



**“Correct Me If I'm Wrong”**  
*The quarterly bulletin of the Global  
Community of Mission Information Workers*  
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**New Online Community  
Will Help Practitioners Focus on Increasing Impact**  
*by Nelson Jennings*

A new online community of interest for mission researchers will launch in mid-August. As an extension of the global Community of Mission Information Workers (CMIW), this new "Knowledge Stewardship for Kingdom Impact" community will be decisively practitioner-driven. The purpose of the community will be to help those stewarding knowledge as they seek to see information increase impact. All who use data, information, knowledge, and

wisdom for gospel progress worldwide are encouraged to join and participate.

Community participants will be a microcosm of the Global Church at work, representing many countries, denominations, mission agencies and research priorities. The main glue that will provide the opportunity for synergy is a desire to see knowledge stewarded for greater Kingdom impact.

Everyone involved with mission research is busy with many responsibilities, but this focused, energetic community will provide a quick and relational way to interact about research, visualization (GIS - mapping), and information publishing.

The community will be in sync with other groups and organizations involved with mission research, including Lausanne research networks and this bulletin's publisher, the WEA's CMIW. GMI's Global Engagement Director, Nelson Jennings, will moderate the discussions to ensure they stay active, current, and on point.

Some topics will be ongoing, including self-introductions in order to personalize interaction. Other topics will center on knowledge stewardship and its components. Many topics will arise from participants' suggestions and contributions. The community's energy will come from Spirit-led servants like you who use data, information, knowledge, and wisdom for the global mission of Jesus Christ.

To register for this new community, please email [nelson.jennings@gmi.org](mailto:nelson.jennings@gmi.org) so you can help shape the group's interactions from the beginning. After mid-August, a publically accessible link will be disseminated as well to expand the community even wider.



Welcome in advance to the new, interactive and practical "Knowledge Stewardship for Kingdom Impact" community!

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**Research on the World's Missionaries and Mission Organisations**  
*by Michael Jaffarian*

I find myself thinking about how to encourage and help national and regional research on missionaries and mission agencies. There are a few reasons for this:

1. A few years ago when I was part of the Operation World team it was my job to gather information on national mission movements around the world. I found there were some countries where good research was being done, others where this research had been done in the past, and others yet where it had not been done at all. That latter category included some major sending countries. When I talked to mission leaders in those countries, in one way or another they all said, "Yes, we'd like to do that kind of research. It needs to be done. We know how important and helpful it would be." Leaders and workers in nearly every national or regional mission movement want to know such things as the number of missionaries sent, where they serve, what they do, and what organisations they serve with.

2. Right now the Lord has me helping with the 22nd edition of the North American Mission Handbook. This has been an important and powerful resource for mission mobilisation, networking, intercession, and understanding in North America, for decades. In the 1980s when I served with the Singapore Centre for Global Mission, one of the first things the board encouraged us to do was to prepare a directory of all the agencies sending Christian workers out from Singapore, with a count on the numbers sent. In seeking to serve the Ibero-American mission movement, COMIBAM has done extensive research in the past on mission agencies and missionaries from every country in their region.

3. Many countries are counting their missionaries, but most are not. There is some excellent data, but many large gaps. Because of my prior work in mission research, people ask me how many missionaries there are in the world, and I can't give a good answer.

So the idea is that the North American Mission Handbook would be accompanied by an African Mission Handbook, an Asian Mission Handbook, a Pacific Mission Handbook, a European Mission Handbook, and a Latin American Mission Handbook. The actual form it would take would depend on what happens country by country in their own national or regional research. It would require a lot of attention to means and methods, coordination and definitions. It would certainly be difficult, but not impossible. The vision is



to somehow encourage and help national and regional mission research, leading to a coordinated global understanding, to serve the global mission movement. I can't do this, but maybe the Lord could raise up an international task force that could work together on it.

At this point, I'm simply putting the idea out there, to see who might be interested. The World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission is eager to see this happen, and happy to provide a global umbrella for it to happen under. Maybe we can have more conversations about this at the WEA Mission Commission Global Consultation in Panama this October.

If you would like to learn more about this, or might possibly like to be involved in some way, please contact me at

[emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com](mailto:emichaeljaffarian@gmail.com). In the meantime, please pray and ask the Lord for his direction. Thank you.

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### **Letter to Young Researchers**

*by Peter Brierley*

What is the purpose of research? To ascertain facts, qualitatively or quantitatively. What happens when you discover those facts? Hopefully they are read and considered and then appropriate action is taken. In this letter, I would like to focus on the broad types of action that can be taken as a consequence of research by contrasting two types of forward thinking or planning.

One of these types of forward thinking is more logical than the other so I will call it "Vision Building." The other is called "Horizon Mission Methodology," a name established by its original author.

#### **Vision Building**

Vision Building is like a cricketer who has just been bowled out and says to himself, "Well, next time I have a ball like that I'll play it this way." He is already thinking future and determining what he would do to meet a certain circumstance. It is logical and proceeds from one step to the next. This approach takes, for example, the history of the church or agency or country into account. Often the outcome of such thinking is an extension of existing trends. It is mostly straightforward and understood, and it is usually fairly simple to explain the consequential conclusions.

It is important for an organisation as a whole, or for a particular project, to clarify its purpose. So one might say the purpose of a church is "to reach out in evangelism and service", or perhaps, as one church did, "to fulfil a need on a new estate". These statements are fine as indications of a church's aim. That church might, however, also express its future work as a specific goal: "to see 100 people in our church next year instead of 80", and they will know whether they succeeded or not in meeting it in 12 months time.

Both kinds of statement are needed. Why do they postulate a goal? Because they want to reach out in evangelism. How will they reach out in evangelism? Well, one way is to see their numbers grow from 80 to 100. The goal is measurable; the purpose is not. These two types of statements are often confused one for the other.

Vision Building depends on four basic questions. The first is about purpose: "Why are you here?" and needs to be answered initially in a non-measurable way. The second question is a mission question, "What are you doing?" and can be answered (as actual churches have done) as "Making Jesus known," or "Establishing a Christian presence in a Muslim area," etc.. The answer to this question comes by completing the statement, "Our job is ...". Ideally the answer is fairly short and it helps if its first word ends in "...ing" as it needs to be present tense, being fulfilled at this moment in time (or it should be). The third question is, "What do you see?" and seeks to answer the subsidiary questions of "What do you expect to happen?" and "When?" It answers such questions as, "What will be different as a consequence of your work in 2026?" or "What will you have become in 10 years' time?". The fourth is the thrust question of "How will you get there?" and requires that plans be drawn up for each part of the task ahead.

Thus Vision Building is a method which can be used by management consultants to move from the past into the future. Often that movement is linear, logical, progressive, and focuses on statements in which strategic planning is a normal part of the process.

### ***Horizon Mission Methodology***

The second way of thinking forwards, abbreviated to HMM, has this curious name given by the American author in his paper in Futures magazine. It also asks what the organisation hopes to become in, say, 10 years time, but also asks, "What will you not sacrifice in order to get there?" because values are hugely important in this mode of consideration. "What is the 'added value' your church gives that other churches do not?" As the American psychologist William van Dusen Wishart once suggested, can you identify "some purpose hidden in the chaos of the moment which could bring forth new possibilities" for your church or agency?

HMM considers futuristic scenarios which may be totally unrelated to reality in order to help think outside the box. Suppose for instance a future world dictator wanted everyone to follow a false religion by the time they were 30. What priorities would you set if you knew that would occur, and might already be occurring, among your members? Discuss this issue and you will find a wide variety of answers. That's exactly what HMM seeks to do; help people to think creatively, away from the norm. Thinking like this can also sometimes be helped by looking at questions like:

1. If you could change one thing about your present church or agency, what would it be and why?
2. When you get to 2026 what decisions will you wish you had taken in 2016?
3. If you were given £1 million on condition it was all spent in the next 12 months, what features would you innovate?

The aim of such questions is to help those responsible for the future to think about priorities on the one hand and sustaining the essential purpose of the church or organisation on the other. It tries to help people ponder the biggest hindrances they currently face in evangelising their local community. The results of such thinking are rarely linear, more intuitive.

This approach is taken much further and deeper in military circles where lateral thinking often helps win the day, being wide-ranging and spanning the past as well as the present. It is earthed in current operations, things which must be done, and is worked through in the detail of what each person has to do day by day. The strategic planning is a separate process.

Your research needs to lead to action, but action does not operate in a vacuum. Thoughts such as the above can help guide it to a satisfactory conclusion in seeing something happen as a consequence of your work. You can also include in your reports a "researcher's view" of suggestions as to what should happen as a consequence of what you have discovered.



*You can learn more about Peter's work at <http://www.brierleyconsultancy.com>*

## Mission Information Workers Conference

by Chris Maynard

The August conference is shaping up well. We have more than 50 people registered to come – people handling information within organisations like Joshua Project, Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Operation World, GMI, Operation Mobilization, SIL, and YWAM. This is a great opportunity to network with your peers! The applications for TED-type talks are coming in and the planning committee is currently selecting four specific issues to work on in break-out groups during the conference.



There is room for more people! I personally would like to see more signing up from outside of the USA. It may be years before we have another conference like this. Here is a reminder of the practical details:

- **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](http://www.regonline.com/missioninfoworkers)

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### Who's Who in Missions Information

*Special Profile: Bill Morrison*

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [BM] In a nutshell, I'm a Kansas farmer gone bad. I've always felt out of place away from a rural environment. When I was seven years old my grandmother asked if I would like to invite Jesus into my heart. I said yes, and I was confident afterwards that a transaction had occurred. I was privileged to grow up in a Christian home in rural Kansas.

After graduation from university I had the exciting privilege of serving as a ship's officer on three hydrographic and oceanographic survey ships, operated by what is now known as NOAA. I would probably have paid the government for the privilege of such exciting adventures, at least during the first couple of years. But then I noticed I didn't enjoy being seasick, so decided against a career. Since I had majored in mathematics, my time in the service included learning how to program computers - the beginning of an unplanned career. Unplanned and embraced without enthusiasm.

After leaving the service, I earned a Master's degree, which led to employment as a college professor of computing for several years. And this experience in turn led me to involvement with Campus Crusade for Christ's college ministry. I eventually joined Campus Crusade's Computer Services department, and later on, The Navigator's Computer Services department.

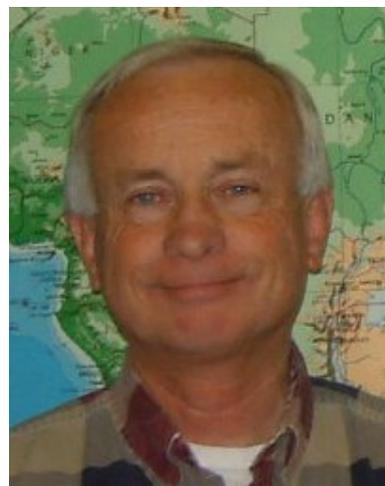
Dr. Bill Bright, the late president of CCC, signed his correspondence with "for the completion of the Great Commission in this generation." That was an eye opening watchword for me. "Is there a task we have been given? Is progress toward it measurable? Can it be accomplished in our lifetimes?" I've been captivated by those questions ever since.

After leaving Campus Crusade and the Navs, I volunteered full time with Dawn Ministries (only for a little more than one year), and now with Joshua Project (approaching 17 years).

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [BM] Joshua Project, see [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net).

3. [CMIW] **What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction?** [BM] No doubt, my greatest satisfaction has come as a result of helping assemble our Joshua Project database of the world's people groups, as well as write short profiles for some 1,000 unreached people groups. Hearing reports of this data being used for evangelism, church planting, and prayer is very gratifying.

I also remember with pleasure my years as applications programming manager at both Campus Crusade and The Navigators. The friendships made during those years were great, and continue today.



4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [BM] I suppose when a person reaches 76 years of age it may be optimistic to think in terms of 10 more years of effective ministry. We hope to continue improving the completeness and accuracy of our people group information, as well as find ways to increase the impact of the information in catalyzing evangelism, church planting, and prayer. We especially desire to make our information more accessible to workers in the developing world via mobile devices.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [BM] We at Joshua Project desire to help advance the gospel in whatever ways the Lord leads. If people can suggest ways we can be more helpful to their own ministries we are eager to learn of those opportunities. Our resources are rather sparse (there are three of us), but we constantly look for ways to be more effective.

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### Information from the Word

*“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”* Phil 1:27. Paul does not seem to see “spirit” and “mind” as opposed to each other, but both as useful to build us up and as companions in the gospel. What does that mean for our work?

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#### 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](mailto:cmiw@worksmail.net)”.
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