



“Correct Me If I'm Wrong”

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

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Our Work is a Work of Prayer

Chris Maynard

Mission information and prayer – what have they to do with each other?

Operation Word (the book and the database available on DVD) is one of the most widely used global mission information sources. People use it now for many reasons, but it was birthed for one purpose – to help Christians to pray. Prayer is fueled by information about the world as well as by the Bible and the Holy Spirit within us. It was when Nehemiah heard the news from

Jerusalem that he wept and prayed (Nehemiah 1). It was when Jesus saw the crowds that he was moved with compassion (Matt 9:36). It was in response to information from Peter and John that the Jerusalem believers prayed that most powerful prayer of Acts 4:23-31.

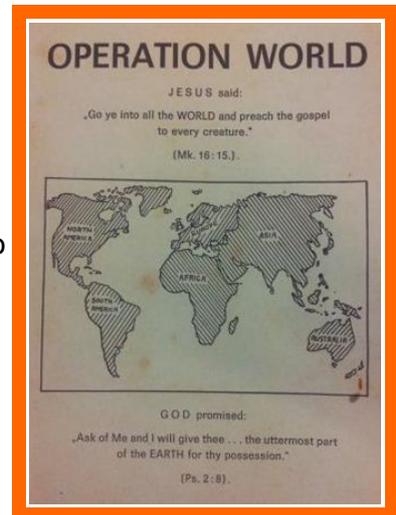
And it works the other way too. If prayer is fueled by information, information is empowered by prayer. Nehemiah's prayers gave him the right way to present his information to the king (Nehemiah 2:1-8) which led to the king's favour (Nehemiah 2:8). It was the prayer of the Jerusalem believers that led to wider information sharing (Acts 4:31)

How can we work in mission information and not pray? There are so many things that need to come together if our work is to be powerful and effective. Do you think you can get them all right without God's sovereign intervention? Who is praying with you for the right use of the information that you share?

We carry a serious responsibility on our shoulders. We are influencing people with our information. (If not, why not? Are you just producing reports to look good on a shelf?) I believe that puts us in the position of teachers. And we know that teachers will be judged with greater strictness (James 3:1). Let us not be casual about our work, but fear God, obey him carefully and pray for his favour on all that we do.

Information work may be a matter of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). Information is very difficult to get right (James 3:2). We are even responsible for what we don't communicate (Ezekiel 33:6).

Information can easily become misinformation. Is our information true? Is it convincing? Is it getting to the right people? How do we expect to get all those things right without God's help? As in heaven, Father, so let it be in and through our mission information work – for Your name's sanctification, for Your kingdom's arrival, for Your will's accomplishment here on earth!



*This is the first edition of
Operation World,
published in 1964*

Pray with us for Operation World

In 2014, Operation World celebrates 50 years! It was 1964 when Patrick Johnstone produced the first OW booklet in southern Africa (on a Gestetner machine)! It had about 30 countries, and around the same number of pages.

As we pray for the present projects and future of OW, thank God with us for all He has done in and through the seven editions of OW (and all the related products: children's resources, maps,

calendars, prayer cards, even a music CD! and more...)

Thank the Lord with us: We are working on a book called "Pray for the World". It will be an abridged, simplified-English version of Operation World (OW) designed for use in the Majority World, in non-native English speaking environments, and for translation into other languages. The vast majority of drafting is now complete. That means that most of the 234 countries have now been abridged! Those abridged articles then need to be edited. Well over half of that editing has been done, but most of Asia and some of Europe remain. Pray for good blocks of time for Molly Wall to get that work done.

Pray with us:

1. At this stage of the project there is a lot of email discussion with the publisher (IVP) about various aspects of the book. Pray for good decisions and strengthened relationships through this 'email discussion' process.
2. Pray that good arrangements will be put in place for translations of "Pray for the World". We have 2 languages arranged, several others considering the possibility, and we continue to pray for other key language publishers! In summary, please pray for "Pray for the World" - for its completion, translation and distribution!
3. Please also pray for the people involved... especially for stamina (it's been a long stretch of months working at high pressure levels... with a few more to go!), and flexibility / positive attitudes when the little things that can get in the way of a productive day make their appearance (network/computer problems, scheduling / communication mishaps, the 'cares of the world', etc, and more seriously the health and ministry challenges we continue to face).

If you want to continue in regular prayer for the Operation World team, please email your request to info@operationworld.org. They will send you updates by email.

Green Shoots Springing Up

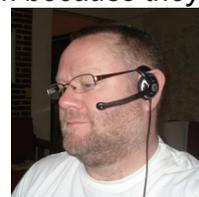
In our January 2014 edition we featured the thoughts of Darrell Jackson, Bob Waymire and Jim Haney on developing the next generation of mission information workers. We are pleased to say we have had some correspondence about this topic. We like correspondence! Dave Markham (Etnopedia), Todd Poulter (Wycliffe Global Alliance) and Melinda Lyons (SIL):

Hello everyone.

I agree with Bob Waymire, we need more Permanent National Research Functions gathering information on who, where, what, why, and when = unreached people groups. Why? because they are unreached. When? right now. I am pretty sure he is talking about unreached people group research.

I agree with Jim Haney that we have good information that we have not acted on yet. Why more research? Good point. We have pretty solid information on about 3,500 of the 7,000 UPGs (7,286 Joshua Projects new figure). We need obedience to those 3,500 we know about. So what is the holdup? It may be that what we need to do is get it translated into other languages other than English. This helps to engage those who are left out of the loop of world evangelism because they don't speak English. Etnopedia is helping that process, we have about 7,000 profiles in languages other than English now. We have recently added about 350 profiles in Mandarin.

*Blessings in Christ / Bendiciones en Jesús
David Markham*



Dear Larry and Stephanie,

I read the Green Shoots article with interest, as I'm very keen to see us developing intergenerational relationships within the mission community, especially among leaders. I sensed that the interview was more focused on the need for more workers, rather than what I had anticipated, which was how to connect with the "green shoots" who are out there but not necessarily interested yet in mission research. My experience tells me that the first step is

relationship-building, and out of that everything else comes. Where are the venues that future researchers and “information strategists” could be met and cultivated? And who are the current researchers and information strategists who could be envisioned to cultivate those relationships?

In a different vein, I would love to see more research people going beyond presenting the data in mission meetings to helping their audiences interpret the significance of the data. While it may be true that there is more or less of a given something in the world (whether it’s workers or persecution or Bible translations), what is it that this information is actually telling us that would help us act on it and make wiser decisions?

Sincerely, Todd [Poulter]



Dear Larry and Stephanie,

You probably already know that we [SIL] are training and nurturing new information workers, especially in places where there are few others doing data collection and people-group determination. We train a lot of young men and women to do basic research in languages, but don’t expect them to work long-term in this kind of research. Most move on to a traditional linguist/translator role within five years. There are just a few who continue, and of them only one or two who do a Ph.D. and expect to be senior researchers long-term.

Many of the strategy / analysis / communication roles, however, are filled by those who are white and up in years. This concerns me, but my own efforts at finding someone with a vision to fill my role and train him / her have also failed.

Melinda



What’s your experience?

See you there

It is our custom to promote as much real-time face-to-face getting-together as our budgets, schedules, and priorities permit. Yes, facts are our friends. But you, our virtual-community members, are dearer still.

So here's where one or more members of our task force will be in the upcoming quarter:

WEA-MC (May 2014)
GCPN (May 2014)
ICCM (June 2014)

Might we see you there? If so, please drop us a note at cmiw@worksmail.net and we'll look for you.

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Isebel Spangenberg

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [IS]I was trained as a teacher and also served in the South African Defense Force as an intelligence officer. (This is something that very few people believe of me because they can’t see me as a soldier. It was also during the apartheid years – something that my generation of South Africans are not very proud of.) I met my husband, David, in my final year of high school and we were married 4 years later. We have been married for 29 years.

We have a daughter, Juane, 24 and a son, David, 22. Both are wonderful children of the Lord and that is the



one thing I am most thankful for.

Dawie (Afrikaans abbreviation for David) and I became involved in Transformation Africa in 2002, which later became the Global Day of Prayer (www.globaldayofprayer.com). Together we have witnessed God's miracle of taking the Global Day of Prayer from one stadium event in Cape Town to every nation across the earth! Dawie is a businessman and has always worked at both ministry and business simultaneously and the Lord has blessed us abundantly.

My passion is to communicate, build relationships and network in the Body of Christ. I have a particular passion for the persecuted Church and unreached people groups. I continued to handle communication and maintenance of the GDOP International on a voluntary basis after the visionary and founder, Graham Power, announced in 2012 that he was planning to focus his resources and efforts elsewhere.

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [IS] Over the years, serving the GDOP, I have built up a very wide network of friends in the nations who are passionate for prayer and who either have a prayer network themselves or who were involved in mobilisation of prayer in their nation or region. I also found that there is a vast majority of believers who are very "uneducated" and uninformed when it comes to prayer and informed intercession. I felt called to serve the Body of Christ by putting together the Global Prayer Resource Network (www.globalprn.com) website and by utilising the large database that I built up through GDOP-- by becoming a "prayer hub".

The vision for GPRN is to connect praying Christians with up-to-date local and global prayer needs and existing prayer resources, in order to honor God's call that Christians should petition Him for the needs of this world. The mission of the Global Prayer Resource Network is to create an Information Hub by:

- Maintenance of a website that is updated on a daily basis
- Keeping the praying community informed through Bi-weekly Newsletters and Urgent Prayer Bulletins
- Networking and partnering with other prayer ministries and organizations
- Obtaining on-the-ground up-to-date information through connections in the nations

In October 2012 Dawie was appointed President and CEO of The Sentinel Group (www.sentinelgroup.org) and, because of his involvement, I was automatically pulled into the fold. I now also serve as Communication Officer for The Sentinel Group and find great synergy with what I am passionate about, as prayer has always been the launching pad for all transforming revivals around the world.

3. [CMIW] **What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [IS] I would NEVER say that I have personally made any contributions. Global Day of Prayer was nothing but a move of God, and those of us who have been involved are just in awe of the privilege, honour and humbling experience to be a part of it. There are two definite areas that I believe that GDOP has been used by God to help catalyze: the first is the growth of unity amongst denominations in most places where GDOP has been observed, and indeed in the Body of Christ worldwide; the other would be the fact that prayer has taken a more prominent place in many missions organisations over the last twelve years.

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [IS] My dreams for this ministry are that it would become more useful to many "new pray-ers" by providing more resources, help intercessors to pray more informed prayers, and to be a place where one can go to find information about events and initiatives. If there is one thing that I would ask the Lord for, it would be a 25-hour day to be able to do more much quicker. My biggest dream is that ministries, organisations and prayer networks would combine their efforts, share resources and work together to see the Great Commission be fulfilled in our lifetime.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [IS] I would serve CMIW in any way that I am able. If there is any way I could help by networking people with one another in order to get the job done, don't hesitate to call on me. If there is any way I could help create awareness for things happening that need prayer AND praise, just push my button.

Information from the Word

“What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.” 1 Cor 14:15

Prayer is both a spiritual activity and a logical task. The right worship of God uses our natural abilities as well as the supernatural. As we pray to and praise our Creator, do we allow the understanding that we get from our information to touch what is beyond our understanding?

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.