

## **Mission Agency Research: Why, What, and How**

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When I was asked to revive (or better: 'raise from the dead') the field statistics system for WorldVenture, I discovered we kept excellent financial statistics and good personnel statistics, but almost nothing in the way of field statistics. So we could report to our supporters about the money and people they were sending to us, but hardly a thing about the results on the field that were coming from this investment.

A prior system had been maintained fairly well into the 1980s. Our mission and this system were influenced by the Church Growth Movement. In the earlier days of World Venture (then CBFMS) we were clearly a church-planting mission, starting new work in new places, doing evangelism, establishing churches, and equipping leaders (the famous "3 E's"). It made sense in that context, year by year, field by field, to collect, learn from, and sometimes even report, statistics on the number of baptisms, number of preaching points, number of churches, and the like. Some fields reported on the number of ordained national pastors or the number of national Christians in theological training. All fields were asked for statistics related to literature ministry (number of titles published, number of copies printed) and medical ministry (number of patients served) even though only a minority included these areas in their work.

This system, over time, slid into a canyon of neglect, disrepair, and indifference. There were several reasons for this, including:

- 1) The larger ministry role of national co-workers. Over time, most of the baptisms and new church plants were the fruit of the work of national Christians, not foreign missionaries. Missionaries rightly felt it was wrong to report such things on a form to CBI headquarters, as if the missionaries were claiming this work as their own.
- 2) The emergence of many small, new, non-church-planting fields.

As of 2001:

Of the 12 fields opened in the 1940s and 1950s, 10 had 3 or more churches.

Of the 10 fields opened in the 1960s and 1970s, 9 had 3 or more churches.  
Of the 47 fields opened in the 1980s and 1990s, only 4 had 3 or more churches.

32 of our 69 fields (46%) had very few missionaries (1 or 2 units). All but 1 of our 1-unit fields had been opened since 1980.

Thus a statistical reporting system built on an assumption that we were, in every place, operating as a church-planting mission was obsolete – and ignored.

- 3) Strained relations in the transitions from missionary to national leadership. Some missionaries found it uncomfortable, and maybe harmful, to ask national church leaders for statistics.
- 4) A change of mission leadership and philosophy of ministry. Most of the top leadership in our mission retired in the early 1990s, including the general director in 1993. Also the Asia Ministries Director, trained in Church Growth, who led the statistical survey at that time.
- 5) The 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics. “Every system, left to its own devices, tends to move from order to disorder, finally reaching the state of complete randomness.”
- 6) Unanswered criticisms of the Church Growth Movement, including the complaint against ‘managerial missiology’. Statistical monitoring of growth or decline in a Christian ministry, by counting the things that can be counted, has been criticized as modern (vs. pre-modern or post-modern), as Western, as mechanistic (vs. organic), as connected with a partial, inadequate gospel (vs. wholism – life, word, deed, sign), as obsessed with numbers alone (vs. true discipleship), and as concerned with only one aspect of life and society (vs. transformation).

I feel the need for a renewed Church Growth teaching, to answer such criticisms while continuing to affirm basic ideas, such as: (1) church growth is not the only good thing, but it is certainly a good thing; (2) to learn about and seek growth is good; (3) quantification is helpful and good in seeking to serve God well. This new Church Growth teaching must be built on a new foundation – not in reaction to liberalism, but from the Word and that responds to fair criticism.

I suspect leaders from many other mission agencies would nod their heads and break out in embarrassed grins when hearing our story. These 6 factors are probably not foreign to the experiences of many missions. Others retained but altered their statistical reporting systems.

### **Why to Count?**

Mission agency leaders must believe this is vital. Only then will they support the investment of time and money required – on the part of researchers, support staff, and, in fact, all who must supply data. They must be humble enough to accept bad news as well as good in the right spirit. All who need to supply data also must believe in the importance and value of field research. They too must have the humility to honestly and accurately report bad news as well as good. It becomes a matter of Christian character. Do we love truth?

A more concrete and practical list of reasons:

1) **Accountability:** to supporters, to the board, to each other in the mission, and to God. Partnership in ministry together requires openness and extensive communication about the realities of the work, good and bad.

2) **Strategy:** for the board, for mission leadership, for all missionaries. Quantified facts are a complement to seeking direction from God. Decisions can be based on facts, instead of GIOT (general impression of things), are far more wise and effective. One simple line of inquiry for the forming of strategy:

+ Where are we at?

+ Where does God want us to be?

+ How do we get from where we are at, to where God wants us to be?

Research is essential for the first question, not irrelevant to the second, and clearly helpful for the third.

3) **Prayer:** to rejoice, to repent, to intercede, to thrust us upon God.

4) To contribute our part to the global picture, for global vision, strategy, and prayer. Each mission can play their part in answering basic and vital questions, such as, "How many Christians are there in the world?", "Where is the church growing and where not?", and "Where are missionaries most needed?"

5) **Recruitment and fund-raising.** There are both possibilities and pitfalls here. All should seek a Biblical theology of mission and money.

The Jesus Film project is brilliant here, in making use of their extensive and careful field statistics for fund-raising. They show themselves to be a well-organized and well-run organization. Donors can see in clear terms the impact that can be expected from their partnership.

From a fund-raising-related letter from the Assemblies of God Division of Foreign Missions (November 2000):

"In the last 3 years, gifts to the Sender's Fund have reduced missionaries' itineration time from 18 months to 13 months. That is 5 months missionaries are on the field proclaiming the gospel, establishing churches, training national leaders and touching the poor and suffering with Christ's compassion."

A simpler formula, connected to Scriptural precedents:

a) To give glory to God. The statistics in Acts: "... about 3,000 were added to their number that day" (2:41), and "... the number of men grew to about 5,000" (4:4).

b) To serve God well. The census' and other orderly inventories of the Old Testament.

These Scriptural connections take us beyond the specifics and Westernness of the Church Growth Movement and its critics. Also consider Christian enumeration through history, across traditions, and throughout the world.

So – push beyond the erosive factors mentioned above in the introduction (that affected WorldVenture and probably many other mission agencies), and count!

### **What to Count?**

It depends on the mission, purpose, objectives, and philosophy of ministry of each agency.

*For WorldVenture:*

Our foundational 3 E's: Evangelism, Establishing Churches, Equipping Leaders.  
Also – Compassion, Missionary training (we now have 5 E's).  
Our commitment to have at least 50% of our people working in the 3 E's.  
Our stated value on innovation.  
Our stated commitment to least-evangelized peoples.

*On personnel statistics – consider WEC, an internationalized mission. They gathered statistics on the following (from “A Profile of WEC in 1996”, an internal report):*

#### WEC Status

Long-Term WECers  
Unofficial WECers in CANs  
Short-Term Workers  
Associates  
Seconded in from other agency  
Seconded out to other agency  
Missionary Apprentice Program  
Voluntary Worker  
Leave of Absence  
Retirees  
WEC Representatives  
National Workers

#### WECers' Ministry

Cross-Cultural  
    Pioneer/Church Planting  
    Church + Ministry Related  
    Leadership  
    Field Support  
International or Wider  
    International Leadership  
    Cross-Cultural Training or Mobilization  
    Off Spot Ministries  
SB Ministry  
Transition

#### WEC Sending Bases, Nationalities, and Ethnicities

- + A list of 44 countries, with statistics for each on how many WECers of that Nationality, and how many sent from that Sending Base.
- + A graph showing change in number of workers from various Sending Bases, 1989 vs. 1995.
- + An inventory of Ethnic Minorities in WEC
- + A graph showing the growth in number of Non-Western WECers, 1970 to (projected) 2000.
- + A table showing (non-English) mother tongues of WECers.

Other

- + Bar graphs showing achievements vs. goals related to their STEP program.
- + A table showing WEC deployment to Muslims, Buddhists, Animists, Catholics, Hindus, Orthodox, and General.

*For the Assemblies of God World Missions*, overseas Bible schools are an important element of their philosophy of ministry. Note that statistic listed in this statement from a fund-raising-related letter dated November 2002 (Dr. J. Philip Hogan had recently died):

“When Brother Hogan became executive director in 1959, the Assemblies of God had 788 missionaries working in 69 nations. In 1989, when he retired, that number had grown to more than 1,500 missionaries serving in 120 countries. During the same time, overseas Bible schools increased from 61 to 329.”

*For various missions*: statistics related to publishing, literature (or other resource) distribution, broadcasting, languages, bases, institutions, partnerships.

From an annual statistical report by the American Leprosy Missions:

“During 1999, over 36,000 people received the cure for leprosy through ALM’s Campaign to Cure. The goal for 2000 is to cure 40,000 people. ... The ministry now supports more than 150 projects in 24 countries.”

*For the Southern Baptist International Mission Board*: questions asked on an annual statistical form for individual overseas congregations, that reflect elements of their philosophy of ministry (East Africa Region Church Report form, covering the year 2000. The following is a selection, not showing their own numbering system):

- 1) GPS
- 2) Circle one: CHURCH    PREACHING POINT
- 3) Number of church members:
- 4) Number of baptisms in 2000:
- 5) Average number attending Sunday School, Bible Study, and Christian Education each week:
- 6) Languages the songs are sung in your church:
- 7) Total number in each of the following:
  - Men’s Organization:
  - Women’s Union:
  - Youth Organization:
  - Children’s Organization:

Holiday Bible Club:

- 8) How many were new to your discipleship classes in 2000?
- 9) How many preaching points (outreach groups) does your church have?
- 10) What churches or preaching points did your church help start in 2000?

Basic categories for most mission agencies, certainly all church-planting agencies:

- 1) Number of baptisms.
- 2) Number of churches.
- 3) Number of members and affiliated.
- 4) Names of ethno-linguistic peoples, or language groups working among.
- 5) An inventory of fields and ministries.
- 6) I would also recommend: number evangelized.

Answer the questions needed for global research, such as *Operation World*, the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, and the *Ethnologue*, and for standard reporting in your missions association or national/regional context.

Also important: personnel and financial categories. For North America, begin with categories from the *Mission Handbook*.

A selection of questions from the data-gathering instrument for this, from Appendix B of *Mission Handbook 2004-2006: U.S. and Canadian Protestant Ministries Overseas*; edited by Dotsey Welliver and Minnette Northcutt; Wheaton, Illinois: EMIS, 2004)

8. Primary activities of your organization?
9. Grand total income for all ministries in the USA and overseas for a given year?
10. Of that, what was the amount of income for overseas ministries?
12. (A table) – Countries of service, year began in each, number of full-supported personnel from the USA with length of service expected to be: (a) 1, up to 2 years, (b) 2 to 4 years, (c) more than 4 years? Also, by country: number of fully-supported personnel from non-USA countries – the number who are citizens of their country of service, and the number who are not citizens of their country of service?
13. Number of nonresidential mission personnel from the USA (with definition)?
14. Number of short-term personnel from the USA – overseas less than 1 year, but at least 2 weeks?
15. Number of USA bi-vocational or “tentmaker” personnel?
16. Number of staff in office duties in the USA?
- + Additional comments?

Seek comprehensive statistics. Don't be content with a collection of case-study stories, or notable victories.

Gather *both* national denominational statistics *and* statistics on your missionaries' work. This depends on the nature of your church-planting ministries, and the extensiveness of denominational identity in the churches of your mission fields. Note: mission agencies with strong international denominational distinctives or identity tended to not falter in maintaining global field statistics through the years. Any mission should want to know *both* about the work of their own missionaries *and* about the life, health, and growth of those denominations they work in partnership with overseas.

Find ways to seek information beyond the statistics alone. This will be much appreciated by respondents, and will ease tension. They know that statistics show only a part of what God has done.

Ask mission leadership what they would like to know. For WorldVenture: mission leadership pressed me to count the number of people being disciplined, and the matter of secondary impact. I was surprised that the first question was possible for people to answer, and that the second question was so appreciated.

Mission leadership should be armed with the information needed for measuring progress toward field closure. A question I once posed to the leaders of WorldVenture: "Should we keep sending missionaries into every field we have ever entered, until Jesus returns?"

Remember that what is counted affects what is done. If there is an area you want your people to focus attention on, ask about progress in that area. What you ask about, they will tend to do. What you do not ask about, they may tend to neglect. For example: my question, "How many people did you share the gospel with last year?" – I would hope would lead to more evangelism. Yet, beware of unintended consequences – ineffective, half-hearted efforts done merely to make the numbers look better. Be sure that the statistical system reflects organizational priorities and objectives well. The formation of questions can be a tool for positive change – not just by responding to answers, but by simply asking, and the effect that has on respondents.

Seek answers to what you believe are the important questions or current issues for your agency at the time. For WorldVenture (then CBI): "Should CBI change its name?" Also, questions designed to inventory and assess the role of short-term mission teams visiting our fields.

Retain the core, basic questions, but upgrade the instruments every year.

Be realistic about what cannot be counted. With WorldVenture, the gathering of photos and stories helped fill out the picture. I also asked in the field form, "What is the most exciting or encouraging thing God did on your field last year?"

### **How to Count?**

Strong, unfading support from mission leadership is essential. Support from, and participation of, field or regional leadership is nearly as important.

Assess workers, work-hours, and funds needed for this field research. Assign and train workers as needed. The Southern Baptists have assigned and trained researchers in each of their world regions.

Allow enough resources for unanticipated problems. For WorldVenture, establishing a clear list of missionaries and workers was not at all simple, and required much time and energy. Especially in the first year, I ran into extensive misunderstanding of questions, some resistance, and low response, especially for the field forms.

Which brings me to the reasons for my embarrassing failure with WorldVenture's field research. The most significant factor had to do with my failure to assess the amount of time required, resulting in late delivery of the report. It was even worse for Year 2.

Design your data-gathering instrument/s through extensive consultation with leadership, field leaders, and personnel. For example: what is a church? I was surprised to discover that “preaching point” was still a useful category, easily understood in a wide variety of contexts.

Should data be gathered by missionary or by field? For WorldVenture, I discovered we could not get the answers we needed without having every missionary (or unit) complete a form every year. This was difficult, however, because missionaries are busy people, and because this was new. They were not generally, however, opposed to this research on principle, which surprised me. But the task is much, much easier if the work is decentralized, and of greater value to the field or region.

Consider the advantages of an annual survey, producing an annual statistical report, showing progress, stagnation, or decline over years and decades.

From a fund-raising-related letter by the Assemblies of God World Missions, dated April 2001:

“In April, statistical reports come in from the 167 countries where we have missionaries who are fulfilling the Great Commission. These statistics give us cause for great rejoicing! In the year 2000, more than 3.5 million people were added to the churches of our overseas fellowships, and 9,552 new churches were planted. ... Still, I have an increasing burden and conviction on my heart. ... Last week I shared with the Foreign Missions Committee that 35 million people [*oops*] are just a drop in the bucket compared to the billions who are still lost and in need of salvation.”

Southern Baptist International Mission Board annual statistics for 2000, reported in a press release, “IMB Annual Statistics Reflect ‘How Big God is’, 15 February 2001:

Last year (2000):

- + 6,520 new churches were established, an increase of 37.4% over the 1999 figure of 4,748.
- + 451,301 people were baptized, an increase of 24.1 percent over 1999's 363,703.
- + 5.6 million members in churches with which IMB workers are affiliated, a 14.4% increase over the 4.9 million reported in 1999.
- + 3,682 new outreach groups (formerly called preaching points) brought the total number of outreach groups to 38,294, a 0.2% decrease from the previous year's 38,363.
- + (also statistics on numbers of people involved in Bible teaching, in discipleship, in leadership training)
- + Missionaries sent out by Baptist partners: 2,690 home missionaries, 1,383 international missionaries.
- + “Instead of sending the projected 10,000 volunteers in 2000, a total of 30,512 Southern Baptists participated in overseas missions projects through the IMB last year. The way God's work outstripped 1975's goals explains why [Jerry] Rankin [the IMB President] doesn't like to project missions results.”



It can be done by paper and post. Email is a great advantage, if everyone uses it. Web-based on-line surveys are clearly the way for the future, but be careful about automatic data compilation. The researcher should still examine all data carefully.

To increase response rate:

- 1) Set the expectation and requirement from when a new missionary enters the mission.
- 2) Keep it short and simple.
- 3) Prepare and remind people through mission publications.
- 4) Send reminder letters to slackers. Maybe also thank-you notes.
- 5) Personal contact may be necessary, but is costly in time.
- 6) Enlist the help of mission leaders.
- 7) As a last resort: no form, no funds!

Publishing the report:

- 1) Present a formal annual report to the mission leadership and the board.
- 2) Publish to everyone who has a part in working for a better future for your ministry. A commitment to full partnership requires full and honest disclosure.
- 3) Consider producing a short version, a long version, and (possibly) appendices. Draw graphs of growth and decline.

### **Conclusion**

This paper is almost entirely about field statistics only. Other kinds of research mission agencies should do:

- 1) Denominational research beyond your own ministries.
- 2) Surveys for potential new ministry. These can and should be shared with the larger mission and Christian community.
- 3) For specialized ministries: languages, broadcasting, literature, MK education, peoples, government relations, organizational management, one-time reports on specific questions and topics.
- 4) Personnel-related research. Examples: How much time is required for initial support-discovery ministry? What is our attrition rate, and why? What are the shifts in field popularity?

- 5) Financial research. Examples: Is our donor base aging? Which churches are supporting us, and how is that shifting, if at all?

Keep in view the broader, fundamental purposes: to give glory to God and to serve him well.

Give glory: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights ..." (James 1:17).

The stewardship of serving God well: "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

I hold this hope: that many mission agencies would do parallel research, with comparative possibilities.

May we all recognize and rejoice in God's amazing work in this dark world. May we all do all that we can to serve God well, to the glory of Jesus Christ and the advance of his kingdom, until he returns and establishes it in its fullness.

## Appendix 1:

### General Comments on How to Design a Research Survey Form

A Christian researcher in Europe asked me about how to design a survey form. I did not provide a step-by-step instruction manual, nor any deep, theoretical content. Instead, I offered the following general comments, tips, and pointers:

1. Remember that survey design is as much an art as a science. A survey form can be technically correct but still be difficult for respondents to make sense of, or for other reasons fail to collect good data. Yes, ask a professional sociologist or the like to evaluate your data-gathering instrument, but don't leave it at that. Also get feedback from ordinary people, including likely respondents and those who you hope will read the report. Get help from people who have plain old common sense. Get help from people whom you know to be good, effective communicators, in speaking or writing. Since this is as much an art as a science, get help from 'artists' as well as 'scientists'.
2. Know well your survey respondents and how they think. What categories and terminology do they themselves know, understand, and use? The wording has to make sense to the respondents, as well as be written in a way that gets to the exact questions you are trying to answer in the research. This can be tricky.
3. Think about the final report and the kinds of statements you hope to make there. Here you need to think not only about the survey respondents, but about the readers of your report. For example, in your report you may want to say something like, "x% of this group of Christians have not shared their faith with anyone in the past 5 years". (Actually, your report will have to say something like, "*By their own admission* x% have not ....", or "x% *admit* they have not ...."). If you want to make that kind of a statement in your report, on your survey form you might ask, "How many people have you shared your faith with in the past 5 years?" But then - think about it. Your likely respondents - what would they understand by the phrase "share your faith"? Would it be the same understanding that you carry about it? Would it be the same understanding that your readers would carry about it?
4. Also very important: a good question is one that respondents will know how to answer. A bad question is one where many of them, when asked, would say, "I have no idea," or "I really don't know how to answer that."
5. Remember that there might actually be no realistic way to answer the research questions you would like answered. Be honest about this. For example: you may want to know how many people in France are truly saved; that is, if the world ended tonight how many would be in heaven tomorrow? Well, good luck coming up with a question that would give you a confident answer on that one - no matter how badly you wish you knew the answer! On that, only Jesus knows the real answer. Another example: you might survey the pastors of a certain denomination and ask, "How many of your people have daily devotions?" It may be (a) that they just don't know, and most of them will reply to the question by saying, "I have no idea", or (b) that they think they know but are way off the mark (which could be tested by surveying all the members of some sample congregations, if you had the resources to do that, and comparing it to their pastors' answers). Again, no matter how much you may wish you could get a good answer to your research question, maybe you just can't. Do the research and find out what you can, in fact, find out, but be humble and realistic enough to admit what you cannot.

6. Know the standard questions and methodologies in your field. If you are doing a survey of a denomination, find out about other denominational surveys in your country or region, or, better yet, all over the world, so that the data from your denomination can be compared to the data from other denominations. This can be extremely valuable and much more can be learned. For myself, as a missionary researcher with a mission agency in the USA, I would like to see all the other agencies in the USA asking some of the same questions that I ask our own people. The *North American Mission Handbook* questions are important ones to use in my case, since that is the definitive, on-going research report in this field.

7. To put it another way: do your research in such a way that your data can feed into regional or global research. Think about the data needed for *Operation World*, or the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, or the Joshua Project peoples list, or the *Ethnologue*, or other global research. Have a Kingdom perspective, to not just serve your own immediate needs, but also to serve the global Body of Christ.

8. Write questions that can be used for many years to come, in a wide range of situations. This is not always easy to predict, but it is certainly an item to consider. Ask yourself, "Is this phrased in just the jargon of the day, or is this a question likely to be relevant for a long time?" Ask old people, and young people, what they think of your questions, and how they understand them. Consider that the Gallup organization has been surveying the national population since the 1940s (at least), and asking some of the same questions all these years. That provides extremely valuable data, tracking changes in religious beliefs, attitudes, and practices in the country over these years and decades. So also with the *Mission Handbook* and its counterparts in other countries or regions. There are some modifications along the way, of course, as things change. The *Mission Handbook*, for example, didn't used to ask questions about tentmakers or even about short-termers, but they do now.

9. On that, let me remind you that the best research keeps at it for many years, even decades, continually doing later editions, thus tracking changes and trends, as well as continuing to improve the research year by year. Think long-term. This requires researchers that accept this ministry as a life-long vocation.

Appendix 2:

**CBI Annual Statistical Form for Individuals**

Reporting on the year 2002

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Thank you for completing and sending in this form! Your work is a part of who we are, and without your response, the picture is incomplete. For the mission, this is important for accountability, planning, intercession, and mobilization. For you, this can be an opportunity for prayerful reflection and professional growth. Please pray that this statistical process will help us give glory to God and serve him well.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a. **DEADLINE:** February 15, 2003.
- b. Please send your completed form to Michael Jaffarian by email if you can (email address above). Please contact Michael if you need the email version of this form. Please email a copy of your answers also to your field chair or equivalent.
- c. If you do submit this on paper, use extra paper as needed. Please mail one copy to Michael at the Virginia address above, and another to your field chair or equivalent.
- d. A married couple may use one form or two, depending on the nature of your ministries. It's up to you.
- e. Don't worry about the questions that don't apply to your ministry. Just skip them or put "N/A". We ask the same questions of everyone because many people involved in specialized ministries are also active in evangelism, ministries of compassion, planting churches, and so on, and this provides a way for us to learn about that work.
- f. A special note to those working in MK Education: Please know that we consider your work to be extremely significant. Your service for Christ is vital in the lives of your students, and in the fact that it makes possible all the other ministries of CBI and other mission organizations. Please do not let the fact that this form gives particular attention to the three Es (Evangelism, Establishing Churches, and Equipping Leaders) discourage you. The same applies to all others in specialized or support ministries.
- g. If you have any questions, ask Michael Jaffarian (contact information above). You may also refer to the "Guide and Instructions" document. If you need it, ask your field chair or Michael for a copy.

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"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

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1. Name/s:
  2. Country and Field:
  3. Which months of last year were you in your country of overseas service, and which months in the USA?
  4. Your main ministry or work last year:

+ Note: for every organization, institution, ministry, or program you worked with last year, please tell its full, official name, both in English and in the local language. This applies to this question and the next. If you spent part of the year in the USA and part of the year overseas, please be sure to note both kinds of ministry.

5. Please list any other ministries you were involved in last year:
6. If you were involved in a ministry of compassion last year, how many people did you help or serve?
7. How many unbelievers did you share the gospel with last year?

+ Note: this includes personal evangelism, literature evangelism, evangelistic programs and events, evangelism of children and youth, evangelism through broadcasting ... all kinds, ways, and methods of sharing the gospel. For evangelistic sermons in church services and other Christian events, please estimate the number of unbelievers present who heard. I don't expect anyone to keep track through the year, but I really do need a number here. It doesn't have to be exact. Please think through the year and give your best estimate. Is it closer to 5, 50, 150, 500, or 5,000?

8. Was anyone baptized last year, who you helped bring to that point?  
If so, how many?
9. Was a new church established last year, which you helped bring to that point?  
If so, how many?

+ Note: this might include churches planted last year by people you were teaching, supervising, or mentoring. It can differ from field to field as to when a new church is counted as being established. It might be when it is accepted into the national church association, when it begins Sunday worship, or when it gets its own building, etc. – just so each new church is counted in only one statistical year.

10. Were you involved in equipping leaders last year?  
If so, how many people (adults) did you help train for Christian ministry?

Were any of those being trained for cross-cultural or international missionary ministry? If so, how many?

11. Please tell what you might know about the secondary impact of your ministry.

+ Note 1: Those you have won to Christ, trained in ministry, taught, mentored, or disciplined – what can you report about what they did for the Lord last year? This might include numbers of people they have evangelized or baptized, churches they have planted, leaders they have trained, or other ministry. You may have developed or provided ministry resources, services, or tools to God's servants – what impact do you know of that has come from this?

+ Note 2: For those in MK Education, what ministry do you know of that was done last year by present students or their parents, or by former students?

+ Note 3: You might also tell about what you did last year in instilling missions vision or commitment in the USA or overseas.

12. Were you involved in hosting or leading a short-term mission team last year? If so, please tell how many people were on the team, their approximate ages, where they were from, how long they served, what they did, and what (as far as you know) resulted from their ministry.

13. Please tell about any new innovation that was introduced into your ministry last year.

14. (optional) Please tell a story of something special God did in your ministry last year, or that illustrates the nature of your work.

15. (optional) Please send a picture that shows you or other missionaries/workers in action, serving God. Send a print, slide, or in digital format (jpeg is best).

16. (optional) Other statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments:

Thank you very much for your help!

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"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." I Corinthians 15:58

Appendix 3:  
**CBI Annual Statistical Form for Fields**

Reporting on the Year 2002

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Thank you so much for completing and sending in this form! This process allows us to know what we as a mission are doing, what God is doing, and what God is calling us to do next. I know this may cost you no small amount of precious time and effort, and I appreciate it very much. God bless you as you serve him in your important position of leadership.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- a. **DEADLINE: March 15, 2003.**
- b. Every unit on your field last year, including those who served part of the year, those on Home Assignment, and short-termers, are supposed to submit their individual/couple forms to you (and to me, Michael) by 15 February. You will need them all to complete this form properly. You may have to spend some time and energy chasing those individual forms.
- c. Please send this completed form to Michael Jaffarian by email.
- d. If you have any questions about this form, these questions, or the process, please ask Michael (contact information above). You can also refer to the "Guide and Instructions" document. If you don't have that, ask Michael for a copy.
- e. I realize that some of you receiving this are leading true Fields, and some are serving in Administrative Areas. I often use the term 'Fields' to cover both.

+ Note: not everyone is aware of this, but in CBI policy a place of ministry cannot be formally organized as a Field until there are at least four long-term units finished with language study and serving there. Before that time it is an Administrative Area. Once a place of ministry becomes a Field it remains one, even if the number of units later decreases.

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"The 72 returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' he replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven'" (Luke 10:17-18).

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1. Field and Country:



2. Was your field, as a field, involved in any ministries last year that are not reflected on the individual missionary/worker forms? If so, please list them here.

+ Note: for every organization, institution, ministry, or program you worked with last year, please tell its full, official name, both in English and in the local language.

3. Please alert me to any duplication from the Individual Forms of this survey, from your field.

+ Note: for example, two different units may have worked together on an evangelistic event where 500 people heard the gospel, and both may have included that figure in their statistics. Or three different units may teach at the same Bible College where 100 students are being trained for ministry, and each may have reported that figure in their statistics. Please tell me about such duplications so I can properly adjust my field-total statistics. You may need to look carefully at the Individual Forms from your field, and even ask some questions back to your missionaries/workers. This applies to the following questions from the Individual Form:

- 6. If you were involved in a ministry of compassion last year, how many people did you help or serve?
- 7. How many unbelievers did you share the gospel with last year?
- 8. Was anyone baptized last year, who you helped bring to that point?  
If so, how many?
- 9. Was a new church established last year, which you helped bring to that point?

If so, how many?

10. Were you involved in equipping leaders last year?

If so, how many people (adults) did you help train for Christian ministry?

Were any of those being trained for cross-cultural or international missionary ministry? If so, how many?

4. What is your field doing to encourage believers in your country to reach out in cross-cultural or international missions?

5. (optional) Other field-wide statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments:

6. What is the most exciting or encouraging thing God did on your field last year? Please tell about it.

Thank you very much for your help!

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“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.’” Matthew 25:21

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+ Note: There are at least four kinds of CBI fields:

Type A: Standard CB Church-Planting Fields.

CBI missionaries and workers are helping to establish a national association of baptistic churches, or are serving among an association that CBI has had a strong role in developing. CBI has a stronger relationship with these churches than any other mission agency, and the churches hold some kind of CB identity. A field may be in this category even if the work has just begun - even if there is only one convert - if this is the expected, eventual result.

Type B: Unconnected CB Church-Planting Fields.

CBI missionaries and workers have helped to plant one or more churches, but these churches have either remained independent, joined various church associations, or otherwise not formed together into a national association of churches with some kind of CB identity.

Type C: Non-CB Church-Planting Fields.

CBI missionaries and workers are serving among and helping to plant churches by working with non-CB national churches. It may be a historic Baptist denomination that existed long before CBI arrived, or a church association that another mission agency has a stronger and earlier relationship with, or an independent national church or churches with no CB identity.

Type D: Non-Church-Planting Fields.

CBI missionaries and workers are serving in specialized ministries. Involvement in church planting is done as a secondary ministry, if at all.

Note also that the situation often changes. A field may be Type A one year but change into Type B the next, or vice-versa, and so on.

7. What type of field are you serving in, according to this typology? Please explain how your field fits or doesn't fit into one or more of these categories, and anything unique about your field's situation.

For the denomination or church association that CBI works in partnership with in your country:

8. The full, official name (in the local language and in English):

9. The number of churches:

10. The number of preaching points:

11. The number of baptized members:

12. The number affiliated:

13. The number of baptisms last year:

14. How many of those baptisms represent converts from non-Christian or non-Evangelical families, and how many represent the children of Christian or Evangelical families?

15. Your personal assessment of the present climate in the relationship between this national church and our CBI field or team:

Very Good  Good  OK  Troubled  Very Troubled

16. Has this church association sent out any cross-cultural or international missionaries? If so, how many were active in their missionary assignment during some part of last year?

17. (optional) Other statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments on this denomination or church association:

If there is more than one denomination or church association that CBI works in partnership with in your country, please answer questions (8) to (17) for each.

Thank you very much for your help!

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“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ....” Ephesians 3:20

Appendix 4:

**CBI Guide and Instructions for the Annual Statistical Forms**

Reporting on the Year 2002

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"So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management'" Luke 16:2.

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Why these forms?

Because the people at CBI headquarters thought you were bored and would enjoy something more to do, like some more paperwork ... No! Wrong answer!

This mission-wide information-gathering process is for:

- + Accountability. Every prayer prayed and every dollar given to CBI is offered with the expectation that we are doing what we have said we would. This research process allows us to tell how we are fulfilling our widely-published Mission Statement, Vision, and Strategic Priorities, as well as other stated goals.
- + Planning. Decisions made by our board, our administrative staff, our field leaders - all of us, really - will be better if they are informed by clear, up-to-date, accurate statistical information about our work. This can help us see where God is at work (or the devil), and spark new ideas, new solutions, new innovations, and new ventures for Jesus.
- + Intercession. We want everyone who prays for us and our work to have clear, thorough, specific, up-to-date information on what to pray for, and on how God answered.
- + Mobilization. Information is the fuel of vision, and vision is the fuel of action. Better statistical information, presented in the right way to the right people, can ignite fires and be used of God to move saints into action.
- + Reflection and Growth. This provides an opportunity for all of us to think and pray about what we are doing in the service of God and how it is going. We can rejoice in the victories, pray over the setbacks, and consider how to serve God better. This can point the way to spiritual and professional growth. It also allows us to see what God has done so we can give glory to him.

This is not a report card. Results will not be compared between fields or between missionaries/workers. For one missionary, two baptisms in a year would be a major victory; for another, only two baptisms would be a sure sign of laziness. Ministry situations, ministry gifts, and ministry callings are vastly different from one worker to the next, and from one field to the next.

The point is not to make anyone look good, or to make anyone look bad. The point is to give glory to God and serve him well.

This is a spiritual exercise. Pray with me that we will all complete these forms with Christian humility and truth, and with holy gratitude to Jesus Christ.

#### Who is Michael Jaffarian?

Dawna (my wife) and I have been CBI missionaries since 1983. We served in India and Singapore and are now on special assignments that have us based in the USA. I work in missions research and Dawna works in ministries related to missions and kids. I have published various things in the field of missions research over the years, including helping with *Operation World*, and seven years of work on the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, second edition. Since the reorganization of CBI in 2002 I have been our Coordinator of Research.

This mission-wide annual statistical exercise is one of my tasks. I have tried to design these forms, and this process, in a way that will lay the least burden on you, be helpful to you, and produce the information that CBI needs. Please contact me about any questions or comments you have in this process.

#### How will this information be used?

From all the information gathered I produce a comprehensive Annual Statistical Report for CBI. Beyond just the numbers and trends, this report includes many of your stories, innovations, comments, and pictures. These latter items are essential. The numbers alone cannot answer the question of what CBI did, and what God did through CBI, in the prior year. Some of the stories and pictures may be used in other CBI publications. There is no way this Annual Statistical Report will be able to cover all of what God did last year through our missionaries and workers - but for what it can cover, it's helpful, even essential. The final report is distributed to all leaders, board members, and missionaries in CBI, but not outside our own mission.

Some of the information is personal, and confidentiality will be respected. For some things, we maintain strict security precautions. Only your field chair (or the equivalent) and I (Michael) see your individual form.

I am nobody's supervisor. It is not my job to evaluate the performance of any missionary/worker or even any field, though it is my job to report on certain aspects of how CBI is doing, overall.

#### Who needs to fill out these forms?

Everyone who was a part of CBI for all or part of the prior year. That includes missionaries, workers, short-termers, mid-termers, USA leadership staff, USA support staff, area office people, and appointees. It includes IRCs but usually not IRS' or IPMs (you know who you are). Those who retired during the year are included, but not prior retirees. Board members are not included. Those whose service ended or began in the year are included. Those who served in short-term group mission trips or short-term teams do not need to fill out their own forms, but I do ask about them on the Individual Form (question 12).

A Field Form is required from every Field and every Administrative Area. The field chair or equivalent is responsible to complete and send it in.

Note that this is not just something helpful or good to do, but is required of all CBlers.

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"People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God." Luke 13:29  
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How do I answer the questions on the Annual Statistical Form for Individuals?

Do the best you can! Informed estimates are OK, but please no wild guesses. It is not easy for me to frame questions that can work mission-wide, across all the variety of our fields and ministries. Hopefully the following instructions will answer many questions. If you are still baffled, please contact me (Michael).

4. Your main ministry or work last year:

Many missionaries/workers are doing more than one thing. If your time is very evenly split, you may list two main ministries, but please no more than that. Frontier workers may list their occupation or profession. "Language Study" or "Home Assignment" are viable answers. Following are the categories of ministry from the 2002 report (reporting on ministries in 2001), in order of frequency:

- 73 ½ Leadership Development
- 55 ½ MK Education
- 55 Home Assignment
- 50 ½ Church Planting
- 32 ½ Language Learning
- 31 ½ Evangelism
- 30 USA Support Staff
- 21 ½ Appointee Deputation
- 21 Church Development<sup>3</sup>
- 19 ½ Medical Ministry
- 18 USA Leadership Staff
- 9 Administration<sup>4</sup>
- 9 Missionary Training
- 7 Construction/Maintenance
- 6 ½ Youth Ministry
- 5 Discipleship
- 5 Publishing<sup>5</sup>
- 4 Children's Ministry
- 3 ½ Frontier Mission Coordination
- 3 ½ Ministry to Refugees
- 3 Camping
- 3 Medical Leave
- 3 Ministry to Children at Risk
- 3 Music
- 3 Research
- 3 Short-Term Ministry Coordination

- 3 Translation
- 3 Women's Ministry
- 2 ½ Hospitality
- 2 ½ Vocational Training
- 2 Fund-Raising
- 2 Member Care
- 2 Mobilization
- 1 ½ Bible Teaching
- 1 ½ Compassion
- 1 ½ Counseling
- 1 ½ Evacuation
- 1 Bible Distribution
- 1 Conference Speaking
- 1 General Help
- 1 Media Ministry
- 1 Observing
- 1 Partnership Formation
- ½ Literacy
- ½ Prison Ministry
- ½ *Transition*

Notes on this list:

- 3. Church Planting has to do with starting a new church. Church Development has to do with serving in an existing church, helping it grow, become stronger, or become more healthy.
- 4. This category has to do with ministries of Administration on our overseas fields, not with any ministries in the USA.
- 5. The traditional term in missions has been Literature or Literature Ministry, but in this survey our missionaries tended to use the term Publishing instead. That change of terminology also reflects some change in the nature of this work.

5. Please list any other ministries you were involved in last year:

This can include committees, associations or boards you served on, local church or community ministries, responsibilities at schools or other institutions, occasional ministry activities, and ministry trips to other places. Please be sure to list all countries you served in, if you traveled internationally in the year.

For appointees, USA staff, people on Home Assignment, or others who spent much or all of the year in the USA: please mention local church ministry, personal ministry, or other activities in serving Christ. You are a CBI person, and all of what you do for Jesus is a part of what CBI overall does. People on overseas fields usually have their official, main ministries and then also local church or other ministry activities, and we're interested in all; the same is true for USA people.

If you were only with CBI for part of the year, please report only on that part of the year for all questions.

6. If you were involved in a ministry of compassion last year, how many people did you help or serve?

Ministries of compassion include such things as medical ministry, community health programs, poverty alleviation, disaster response, AIDS ministry, or social ministry - and ministry to children-at-risk, addicts, prisoners, refugees, displaced people, the hungry, the mentally ill, or the handicapped.

7. How many unbelievers did you share the gospel with last year?

This is a count of people, not of experiences or events – for example, if you shared the gospel, or parts of the gospel, to a certain person on five different occasions last year, that counts as one item on this question, not five.

In most situations, “sharing the gospel” means explaining the good news about Jesus Christ and salvation to people in a way they can understand, and giving a valid opportunity for them to become born-again Christians. In frontier situations this may be a count of people with whom you had significant spiritual conversations, or of people who saw actions that clearly showed the goodness or truth of the way of Jesus.

8. Was anyone baptized last year, who you helped bring to that point? If so, how many?

Some able, godly, faithful missionaries will only see a handful of baptisms in a career. Others will be involved in ministries that lead to hundreds or even thousands of baptisms in a year. You may or may not have been the one to baptize the person or share the gospel with them. They may or may not have prayed to receive Christ in your presence, but you played a meaningful role somewhere in the process. For example, if you helped plan and lead an evangelistic event that led to 10 baptisms last year, count them among the figure you report here. If you taught a baptism class that included eight candidates who, in that class, learned about our Christian faith and how to follow Jesus, count them among the figure here. Believing children who are baptized count, including MKs.

9. Was a new church established last year, which you helped bring to that point? If so, how many?

Even a gifted, able, full-time church planter on a receptive field might be able to answer “yes” to this question only once in every 3-10 years, on the year when a new church is formally accepted into the local church association or denomination. In other countries, the new church is counted on the year it is registered with the government. In yet others, it is counted in the year when weekly worship begins. Try to keep your field policy consistent here, and please don’t count the same new church in more than one statistical year.

Some will, from time to time, be able to answer “yes” to this question even though their main ministry is not church planting. Some serve with association-wide church planting committees that lead to many new churches in a year. Many who teach in theological education see new churches planted through their students; these can be counted if the teacher can say she or he helped the process in some substantial way.



What is a church? On many fields, this is defined by the local church association, and thus may differ from field to field. On frontier or newer fields the criteria may be agreed upon by the field, or in consultation with the appropriate supervisor. At the least it must be a group of baptized believers who meet regularly for Christian worship and Biblical instruction, and who celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

10. Were you involved in equipping leaders last year?  
If so, how many people (adults) did you help train for Christian ministry?

The training of leaders may be formal or informal, residential or by extension, as a professor or as a mentor, local or international in scope. This question has to do with the training, teaching, instruction, or intentional developing of Christians for ministry leadership positions - the equipping of people to be pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and the like. Activities in lay training may be included here if there is an expectation that this training is a part of a longer process that should lead beyond lay ministry alone. Count all those you are helping to train, from any denomination or no denomination.

This is not a count of graduates in a given year. Include all who were at any point in the training process during any part of the year. Include those who finished last year, and those who just started. Include those being trained while serving in ministry as well as those preparing for ministry. For some who work in the administration or leadership of theological institutions or training programs, the number here could equal the entire student body – if it is fair to say that through your ministry you were involved, in some substantial way, in helping train them for Christian ministry.

Were any of those being trained for cross-cultural or international missionary ministry? If so, how many?

The second part of this question reflects a growing and important area of CBI's ministry, deserving of this special mention. Some missionaries are involved exclusively with the training of workers for cross-cultural ministry. Others are teaching in seminaries or the like, and can estimate how many of their students will end up in missions. This includes also those who will serve internationally not as 'missionaries' but as tentmakers or Christian professionals.

11. Please tell what you might know about the secondary impact of your ministry.

I added this question to the form at the request of some of CBI's leaders. CBI sets a high value on the equipping of leaders, and has many missionaries committed to this ministry. One of the reasons we so believe in this is because of the broader, secondary impact that can thus come for the Lord's work. A missionary who does the work of ministry is only one servant of God, but a missionary who trains others to do the work of ministry may serve indirectly through dozens or hundreds of servants of God. This question hopes to capture at least some incidental pictures of that kind of multiplied ministry.

CBI also sets a high value on the ministry of MK education, and has many missionaries committed to this ministry. Much missionary work is possible only because some are able and willing to teach MKs. Those who serve in this area make possible all of the evangelizing, church planting, leadership training, and other ministries of missionary parents. Many MKs serve the Lord in significant ways while students, or serve the Lord after graduation. All of that is a part of the secondary impact of this area of ministry. This question hopes to capture a bit of that reality.

CBI believes in the importance of ministry among our sending churches. We serve God among these churches not just to discover support, nor even just to report to the people on what God is doing in response to their prayers, but also to instill world missions understanding, vision, commitment, and action. This is a significant ministry overseas as well, with a very wide potential impact. This question hopes to learn about some of that activity.

For any of us, it is impossible to report the total secondary impact of our ministries. So much happens that we will never know about until we're home in Heaven. Thus this question asks for "what you might know". You don't know all of what God has done, but you likely have heard of at least some things. Please report them here.

12. Were you involved in hosting or leading a short-term mission team last year?

Please include short-term teams, youth teams, church-based teams, or mission trip teams from the USA or other countries, from CB or non-CB churches or institutions. Please include groups that spent part or all of their time overseas in some connection with your ministry, or that you helped in some substantial way. If you helped a short-term mission team from your country of overseas ministry, that served cross-culturally or internationally, please report on that here also.

13. Please tell about any new innovation that was introduced into your ministry last year.

What is an innovation? It is a new kind of ministry, a new way of doing ministry, a new book or resource, a new program, a change in a present ministry, or a new idea put into action. An innovation might be new to a field (though done in other fields), new to CBI (though done in other organizations), or new to the entire world missions community. True innovation always involves some application of creativity. An innovation can also be something that existed in the past but is now being revived. This question reflects CBI's ninth Strategic Priority. Be careful not to describe a specific innovation in more than one statistical year.

14. (optional) Please tell a story of something special God did in your ministry last year, or that illustrates the nature of your work.

What did you see the Lord do last year? Which ministry story have you told several times, to several different people? What is the story you get emotional about? Especially welcome are stories of how someone came to Christ, or how God transformed someone. There is much that happens in ministry, much of real spiritual significance, that is not really reflected in the statistics asked for in the preceding questions. Tell a story. It can be brief - even a single paragraph - or long. Please use extra paper or space as needed. But please don't delay sending in the entire form due to your desire to write a minor literary masterpiece on this question. Take time to think and pray about what to write here. We need these stories. The numbers alone don't paint the full picture.

15. (optional) Please send a picture that shows you or other missionaries/workers in action, serving God. Send a print, slide, or in digital format (jpeg is best).

Pictures of nationals in colorful garb, or of distinctive local culture, are OK. Pictures of national Christians in worship or service are better. And I love pictures of local churches with the congregation arrayed in front. But what I am most eager to see are pictures that include a CBI missionary or missionary family actively doing something in ministry – witnessing, teaching,

praying, singing, leading, serving, giving, or baptizing. Send prints or slides directly to my (Michael's) Virginia address above. I will scan the pictures and return all originals. For those in digital format, send to my email address.

16. (optional) Other statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments:

I encourage you to keep your own statistics on matters that are important in your ministry, but that are not quantified mission-wide. Use this space to report those, as well as any other ministry information you think might be helpful. For example, in one Muslim country our work has few baptisms but large numbers of serious inquirers and seekers. That is an important thing to know about.

Please do not think that CBI does not value your work because this form does not ask specific questions about it. Ministry to MKs, for example, is extremely important and valuable, even though there are no statistics we are gathering mission-wide on that topic – and so also with many other valuable, significant ministries. But please report here any facts or statistics you keep, related to whatever ministry God has called you to. For those in publishing or literature ministry, list here the number of new publications, or the number of pages published, or the number of Scriptures distributed, etc. Whom are you mentoring? Did a good new worker join the national staff of your ministry? Many ministry achievements are planned but some are surprises. Tell about them here. Whatever. This is for you.

Thank you for your work on this.  
God bless you as you serve and worship him.

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"The Lord said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, 'Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families – all those 20 years old or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel.'" Numbers 26:1-2.

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I am a field chair (or the equivalent). How do I answer the questions on the Annual Statistical Form for Fields?

First, please be sure to gather the individual forms from every long-term, term, mid-term, or short-term missionary/worker on your field. You must include statistics from every person who served on your field during any part of the past year.

This form does not replace the Field Chair's Annual Report, but it does replace the statistical sections of that report. Please still produce the balance of that report, according to your OMD's instructions, and send it to them.

If you have any questions about how to complete this form, or any unusual situations on your field that don't fit with this form, please contact me (Michael).

2. Was your field, as a field, involved in any ministries last year that are not reflected on the individual missionary/worker forms? If so, please list them here.

Some fields give financial support to a national ministry or worker, or participate in an inter-mission or inter-denominational program or institution in some way. Please give the full, official name of every ministry, association, denomination, institution, program, or group noted here (both in the local language and in English).

Some of what you answer here relates to the following question about duplication. If your field helped or supported a ministry of compassion, for example, I need to know the number of people helped or served, to add it to your field total. The same holds if your field helped or supported an evangelistic work or worker, or helped or supported a ministry to equip leaders, and so on. In these cases, please give me the statistics, even if they are estimates, to add to your field totals.

3. Please alert me to any duplication from the Individual Forms of this survey, from your field.

In the end, I need to report mission-wide totals on each of these items – to accurately report how many baptisms took place last year around the world, in all of CBI, where our missionaries/workers were involved in bringing the people to that point in their lives - and so on with the other items. This is not for boasting. We want to give glory to God, and see what we can learn, to serve him better. To do that, I need to calculate field totals, though I do not publish them, as people might be tempted to unfair comparisons.

Let me know if your field-total numbers should be increased due to the work of other expatriate missionaries/workers loaned to CBI or working under our supervision or direction. Similarly with the work of all short-termers who worked alongside CBI missionaries, including those not officially appointed by CBI, considering what they did or helped with in the prior year when they were on the field. Let me know about the work of any of our MKs or TCKs who are themselves evangelizing, planting churches, helping the suffering, or serving among different ethno-linguistic peoples.

4. What is your field doing to encourage believers in your country to reach out in cross-cultural or international missions?

You may report on specific, organized programs or events, or to more informal ministry in this area.

5. (optional) Other field-wide statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments:

I encourage all fields to keep their own statistics on matters that are important in their unique ministry settings, but that are not quantified mission-wide. Use this space to report those, as well as any other ministry information you think might be helpful. Is there some area where God is working, but the other questions on this form don't ask about it? Please describe it here.

6. What is the most exciting or encouraging thing God did on your field last year? Please tell about it.

Some may want to list more than one item. Please take some time to reflect on this. Your description can be as short as one sentence, or as long as you wish.

Thank you very much for your help!

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“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness.’” Matthew 25:21

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For the denomination or church association that CBI works in partnership with in your country:

We do not take credit ourselves for what was, in fact, the work of our national brothers and sisters. When these statistics are reported, that will be very clear. But we do care about the churches we are working in partnership with, and we are interested in what is happening for God among them. We want to rejoice with them over what is going well and pray with them over what is not. We want to know what is happening not so we can give orders to them, but so we can give glory to God and serve him well in these ministry relationships. Even for church associations we longer work with, but that we served among in the past, we care about how they are doing. Their present progress still partially reflects the impact of CBI’s past ministry contribution, by God’s grace.

Some church associations keep good statistics that our missionaries have easy access to. Some do not keep good statistics, or do not keep any statistics at all. It might be helpful to show them the benefits of church statistics, and to encourage and train them in keeping them. Or that might cut a wound, or irritate one, which would be a bad thing. In other situations, the church association keeps statistics but it would be harmful in the church-mission relationship to ask for them. For various reasons, the field chair, in consultation with others, may need to give informed estimates – which, by the way, are often extremely accurate.

We work in many situations where more than one mission organization is serving among a certain church association or denomination overseas. Don’t worry about inter-mission duplication. If we are serving among and helping these churches, we are interested in how they are doing, and would like to see their statistics. Wider national or international missions research has ways of sorting out possible overlap between missions and their statistics.

8. The full, official name (in the local language and in English):

If no association has yet formed or there is no name, please devise a generic, descriptive name for the purposes of this survey, like “the CBI-related churches in Bangladesh”, or “the (disconnected) group of churches planted by CBI in Bolivia”.

9. The number of churches:

What is a church? On many fields, this is defined by the local church association, and thus may differ from field to field. On frontier or newer fields the criteria may be agreed upon by the field, or in consultation with the appropriate supervisor. At the least it must be a group of baptized believers who meet regularly for Christian worship and Biblical instruction, and who celebrate the Lord’s Supper together.

10. The number of preaching points:

What is a preaching point? It is a regular or occasional meeting of Christians or inquirers, or a regular or occasional place of evangelism, worship, or ministry, that is not yet a church. If things go well, it will become a church someday; that is the intention. A cell group or other group or ministry that is part of a church, with no plan or expectation that it will become a separate church itself

someday, does not qualify as a preaching point. For CBI's statistical purposes, we no longer distinguish between a 'preaching point' and a 'group'.

11. The number of baptized members:

We assume the practice of believer's baptism. If you are reporting on a denomination or church association that practices infant baptism, please list here only the adult, baptized membership.

12. The number affiliated:

For any denomination or church association, the number affiliated is always larger than the number of full, adult, baptized members. 'Affiliated' includes members, plus children, plus the larger circle of people who attend or who consider this to be their church, but who for one reason or another are not full, official members. Some church associations make accurate counts on this; most do not. Please give your best informed estimate.

13. The number of baptisms last year:

This figure should include the baptisms of children, young people, and adults. If this denomination or church association practices infant baptism, please try to estimate and report on how many of these baptisms were of believers.

14. How many of those baptisms represent converts from non-Christian or non-Evangelical families, and how many represent the children of Christian or Evangelical families?

Few church associations keep track of this statistic (some do), but it is an extremely valuable thing to know. In situations with few baptisms, you or your co-workers may be able to easily produce a good answer, because you know the people involved. In situations with many baptisms, please give your best informed estimate.

15. Your personal assessment of the present climate in the relationship between this national church and our CBI field or team:

Very Good    Good    OK    Troubled    Very Troubled

This can change from year to year; please give your current assessment. This is a personal, subjective evaluation by yourself, the field chair (or equivalent). There may be sharp problems between certain individuals on one side and the other, but for this question please try to make an overall assessment of the climate between the two groups, as groups.

16. Has this church association sent out any cross-cultural or international missionaries? If so, how many were active in their missionary assignment during some part of last year?

This can include those sent out in the church association's formal or informal program, and those sent from individual churches in the association but through other missions or programs. This can include tentmakers or Christian professionals working internationally with the intention of sharing the gospel. Please distinguish between short-term and long-term missionaries or workers.

17. (optional) Other statistics, accomplishments, notes, or comments on this denomination or church association:

Many church associations keep statistics on attendance, or the number of full-time pastors, or finances, or other things. This would be the place to report denominational goals, and progress against them. Any other comments to shed light on the situation are welcome.

If there is more than one denomination or church association that CBI works in partnership with in your country, please answer questions (8) to (17) for each.

If there was a denominational or church association split at some time in the past, we are interested in the present state of both groups, since present ministry has developed from a foundation that CBI played a part in laying in the past, by God's grace. If there are many and various churches and associations that CBI missionaries/workers serve among on your field, please consult with me (Michael) directly about what course to take.

Thank you very much for all of your good work on this!  
God bless you as you worship and serve him.

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"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14