



“Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

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

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Editorial Team Note: We begin 2025 with this themed edition on “Publishing and Missions Information.” May we be inspired to write more and share broadly with each other what we are learning.

How to Get Published in a Missiological Journal

by Michael Jaffarian

By God’s grace I’ve been published in *Missiology*, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, *Mission Frontiers*, and *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, among other publications. Here are some things I learned along the way.

1. Getting something published – an article or a book – is an exercise in partnership, with two or more parties working together. Journals have editors. You know your topic better, but the editor knows their audience better.
2. Writing for a journal is entering a conversation among a community of scholars, or of scholars and practitioners. If you’re not regularly following that journal already, read or scan the last two years or so. See what’s going on in the conversation. See which articles stand out as the best, and learn from them.
3. Start a working relationship with the editor long before you submit an article. Write the person and say: This is who I am, this is what I’m doing, this is what I’m thinking about or working on – would you be interested in an article along these lines? Tell them why you are a particularly good person to write on that topic.
4. Sometimes I’ve asked an editor about plans for upcoming issues. If there are themes the editor is wanting to explore, and you can help in those areas, great.
5. Journals are generally hungrier for book reviews than they are for articles, and book reviews are way easier. You can start a relationship with an editor, and a journal, by writing reviews. You can ask the book review editor, “What books have you received lately, or heard of, that you’d like to have reviewed?” Then see which titles might fit into your area of expertise.
6. Learn to write well. This is a lifelong exercise. Read about how to write well. Read about editing. Let’s face it: There’s a lot of terrible writing out there, including in mission journals. It’s not enough for the research to be good and the ideas to be important. One key to writing well is to read good writing. If you’re only reading thick, turgid, clogged, complex, academic prose, you’re in trouble. I once spoke to a cohort of PhD candidates at a seminary and I said, “In academic circles they don’t just tolerate terrible writing, they reward it!” The professor in the room immediately raised his voice to declare, “Hear! Hear!”

7. Maybe it's not about how to get that one article published. Maybe it's about how to make writing, and getting published, an important, on-going part of your life and ministry. The day may come (as it did for me) when editors come knocking on your door, saying, "We'd like an article on x, and I think you'd be good for that." If you do good research, think clearly, keep up with the conversation, and write well, it will happen.

8. Humility goes a long way. "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6). Editors are also like that.

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See You There!

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LA MISMA MISIÓN
PARA UNA IGLESIA
EN MOVIMIENTO
COMIBAM 2025

Registration is now open for the **5th COMIBAM2025 Missionary Congress**,

which will be held from April 22 to 25, 2025 in Panama City. The discussions will focus on the effective missionary actions of the church, which is in constant movement to advance in God's Mission, which never changes.

Link for registration or click [HERE](#)

<https://inscripciones.comibam.org/shop/register/event/5d6dd132-5716-39e4-ad3b-af40f3c3cff9/ticket/bc53170f-d724-3e1c-9f83-710f871db1a9>

Humble Collaboration Casts Out Arrogant Self-Promotion

by J. Nelson Jennings

Every Mission Information Worker (MIW) I know is a humble servant. Saying that does not mean that every MIW is perfect or sinless, nor does it mean that all MIWs are somehow exempt from temptation toward arrogance and self-promotion. Instead, by the gracious work of God in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, each MIW I know has a sense of calling to quietly, diligently, and humbly produce reliable and strategic information that advances the cause of the gospel by the wider Christian mission community.

Humble servants that they are, though, MIWs may find it difficult to consider publishing the information they produce. Providing data tables or graphic representations to supervisors or mission leaders who have specifically requested information related to a ministry endeavor is one thing. After all, that kind of project fits the standard behind-the-scenes, humble MIW profile. However, wouldn't publishing information in a more public fashion—particularly information that might seem more specific, granular, and esoteric than most anyone "out there" would find interesting anyway—be inappropriate, veering outside

one's assigned lane, and bordering on arrogant self-promotion? Besides, shouldn't publishing be reserved for recognized authors, especially with today's overload of misinformation spread electronically by self-declared experts who actually are imposters?

Another deterrent to considering publishing mission information is the example of some (not all) academic researchers who, due to institutional requirement, career ambition, or lucrative publishing contracts, publish for the sake of publishing. An expectation of academic guild members is that they publish and do so regularly. They are expected to build impressive resumes. What begins as a side gig can swell into a healthy supply of retirement income. Pressures can come from colleagues, from publishers, and from within. MIWs, however, are not in that "publish or perish" quicksand and do not want to fall into it.

Several years ago, a couple of senior mission research colleagues persuaded me that there was an approach to publishing that was God-honoring, gospel-advancing, and compelling. I had conducted a research project that I, along with the few others who had examined it, considered quite well done. Even so, I thought there would be little interest in the project beyond some very limited circles, plus I did not want to get sucked into trying to promote myself or my work. However, these senior colleagues convinced me that the research and its presentation filled a gap that the wider Christian mission community could use—even though I could not see exactly when or by whom. I thus reluctantly agreed to have the project published. These colleagues' advice has proven to be right, since I have surprisingly heard from a wide variety of people, serving in all sorts of contexts, that they had found the project helpful and were most grateful for it.

So long, then, as security is not breached, may the spirit of humble collaboration cast out your fears of arrogant self-promotion. Let the rest of us access what you have found!

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Sharing Research and Connecting Researchers

by Paul Bendor-Samuel



AMRI
CONNECT

In 2017, the leaders of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, UK and the Akrofi Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture, Ghana, shared a need and a vision.

The need: Despite the widespread development of theological formation in most parts of the global church, the capability and capacity for rigorous mission research and publishing is still largely located in the minority Christian world of the Global North. This imbalance of resources inevitably leads to the continued domination of mission theories and practices developed in Western contexts.

The Vision: To create a platform where all parts of the global church, practitioners as well as academics, could share their mission research output, connect with like-minded scholars globally and collaborate in discussion, study and research.

Four years later at the end of 2021, after much consultation, prayer, and fund-raising, the **Alliance of Mission Researchers and Institutions**, AMRIConnect, went live. The first global platform dedicated to mission research and scholarship, today there are around 750 individual users from over 70 countries. In building the platform, we committed to some core principles:

- **Multilingual:** to reflect and support a polyphonic understanding of mission theology and approach.
- Shared space for practitioners and scholars for **mutual learning**.
- A **secure site**, where you choose the level of security and who can see and access your work.
- **Welcoming and inclusive**, which is why the platform is free and every user has their own page.
- **Community-building spaces**, where individuals, research institutions, networks, mission organisations and churches can connect and collaborate.
- **Organisational** pages to publicise work and opportunities. There are now 34 organisational members of AMRI.

In July this year a further phase of development saw a notification and alerts system introduced that allows platform members to receive notifications of activity of interest to them on the site.

If you are a member of AMRIConnect, thanks for joining us. Keep loading your work, and please let us know how we can continue to make the site useful to your needs.

If you are not a member, it's easy to join. Simply sign up [HERE](#).

<https://www.amricconnect.net/en/register>

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MIWvCon 2024 videos

Dear MIW, all of the formal sessions from MIWvCon 2024 are now available on CMIW's YouTube channel. We have 2022, 2023 and 2024 available. Each conference is grouped as a "playlist", but you can select an individual session to listen to. (If you are busy, you can even listen at a higher speed!). See: <https://www.youtube.com/@cmiwwglobal/playlists>

Save the Date

"Save the Date" for the Missions Information Workers Virtual Conference 2025 for June 16 – 19, 2025.

Special Profile: Alisson Medeiros (Brazil)



1) [CMIW] Please tell us about yourself and your family.

[AM] I was born in João Pessoa, on the northeast coast of Brazil, a city known for its beautiful beaches and for including the easternmost point of the Americas. I am the third of four sons, and the only one who is still single. I was converted in early adolescence at a local Baptist church. At 21, I began studies at the JUVEP Mission Seminary to study theology in an interdenominational environment with a strong emphasis on missions. In addition to my Theology degree (2005), I hold a degree in Management Processes and postgraduate degrees in Intercultural Anthropology and in Applied Statistics for Quantitative Research.

Before dedicating myself to the ministry of research, data and missionary information always captivated my attention and interest, especially at missions congresses. At one of these events (the 5th Brazilian Congress on Missions in 2008), I had the opportunity to attend the workshop “Field Research and Missionary Work” taught by the dear Larry Kraft. Over the years, God has been guiding me and granting precious opportunities in the field of research, and today research is my primary ministry.

2) [CMIW] What is your current ministry?

[AM] I have been serving the Lord as a worker for the JUVEP Mission for almost 20 years. JUVEP is an interdenominational Brazilian agency whose main focus is to reach the least or unreached groups in the Northeast region of Brazil, including rural people, “Romani” (sometimes called “Gypsies”), quilombolas, and indigenous people groups. Currently, I am part of the Board of Directors and also coordinate the Research Department. Among other research projects, we are involved in the Indigenous Research of the Northeast. Within the JUVEP environment, I also developed the website www.comoouvirao.com.br, which specializes in sharing information about Brazil.

I have also had the opportunity to serve the Lord in other initiatives. I have been a member of the Research Department of the Brazilian Cross-cultural Mission Association (AMTB) since 2014 and am currently the Coordinator of the team. Specifically, I coordinate the Indigenous Research of Brazil and the database of the Department of Indigenous Affairs. Other research projects are currently under development. In the Evangelical Alliance for the Quilombolas of Brazil, I serve as the Coordinator of the Quilombolas Research of Brazil.

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

[AM] God has graciously granted me many opportunities to serve Him in missionary work, especially in the areas of mobilization and research. In the past decade, I, along with others, participated in the organization of the Evangelical Alliance for Indigenous Peoples of the Northeast (2012), and the Evangelical Alliance for Quilombolas of Brazil (2013).

These groups share a common goal of conducting research and have both made significant contributions to mobilizing the Brazilian church on behalf of these peoples. In 2017, I was the Executive Coordinator of the Brazilian Missionary Congress, the main missions congress in Brazil, which is held every three years.

In the field of research, I had the opportunity to organize the Quilombolas Research of Brazil and the Indigenous Research of the Northeast. As a result of these studies, some ethnic groups have been reached with the Gospel, and missionaries have been mobilized to respond to the identified challenges. The Indigenous Research of Brazil by AMTB is the primary source of information on Brazil's indigenous peoples for the Brazilian missionary movement. This research has existed since the 1980s, and continuing this work is a great responsibility. I also highlight the production of the website www.comoouvirao.com.br. Many people have testified to how much they use the information available on it in their ministries.

4) [CMIW] What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?

[AM] Brazil has many missionary challenges, as its geographic territory is the fifth largest in the world. Better measuring these challenges is a constant need. The participation of the Brazilian church in sending missionary researchers and conducting strategic research is something that needs to be expanded and strengthened. May this reality change in the coming years.

Making Christ known and called upon through the preaching of the Gospel and church planting among unreached groups and peoples is a permanent goal of His church. May research in Brazil serve this purpose in a relevant way, better assessing the challenges and helping guide efforts. Specifically, I hope to complete the surveys of the groups I have been researching and be able to offer updates more quickly, while also promoting connections between existing challenges, churches, and missionary organizations. Another goal is to collaborate with research efforts across South American countries.

5) [CMIW] Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?

[AM] As the Coordinator of the Research Department of AMTB, we are open to partnerships, invitations, and suggestions as to how we can better serve the community. Personally, it would be a blessing for me and a reason for rejoicing to walk and learn with others.

Editor's note: Quilombos in Brazil are communities once formed by escaped slaves, often of African descent, who fled to remote areas for refuge. They sought to live independently from their colonial oppressors and, with time, some quilombos became truly self-sustaining communities. Today, the term "quilombo" is also applied to Afro-Brazilian communities with a historical connection to these origins. The Brazilian government acknowledges their ancestral ties and land rights.

Information From the Word

by Stephanie Kraft

“On the Lord's day the Spirit took control of me, and behind me I heard a loud voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, “Write in a book what you see.”

(Revelation 1: 10-11a)

Under the influence of the Spirit, John heard the command to register in writing what he was about to receive. This message was not for John alone but for seven churches. The audience was to be broad yet specific.

Have you kept data under wraps, from inertia or security concerns, whose impact decreased because of narrow distribution and/or the passing of time? Has information you worked hard to gather gone cold, obsolete, because you did not publish it promptly or widely?

After processing this message from the Lord, John "fell at his feet like a dead person" (vs. 17). Managing and disseminating missions information are, among others, our acts of obedience and worship.

Announcing a Survey of the Brazilian missionary Force

The Brazilian Cross-Cultural Mission Association Research Department

The Research Department of the AMTB (Brazilian Cross-Cultural Mission Association) has officially begun the process of researching the Brazilian Missionary Force.

This new survey is intended to bring up-to-date data on the number and locations of Brazilian cross-cultural missionaries, and also to better understand how missionary mobilization is currently happening in Brazil. AMTB is doing three different surveys simultaneously: 1) Missionary sending organizations; 2) Cross-Cultural Missionaries; 3) Local churches.

They are hoping to complete these surveys in time to present the report at the Brazilian Congress on Missions in 2025.

Please pray for this process and for a complete response!

Felipe Fulaneto (ffulaneto@gmail.com) - Research Department AMTB

Help us learn about the participation and impact of Ibero-American churches in God's global mission!

We want to hear both from those churches that are actively participating in global mission, as well as those that may not think they are. This survey is a great opportunity to reflect and share about how God is using the Ibero-American Church to fulfill the Great Commission and the reality facing the church in this process of fulfilling God's will.



The survey is part of a permanent study of the **Ibero-American Missionary Cooperation** ([COMIBAM](#)). Take the survey and share it with other churches through your networks: <https://forms.office.com/r/ifUpfQQE8B>

The survey applies to all Hispanic churches in the United States, Canada, all of Latin America and Spain.

Thank you for being part of this important effort! #RumboaCOMIBAM2025
For more information: investigacion@comibam.org

Note

CMIW bulletins include links to important websites related to the bulletin content. The CMIW Editorial Team is vigilant about security concerns. While most hyperlinks are spelled out, extremely long links are embedded in the text. We encourage readers to always examine embedded links before clicking as a habit of secure electronic reading.

Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team comprises Larry Kraft, Stephanie Kraft, Jennifer Poling, and Rodrigo Tinoco.
- Please send any comments, suggestions or ideas to us at info@globalcmiw.org.
- Back issues can be found at www.globalcmiw.org/cmiwbulletin.