



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers

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Passing the Microphone to You

We have been delighted to get good feedback about the vision for our community. Please spend a few minutes reading through the “Correspondence” section below. We trust you will be blessed as you read how God is using members of our community to help and strengthen others.

We were so encouraged by these and other comments that we decided to dedicate this bulletin to listening to you. Would you take a few minutes to answer these four questions for us?

1) How are you working with information in your ministry?
(Examples: I am creating a catalogue of; I am researching...;

I make maps for.....; I maintain a database of...). Be as simple or as detailed as you like.

2) What obstacles do you face as you try to do what God has called you to do?

3) How might participation in our community bless you?

4) Do you give us permission to keep this information on file? (If so, we will add it to our little database against your name. If not, please make sure that your other answers do not give away your identity. We will remove your name and keep your answers anonymously. This will be less valuable to us, but we want to respect your privacy.)

If you want to give us any other information about you, please do.

Let’s see how the Holy Spirit speaks as we listen to each other.

Stephanie Kraft for the CMIW Task Force

Correspondence

Thank you for your encouragement and feedback about CMIW. We have had some good email correspondence with readers. We would like to share some of it with you here, and encourage more.

The correspondence has been edited. *Task force responses and comments are in italics.*

From: Peter Vumisa, Research Director, Institute for Strategic Services (INSERV), South Africa



Dear Larry and Stephanie,

Thanks a lot for this newsletter. I appreciate including my name on the distribution list. I am one of those from Africa who missed the Lausanne Researchers conference in Brazil. We have not received any kind of report about the conference. I am therefore very grateful to get the report through your newsletter.

I am a member of the Lausanne Researchers network. But this time I could not afford to attend due to financial challenges. Nevertheless I am in touch with the committee members of the network. I hope that the next conference will be in Africa.

Be informed that I have enjoyed reading your newsletter. Please keep it up doing the good work.

Blessings

From: Luis André Bruneto, Sepal, Brazil



Olá Larry e Stephanie,

Gostei demais do primeiro boletim da CMIW!!! Muito bom!!! Se precisarem da gente pra alguma coisa, por favor, nos deixe saber, ok? Um abraço

Within the CMIW taskforce we have the skills to correspond well in Portuguese, we may get by in Spanish, and we can understand a little French and German. Do you have translation skills you can

offer us? We want to reach beyond English speakers.

From: Valerie Lim, Senior Associate, GMI, Singapore

Dear Larry and Chris

Thanks for preparing and sending the very first issue of CMIW bulletin.

"Correct me if I'm wrong" ... what a delightful phrase for the acronym CMIW. To me, the phrase conveys the following messages about CMIW:

we are open to correction whenever we share the information we have; we know that others could have better information than us; we want to keep improving the quality (and relevance) of our information.

I enjoyed reading the entire first issue. Praise God for this good introduction.

I was a little surprised that the bulletin will only be sent out quarterly. I think there are enough of us who are doing interesting stuff, or using helpful resources, such that we could produce something monthly.

Yours in Christ

From: Mark Avery

Correct Me If I'm Wrong - Is there any way we could tweak the name of this network to be more positive? Something that hints at the utility of research in mission as a movement rather than the in-house focus of correcting each other's research mistakes. Something that goes with the theme of stewardship, insight, alertness, wisdom, discernment, 'signs of the times' etc. Just a thought!

How do you like the name CMIW? – both the taskforce: "Community of Mission Information Workers" and the newsletter: "Correct Me If I'm Wrong?"

From: Tim Herbert, Director of Operations, SYZGY Missions Support Network

Thanks, Larry. I would be very interested in receiving your bulletin regularly (I love the title!) though I have to confess I'm not really an information worker. This is just a sideline as I spend only one day a week doing research, admin and network management.

Blessings

From: Larry Kraft

Dear Tim,

Thanks for your interest. I figure that most of the people we know who are involved in mission information work do it only part of the time, so you're in good company.

God bless!



From: Eldon Porter, COMIBAM

Thanks Larry for including me in the list of those receiving this information. I would value very much being a part of the Global Community of Mission Information Workers. Is there a questionnaire I should respond to that will help others understand the patch of ground I cover?

Blessings

From: Chris Maynard

Dear Eldon,

It was great to meet you at MANI, and I really appreciated your gifts of service. I am only sorry we did not have more time to talk together about information.

Thanks for your email response. You ARE a part of the community. At the moment we are casting a wide net with no formal membership. To date the newsletter is our only formal instrument. So no, we don't have a questionnaire for you to fill in, but I encourage you to think and pray if there is a contribution you can make to the newsletter that would be of wide interest. It may seem like "blowing your own trumpet" but if the kingdom benefits, someone should blow it!

With brotherly love

From: Mark Avery

Hi Larry and Chris,

I just read Chris's paper [Towards a Global Community of Mission Information Workers] – my goodness mate, what an excellent job at pulling all that together!

A couple critical facets that I'd add to your paper:

1. There is a gap between information and action-- starting that conversation in media and in training about that gap is pivotal moving forward

2. The CMIW needs a more clear articulation of its shared problems that demand a community response. One community that I have been impressed with is the ICCM-- they are a "community of reference" for each other with random, ad hoc, quick questions. I would love to have a community of people who can help me with quick, twitter-type questions. A global "community of reference" for these types of things would be great. My guess is that it would be lightly used, but that is the nature of info management and the people who do it well.

3. I'd suggest a personal call for papers. Do an online survey or phone call survey of the most important issues right now, and pull together responses. I for one would love to hear about how others have bridged the information action gap in a network setting or partnership.

Blessings and thanks so much for your hard work on this – may God increase it 100-fold in His kingdom.

In Him

What do other readers think of these suggestions?



From: Tony Woodward, Operation World

Michael Jaffarian passed on to me Anton Ponomarev as a contact who could possibly help us source information for our Missions Database. Do you have his contact details please? Thanks

From: Chris Maynard

Anton, May I pass on your email address to Tony Woodward. I know him and Michael. They are genuine OW workers and I love OW and want it to be more accurate and useful.



From: Anton Ponomarev, Faith2Share

Chris, I doubt I'll be able to help Tony and Michael a great deal but we'll have a go 😊. Yes please do pass my email to them.

In CMIW we love to put people in touch with each other. Normally (respecting security and privacy) we forward the email from the requestor to the person they want to connect with to ask permission to put them in contact. Sometimes we know both people well enough to put them straight in touch.

From: Arnie Remtema, Director of Research, TWR



Thanks, Chris, for your help with the Lausanne website. Reading through your paper I recognized so many of the people and the initiatives you highlighted. Seeing the chart, one can appreciate so much more the history, legacy, and value of investment on behalf of the Kingdom. As I read through your "A Vision for a Community," I felt you captured very significant roles for the community, especially in sharing information. I wondered if it presumes too much to include in your last point "A community that works together," a sub-point to facilitate collaborative strategic initiatives. With thanks

From: Chris Maynard

Arnie,

Thanks for your helpful comments. About your additional suggestion for the vision of the community – "facilitate collaborative strategic initiatives": this may be a gap in what we have set out. You will not be surprised to find I agree with you if you look back up the list to this point – "A community that equips God's people in handling information", and especially the last sub point – "to facilitate strategic use of information" I certainly expect us to be facilitating collaborative strategic initiatives. That is what much of my personal work is about with supporting MANI and GCPN. Some of us are of the mind that we must only "present the facts" and it is for "the leaders" to decide. However, the way Caleb and Joshua "presented the facts" was radically different from the way the other ten presented the same facts. With brotherly love

Who's Who in Mission Information

Special Profile: Peter Vumisa

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

[PV] I was born and raised in a Christian family in Zambia, but I personally did not consider myself very religious. At one point I even stopped going to Church. However, even during that break, I never doubted the fundamentals of my Christian beliefs. This



helped me later in life to think seriously about my salvation. In 1982, by the Holy Spirit's conviction through His word, the Holy Scriptures, I gave my life to the Lord. I now live in South Africa with my family, serving the Lord at the Institute for Strategic Services (INSERV) as a Research Director. My brothers and sisters are all in Zambia, but my parents are both deceased.

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [PV] I am a Baptist missionary supported by my local church, Pretoria Central Baptist Church, and accredited by the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. Since coming to South Africa in 1998, I have been working for Inserv as a researcher. Our research is primarily about the least-reached people groups in Africa. As Research Director my work is to plan and coordinate research projects. In addition to this, I am also responsible for the newly-established Mission Mobilisation Ministry. We want, through this new ministry, to use research information to mobilise the church in Africa for missions.

3. [CMIW] **What contributions have you made to missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [PV] At the moment I am very excited about the book we are writing on missions entitled, "Evangelical Christian Missions: an African Perspective." The general purpose of the book is to describe and teach missions, giving various steps to the readers and equipping them with skills to do missions in Africa and beyond. Twelve writers from five countries are contributing to the book. The target readers are pastors and church planters, mission leaders, missionaries, mission agencies, Bible schools, and African women who desire to serve the Lord as missionaries. The other thing that excites me is the progress we have made so far in updating people-group information for Africa and the Ethne Information System (EIS) database for MANI. Inserv is facilitating the process.

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [PV] Africa is no longer a dark continent, as people used to see it, and it is no longer a mission field. With the newly established ministry of mission mobilisation, I would like to see the Church in Africa reach new levels of involvement in missions. We want to use the book "Evangelical Christian Missions: an African Perspective" as a tool to mobilise churches for missions.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you would be willing to help the CMIW community?** [PV] Inserv is well connected throughout the continent and globally through networks such as WENSA, MANI, the Lausanne Researchers International Network, and many others. Being in the information ministry, I am sure that our partnership with the CMIW will be of great benefit to the community in the sense that many of our friends in these networks will come to know about the CMIW.

Information from the Word

Matthew 21: 23-25 (*The Message*): The high priests and leaders of the people came up and demanded, "Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to teach here?" Jesus responded, "First let me ask you a question. You answer my question and I'll answer yours. About the baptism of John—who authorized it: heaven or humans?" They were on the spot and knew it.

Jesus was the best question-asker. The answers he got revealed not only people's thoughts but their hearts as well. When we ask questions, are we just listening for the facts or for the dreams and attitudes behind them?

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.
- For changes to our distribution list (including "subscribe" or "unsubscribe") please email "cmiw@worksmail.net".
- Please forward to friends or colleagues who may be interested.