



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

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Community of Mission Information Workers*

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Does Mission Information = Research + Data + Media Content? (Part 1)

Chris Maynard

THE CMIW TASKFORCE COMES FROM “RESEARCH” AND “DATA”. Your CMIW task force is three Mission Information Workers (of course). And between us we have a lot of experience of working with research, surveys, databases and statistics. Most of the information is about the needs of the world, or the resources of the churches – because these are the two things that mission brings together. So this is what we tend

to think of when we talk about “Mission Information”.

BUT MANY OF US ARE FROM “MEDIA”. We notice that our distribution list attracts a lot of people we might call “media people” – people who deal with journals, prayer letters, training materials, pictures, films and videos. In the internet world this is often called “content”.

WHAT INTERESTS YOU IN CMIW? We wonder ... how do media people see themselves within this community? Do you see yourself as a special type of “Mission Information Worker”? Or do you see yourself as something different, but you want to keep in touch with the numbers and the numbers people?

ARE THERE OTHER COMMUNITIES FOR “MISSIONS MEDIA” PEOPLE? We like to work with other networks and not to duplicate what they are doing. You can see from our new “links” page at <http://www.globalcmiwi.org/links.html>. Should we be welcoming you to “listen in”, but expecting you will find better connections for your work in other networks? Is there a global forum for missions media people? We honestly don’t know.

AND HOW CAN WE BEST INCLUDE YOU? How can we include you? Should CMIW actively support the needs of mission media people? And how should we allow this community to be shaped by you?

Now We All Know

Stephanie Kraft

We began our January 2013 edition with the question “Do You Know Something We Don’t Know?” You see, our previous edition had featured a description of the research going on through MANI in Africa, and our friend Bob Waymire was curious to know if other continents or groups of countries had accomplished the same or similar.

We are grateful to all who responded. Some folks described SEA-Net in Asia. We got a few comments and graphics about North America. But we received a stunningly complete response from Cliff Holland in Latin America about historical and church growth research occurring there. Here are some of the highlights Cliff shared:

- Systematic studies began in the early 70’s. The quarterly bulletin “In-Depth Evangelization Around the World” was being published in Costa Rica by INDEF Publications. As its

director and general editor, Cliff coordinated the first national study of the Protestant movement in Costa Rica, and published the first national directory of Protestant denominations and local churches in 1974. His travels through the region gave him invaluable insights regarding the history and status of the Protestant movement, and his willingness to provide technical assistance to national pastors won him the confidence of key national leaders. A successful comprehensive project on the churches of Mexico City created a model which was reproducible elsewhere in the region.

- Research on unreached peoples began in the 80's in partnership with World Vision-MARC. This has continued throughout the decades by COMIBAM-related missionary training and sending agencies in each country.
- Members of the Latin American Church Growth Task Force, a network of researchers and missiologists, monitored the growth of the Protestant Movement in Latin America and the Caribbean and helped track the development of new religious movements. This led to the development of the website for PROLADES in 2000, which continues to compile and disseminate information about Latin American Church Growth and the study of alternative religious movements (NRMs).
- The "Classification System of Religious Groups in the Americas by Major Religious Traditions and Denominational Families" was developed and modified based on ongoing fieldwork in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2000 Cliff created the on-line database on all religious groups known to exist in fifty-four countries and dependent territories of Latin America and the Caribbean, called the "Religion-In-The-Americas Database (RITA)". An update of this database and on-line search engine can be found at: <http://www.prolades.com> & <http://ritasearch.ufindme.net>



To learn more about the church in Latin America, please visit the RITA database above. To learn more about Cliff, his family and his work, please see the "Who's Who in Missions Information" section toward the end of this issue. Thanks Cliff!

Will we see you there?

The 7th Lausanne Researchers' Conference (please note revised date)

The next Lausanne International Researchers' Conference will be on 24th-28th May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, hosted by CMS Asia.

Dr. Kang-San Tan, the Director of CMS Asia is announced as one of two plenary speakers. Dr. Tan is the Lausanne Senior Associate for Buddhism and a member of the World Evangelical Alliance's theological working group.

The conference theme will be "Global Challenges, Local Responses: Transforming Research and the Mission of God". A call for papers will follow shortly, grouped around one of the two themes: "Global Challenges" and "Local Responses".

CMIW will keep you up to date with developments. But if you are on Facebook, you will want to "like" www.facebook.com/LausanneInternationalResearchersNetwork.

The three of us have been blessed by these Lausanne Researchers' gatherings in the past,

and we plan to be present for this one too. Will you be able to attend?

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Cliff Holland

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [CH] Our family (Linda, our children Richard and Suzan, and I) arrived in Costa Rica in April 1972 to serve with the International Institute for In-Depth Evangelization (INDEF) on-loan from the Latin America Mission. I worked with Orlando E. Costas in the Department of Studies and Publications for INDEF. Since then I have worked with colleagues in Central America on research projects of various sorts, recruiting and training a new generation of missiological researchers and church historians. Linda manages study abroad programs for a dozen US universities which send students to Costa Rica. Our children Richard and Suzan are both married and have two children each.

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [CH] Since my retirement from UNELA in 2007, I have devoted much of my time to research, information management, writing, editing, and training in the Americas. I am currently focused on the following:

- 1) A History of the Protestant movement in each country of Central America
- 2) A study of Protestant Mega-churches in each country
- 3) A Study of New Religious Movements (NRMs) in each country
- 4) A study of the charismatic Renewal movement in each country.

My associates and I are also committed to the further development of the "Association of Church History Professors in Latin America" (known as APHILA in Spanish- <http://aphila-cam.net>) and the "National Church History Commission" for Costa Rica, which promotes the establishment of similar national church history commissions in each country of Central America.

I work with programs of theological education in Latin America and the Caribbean. I strongly believe in the vision of establishing Permanent National Research & Information functions in every country, but there are few mission agencies and service organizations that are interested in this.

In July 2012 my son Richard and I established Holland International Consultants, to provide professional services in research, information management and educational consulting.

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

- My work with Orlando in the creation of INDEF Publications.
- My launching of PROCADES which later developed into the "Latin American Socio-Religious Studies Program" (PROLADES). From 1977-1986, we produced a series of National Protestant Church Directories for each country of Central America.
- My field research on Protestant churches in the Central American region allowed me to produce A History of the Protestant Movement in Central America, 1750-1980 as part of my Doctor of Missiology studies at Fuller Theological Seminary (FTS) in Pasadena, CA (1980-1981).
- Serving as general editor of "World Christianity: Central America and the Caribbean", a series of Status of Christianity Country Profiles, published by MARC-World Vision in 1982.
- The founding of the "Missiological Institute of the Americas" (IMDELA) for the purpose of training cross-cultural missionaries from Costa Rica to the rest of the world in 1983.
- Serving 25 countries of the Americas in the area of research and information management by providing technical assistance to a variety of organizations.
- Serving ethnic minorities in North America by conducting a series of new or updated studies and created associated websites: (1) "A National Study of the Hispanic Protestant Church in the USA, Puerto Rico and Canada" in partnership with the Association for Hispanic

Theological Education (AETH), and, (2) An update of the study "Ethnic and Religious Diversity in the Greater Los Angeles Metro Area (GLAMA)" in partnership with the University of Southern California's Center for Religion & Civic Culture (USC-CRCC).

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [CH] Well, at age 74, I try not to make 10-year plans! However, I do plan on continuing what I have always done for as long as I am physically and mentally able. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Central American region in the projects that were previously described. I hope to finalize a document on "Church Trends in Latin America" and I will soon be working on a SWAT-FODA analysis of the Protestant Church in Central America in collaboration with programs of theological education in this region. Also, I will continue to provide technical support and consulting services to AETH, FTS and USC-CRCC and other partnership agencies.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [CH] I would like to help by sharing my experiences with fellow missiological researchers and encouraging them to ask the hard questions. The answers can advance the Great Commission worldwide. Also, I am willing to mentor others and to teach intensive tutorial courses via the Internet (Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.). I could also provide assistance as a consultant and technical advisor for their research and information gathering projects as needed.



Blessings,

Cliff Holland, San Pedro, Montes de Oca, Costa Rica

My Skype name is: Clifton.I.holland

For more information about me and PROLADES, see my biography at: <http://www.prolades.com/clh-resume.htm>

Information from the Word

"Let your yes be yes and your no, no" In Matthew 5:37 Jesus commands clear speaking and few words. In the Gospels I see that Jesus used few words but he had a great effect on those who listened. In our own writing and speaking, what do we really mean to say? Can we make it shorter? Will that make it clearer?

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".
- Editorial team: Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution: Larry.