



“Correct Me If I'm Wrong”
*The quarterly bulletin of the Global
Community of Mission Information Workers*
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An African Welcome!
by Stephanie Kraft

The Third MANI Continental Consultation was an extraordinary event. The **Movement for African National Initiatives** is a network of networks focused on mobilizing the resources of the Body of Christ in Africa for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Five hundred and sixty delegates from more than fifty countries gathered at the beautiful African Union Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia March 7-12, 2016. We participants experienced the warm hospitality of our hosts through foods, fellowship, worship and searching the Scriptures together to explore the theme: Hearing and Obeying God in Times Like These.

We are happy to extend that same welcome to the sixty-two men and women who attended the MANI Research networking session and who asked to receive these quarterly bulletins. We hope this will be the first of many pleasant informational and interpersonal exchanges between us. Your inclusion in our Community of Mission Information Workers mailing list brings our total bulletin distribution to 520 people.



In addition to plenary sessions where all participants learned and prayed together, there were numerous break-out sessions. One of those sessions focused on networking for research. What was the principle outcome of that research network session? It was a commitment to strengthen the CAP (Country Assessment Process), which is a country by country procedure to assess and update basic information about people groups in all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. MANI leaders want to validate and possibly update existing ethno-linguistic people group information, with a focus on the least-reached people groups. It is hoped that this new information will encourage the African Church to initiate strategic ministries to the least-reached peoples in Africa.

How do they hope to make this happen? By:

- Continuing CAP data review, so as to accurately identify all Least-Reached People Groups of Africa. An emphasis is needed on the demographic data collection.
- Enhancing and developing research and mapping teams in the regions and countries.
- Further developing the DATA (Database Advisory Team for Africa).
- Prioritizing Francophone West and Central Africa.
- Training in the use of the EIS (Ethne) database for data management on a country level.
- Strengthening existing, and develop new regional, continental and global relationships and partnerships to enhance the gathering and management of data for the continent.

What were the outcomes of the Consultation as a whole? A full “Declaration of the Continental Consultation” was drafted in English, French and Portuguese and concluded with these words (in the English version): *“We have come to Addis Ababa to open ourselves to hear what God is saying to us regarding his mission in and from the African continent. God has reassured us of his love for us as his church and has inspired us to recommit ourselves to his mission in this world. As Ethiopia reminds us of Africa's earliest response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the faithful preservation of our faith throughout the centuries, we want to erect a spiritual memorial to declare that the Church in Africa will not rest until the whole world is filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). From Addis to everywhere, until Jesus comes. Maranatha!”*

What do we say? Shall we assist them? Please write to Peter Vumisa <vumisaPeter@gmail.com> of the MANI Research Network if your heart is stirred to help.

Kingdom Values for Evaluation Research

by GMI (www.gmi.org)



The appreciation and need for evaluation research is increasing as boards of directors, foundations and mission supporters ask harder questions about effectiveness. GMI is gearing up to assist missions and churches respond to these questions. We are framing our new evaluation service around three key kingdom values.

We began formulating these values with a brainstorming session about characteristics we wanted to underpin every GMI evaluation research project. We consolidated all the ideas into the nine values in the first column. Then we synthesized the nine into three Kingdom values (in the center column). Finally we tied one specific text to each of the three values. These are not isolated proof-texts but rather representative samples of the whole pattern of New Testament teaching on the Kingdom.

The objective of these Kingdom values is to be intentional that mission evaluation research be shaped and governed by the King instead of by the latest secular thinking alone. We will use some widely available evaluation tools, but always check whether secular values have limited their usefulness for Kingdom purposes. For example, typical evaluations

Evaluation values	Kingdom values	Biblical image
A. Process and outcome both valuable B. Transformed lives C. Innovation as part of knowledge stewardship D. Thinking forward from evaluation (goal is to build up not to blame & tear down)	1. CHANGE. The kingdom is earth-shaking, transformative, liberating, and joyful. This is the kingdom humanity has been waiting for since Eden. This is it!	Mk. 1:15 <i>The time is fulfilled! The new era is beginning. Change, reorient to the new reality, and welcome the good news.</i>
E. Celebration of God's work F. Dependence on God G. Quantitative & qualitative are both needed H. Thinking forward from evaluation (same as point D above)	2. MYSTERY. The kingdom comes gently, gradually, and mysteriously rather than by force, hurry, or manipulation.	Mk. 4:28 <i>The farmer goes to sleep and gets up, night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.</i>
I. Collaboration not competition J. Local context is factored in (unity has diversity not standardization)	3. UNITY. The kingdom unites people under one Lord rather than feeding their competitive spirit. It is treasonous to evaluate anything in terms of its value for building our own little kingdoms.	Mt. 8:11 <i>I tell you, many will come from the east and west to share the banquet with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven . . .</i>

tend to ignore the “Mystery,” focusing on “Change” for competitive advantage, even if that undermines “Unity.” Our approach is to keep all three values in dynamic tension.

- If the Kingdom is about “Change,” then the change should be visible and measurable somewhere.
- But if the Kingdom is ultimately a matter of “Mystery,” then we must acknowledge and celebrate the God factor and understand that all measurements have to be taken as approximations.
- And if the Kingdom is about “Unity,” then measuring and evaluating must unify those being evaluated as they celebrate the change measured, praise God for the mystery, and look ahead to improved service.

Evaluation guided by these values will differ noticeably from standard secular evaluations. As we have shared these values with others, we are finding that they are easily grasped and appreciated. We are also finding they lend themselves to adaptation for a variety of situations. As we develop our Knowledge Stewardship Cycle—information provision, Spirit-led decision making, and Kingdom-centered evaluation—these values are relevant to each phase in the cycle.

We welcome your comments, including your efforts to make evaluation research biblical and healthy. To explore this topic in greater detail, download “Evaluation in International Ministry: Key Principles and Practical Tools” <http://www.gmi.org/services/research/evaluation-services/>.

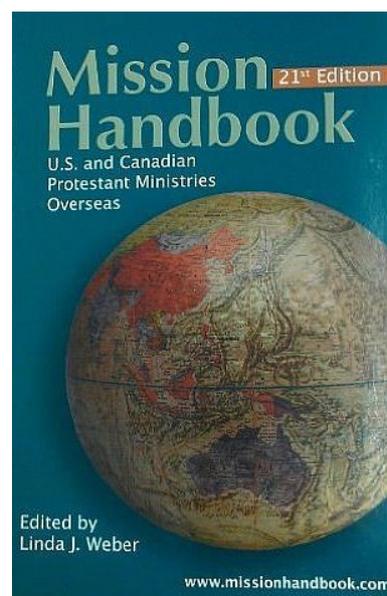
Can You Help the *North American Mission Handbook*?

by Michael Jaffarian

This book seeks to report on all Christian organisations in North America that send missionaries, workers, funds, or other resources to other countries, in the service of Jesus Christ. A local church qualifies if it serves as a mission agency, directly sending and supporting long-term missionaries or workers to other countries, without working through a separate organisation. The 21st edition reported on about 800 organizations. We expect the 22nd edition to report on maybe 1000. Finding them all will not be easy, since Christians these days are constantly starting new, little organisations to address various needs in various places, all over the world, in the spirit of social entrepreneurship. Also, many organizations whose ministries have traditionally been limited to North America have now spilled across borders and gone global.

1. What organisations do you know of that we have missed in the past, or that we might miss in the present, that maybe are smaller, newer, or not widely known? Do you have ideas for how we might go about this difficult task of finding every last international ministry?
2. Who do you know in Bermuda? Or St. Pierre & Miquelon? Or Greenland? So far the Mission Handbook has reported only on the USA and Canada, but now we'd like to cover the entire continent. That means we plan to report on these three smaller countries, and we're thin on local contacts. Can you introduce us to people who could provide information on the mission movements of these countries?

If so, please send Michael an email at [<emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com>](mailto:emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com). *Thanks much!*



The 21st edition, published in 2010

An Invitation

In our last bulletin we asked you to hold some dates in August. Now the details are clearer and the Community of Mission Information Workers has pleasure in joining with Harvest Information System Stewards, The Seed Company and SIL International, to invite you to a Mission Information Workers Conference.

The purpose of the gathering is to bring together missions information workers for presentations and

interaction, emphasizing the provision and exchange of information within the mission community.

The conference will provide TED-type talks from mission information workers who are informing decision makers in missions around the world, and there will be plenty of time for questions, dialogue and application of mission information to help you find solutions that work for you and those you seek to inform.

We welcome all those who work with mission information. We welcome people who work with data about languages, churches, people groups, religions or missionaries. We welcome people who manage directories or produce handbooks of organisations or resources that support the work of God's mission.



We will:

- Bring together mission information workers so that we can share about the mission information we are providing and how we are providing it.
- Explore new opportunities for providing mission information to the mission community.
- Address issues and challenges in providing mission information to the mission community.

If you have any questions or wonder if the conference is right for you, please email Chris.Maynard@transforminginformation.com

When: Tuesday, August 23, 2016, 8:30 AM to Thursday, August 25, 1:00 PM

Where: Seed Company, 220 Westway Place, Arlington, Texas

Register Now: www.regonline.com/missioninfoworkers

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Michael Jaffarian

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [MJ] My wife Dawna and I have been missionaries with WorldVenture since 1983. We served for six years in Singapore on loan to the Singapore Centre for Global Mission, then seven years in Richmond, Virginia on loan to the World Christian Encyclopedia (2nd edition). For the next ten years, still in Virginia, I did a variety of mission-research-related projects – articles and reviews, book contributions, speaking, and consulting. In 2009 we moved to England, on loan to Operation World for three years. Now the Lord has moved us back to Oregon where we both are from, and I'm working from here. God has blessed us with two children. Calvin is single and works as a typesetter for Wipf and Stock in Eugene, Oregon. Jasmine married a Philippines MK and lives in Texas. I'm a runner, a gardener, a sports fan (go Ducks! go Dodgers!), an artist, and a blues aficionado.



2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [MJ] My biggest project right now is helping with the 3rd edition of the World Christian Encyclopedia. This is a large reference book with articles on every country in the world, covering religions, Christianity, major denominations, renewal movements, religious freedom, and Christian activities (art & architecture, broadcasting, education, humanitarian work, and more). Each country article will include detailed tables of statistics on religions, and on Christian denominations. This is a project of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, near Boston. The team for the 3rd edition includes five of us who worked on the 2nd edition 20 years ago.

My second biggest project is helping with the 22nd edition of the North American Mission Handbook, a directory of all the international mission organizations based in North America. Responses to our questionnaire allow us to give a definitive report on the status of, and trends in, this continental mission

movement. This is a project of Missio Nexus. The editor, Marv Newell, and the managing editor, Peggy Newell, are based in the Chicago area.

3. [CMIW] **What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [MJ] My publications list has 125 items on it now, and a few of them are pretty good. Ha! One experience that comes to mind is from 2001. The 2nd edition of the World Christian Encyclopedia was fresh off the press, and the American Society of Missiology asked David Barrett to come to their annual meeting and present key findings. Unfortunately, he could not. So they asked Todd Johnson. Unfortunately, he was already committed to an event in Asia at that time. My stature as a research missiologist is far below those brothers', so I was quite surprised when they asked me to speak, as a sort of third-string substitute. My lecture, "The Statistical State of the Missionary Enterprise," and the article that appeared in Missiology, were well received. I began the lecture by saying:

Some picture global mission researchers as a strange cabal of eccentric accountants, isolated, locked up in mysterious, dark offices, counting, guessing, extrapolating, spinning, fixing, and finally disgorging numbers, columns of numbers, pages of numbers, volumes of numbers, acres of spewed numbers! According to this myth, here we are now, after long years of hunched concentration, at the end of this strange and dark process, emerging from our cave, shuffling back out into the light of day, blinking, bearing these heavy volumes and, with outstretched arms, releasing them to the world!

That roomful of stern, astute missiologists roared in laughter and applauded, and it went pretty well from there. A few years later, using Google, I found that that article was being used all over the world, in seminaries, mission agencies, churches, denominations, and missionary training programmes, as a useful, concise summary of key global statistics and trends.

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [MJ] I'm 60. I expect to keep doing research and writing until I die or until Jesus returns, whichever comes first. *The World Christian Encyclopedia* will likely pin me down past 2020, depending on post-publication tasks. Work on the 4th edition might begin in 2034, when I will be only 78. I would be glad to help with future editions of the *North American Mission Handbook*; the 28th edition could be published in 2035, when I will be only 79. So, we'll see. All these things are in the hands of God.

As to dreams, I would love to see the *North American Mission Handbook* stand beside an *Asian Mission Handbook*, an *African Mission Handbook*, and so on, in a coordinated series that would cover the world, and provide an on-going global missionary census. This is something that really should happen. It could be a wonderful resource for the global mission movement, for understanding, mobilization, strategy, and intercession. If you are reading this and you also would like to see this happen, or know of anyone who has worked on a national count of missionaries, please contact me (emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com).

One more: in the early 2000s I published a few issues of *Jaffarian's Mission Research Ezine*, which enjoyed a reasonably enthusiastic following. I would love to revive that.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [MJ] This is a great little newsletter. I would love to write for it more. I have some ideas.

Information from the Word

In Jonah chapter 4 Jonah and God are in discussion. The Lord's final word to Jonah includes a number. "And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?" Why do you think God used a number here? He could have said, "...Nineveh, in which there are people who..." Why is the number significant? Can we learn lessons for how we use numbers in discussion?

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".
- Back issues can be found at: www.globalcmiw.org.
- Editorial team: Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution: Larry.