His grace, the Lord has used me to some extent to influence leaders of mission agencies and movements, change their perspectives and outlook and overcome some of the barriers which had prevented them from listening to others or being open to working with them. I have also tried to build some bridges between Evangelicals and those who belong to the Orthodox family of Churches, especially in the areas of Christian mission and witness. The greatest satisfaction is the realisation that in a small way what I do is part of God's plan for his creation.

5. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [AP] I would like to see Christians all over the earth, from many different cultures and traditions, serving together in God's mission to the world. Hopefully Faith2Share will be just one of many examples of this movement. My goal is also to use the experiences I have been privileged to have in the West and parts of the Global South and translate them effectively for my own context in the 'Global East'. Sometimes I feel that Russia and parts of the former Soviet Union have been put on the backburner of the global mission agenda, and I would like to see this situation changed. The same applies to relationships between Evangelicals and Orthodox Christians and their different understanding of mission praxis – I feel it is time we engaged in a constructive and honest dialogue and stop turning a deaf ear to each other.

6 [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [AP] As Faith2Share is a network, our strengths lie in our member movements. Many of them have rich resources in mission information, training and mobilising. If there is enough synergy, it would be great to see more cooperation and a regular flow of information between CMIW and the Faith2Share community.

Information from the Word

In Proverbs 8:30 Wisdom says, *"I was the architect at God's side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence."* Do you sense that delight sometimes in your research and information work? Let us, like wisdom, rejoice in God's presence as we pursue his purpose.

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".
- Articles in this bulletin are by Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution, Larry.