

"Correct Me If I'm Wrong"

The quarterly bulletin of the Global Community of Mission Information Workers

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Do You Know Something We Don't Know? Searching for Multi-National Research Efforts

Bob Waymire (see profile CMIW October 2011) wrote to us recently from the mountains of Northern California. He was interested by our report of the MANI conference and their research into unreached peoples (also in our October 2011).

Bob said, "I worked with Ross Campbell, NiyiGbade, Reuben Ezemadu, Tokunboh Adeyemo, and others back in the early 1980s - (Jim Montgomery and I made several trips) and now

most Sub-Saharan African countries have their own 'National Initiative' with a strong and active research and information component. The goals are also continentally owned and made operational by very capable people."

So a lot of strategic information needed for reaching the unreached and church planting is available in Africa, and the structures are in place for continuing this in the foreseeable future. But Bob was curious about what might be happening elsewhere.

So here's our query:

Have other continents or groups of countries/regions other than Africa reached this degree of functionality or structure – or are well on their way?

And to probe just a bit further, What organization(s), that you are aware of, have as their purpose and goal "to see such national and/or continental research and information functions established and operational?"

Why is Bob interested, or concerned?

- 1. He says, "When we were engaged in the AD2000 and Beyond Movement, we had a goal of seeing a 'National Research and Strategy Function operational in every country of the world' ... and also 'to see a gathering of believers within practical and cultural distance of every person in the world.' The challenge was a big one and only partially met. In the first 5 years good strides were made. They were exciting times. In the final 4 years (thru 1999) problems began to arise internal to the movement that jeopardized success in some countries. These were trying times. However, Africa was fortunate to have men and women, whose presence and efforts were there to bridge the years and 'seasons'." Where else is there a similar story re mobilization/ operationalization happening today?
- 2. Bob is researching "Why some movements succeed and others fail...and some do both?"
- 3. He is repeatedly asked to provide some kind of status of global research and information and feels "somewhat out of touch... not so much as to what is being published, but as to the stuff beneath the radar and behind the scenes" where planning is done and strategy developed.

We answered Bob as best we could from our own knowledge and experience, but we realized we were woefully unaware of great things in other places. Can you help us here? **What might you know that we don't?**

We Saw You There

Some members of our community enjoyed being together at the Ethne gathering in November 2012. We shared meals, prayed together, exchanged cards, swapped files, talked shop, and inquired after each other's families. It was a fine launch to our **See You There** effort – our commitment to take advantage of scheduled travel to create opportunities for face-to-face contact.

Our next opportunity to be together may occur in Malta at the end of this month. Will you be there? A month later, there will be a regional gathering in Antalya. Will you be participating? If so, please drop an email to cmiw@worksmail.net. We'll be arranging informal meetings during these conferences as well



Some Information Workers at Ethnê

so that mission information workers can get to get to know each other a bit better and share ideas. We will Email you the times and places.

Also, if you're planning to be at other gatherings where information workers may be present and would not mind taking responsibility for setting up and facilitating an informal meeting for them, please also let us know that. We will feature it in our next CMIW bulletin. If possible, we'll also see you there!

What's Next? by Chris Maynard

The Community of Mission Information Workers is developing slowly. We have an established quarterly newsletter. During 2012 we launched a simple website, an active Facebook page, and "See You There!" – our new framework to help us meet face-to-face at mission conferences.

But your taskforce is still thinking, talking and praying about ways we can encourage each other. We have an idea for the next step. Would you like a regular voice conversation with a small group of mission information workers? Larry and I are prepared to act as facilitators to start one or two groups and see how they go. The idea is to have a regular meeting – maybe a one hour session every month or every two months. We can tell each other what we are doing in mission information and "bear one another's burdens" with prayer and advice. We will probably use Skype or some other internet voice or conference system.

I asked for advice from someone involved in a group like this. He wrote, "I think 10 members is the upper limit for this to be practical. It also helps greatly if many of them already know each other from face-to-face contact". We will stick to the upper limit of ten, but many of us do NOT yet know each other, so we may not be able to meet that suggestion. But if we have enough people for two groups we will bear it in mind in the way we group people together.

If you are interested, please email us saying that you are interested in joining a CMIW voice group. Additionally, it might help if you can give us extra information such as:

1. "I can only join if it meets at these times: [times (don't forget to include your time zone or a plus or minus from UTC)]." (Larry and I are both based in the UK and one or other of us could reasonably join in from 0800 to 2200 UTC.)

- 2. "I am comfortable with these ways of connecting by voice: [Skype, GoToMeeting, FaceTime, TeamViewer, etc.]."
- 3. "I would like to be in a group with: [types of people or even particular names if you know they are interested]."
- 4. "I would like the group to [give us your thoughts about what the group should be or do together]."

Let's see what God will do with this. Even if you don't want to join, please take a moment now to pray for this initiative. Thank you.

Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: Rajesh Tiwari



1. [CMIW] Please tell us about yourself and your family. [RT] The Lord called me when I was in my mother's womb. My mother married into a Brahmin family but, for the first twenty years of their marriage, she and my father were childless. They knocked on many doors to try to have a child. In God's providence, they met a woman who took my mother to another lady who knew Jesus. She prayed for my mother and, in 3 months, the Lord made me and put me in my mother's womb. I was brought up as a Brahmin boy and, at age 17, I was officiated as a Brahmin. When I was 19, a semi-blind lady gave me a New Testament. After reading the Gospel of Luke I found Jesus as my Savior. I became involved with missions in 1995, and a year after that began to work in missions research. I was, at that time, doing my first unreached people group profile: the Dhobi-Washer men of India. After a time, I decided I wanted to leave

research work, as I was very frustrated and life was very hard. But then the Lord spoke to me. He said, "Go, if you want to, but who will tell them?" I repented and told the Lord I would not go back to my home town. Since then, the Lord has done marvelous things and continuous to do so each day.

My wife Jeanette and I have 3 boys, Simeon(10), Micah(8) and Joshua(6).

- 2. [CMIW] What is your current ministry? [RT] I serve with GMI (Global Mapping International). We have a research entity for India- CREATE (Communicate Research with Effective Analysis for Transforming Everyone). Our heart goes out for India and its unreached communities living in hamlets, colonies and villages.
- 3. [CMIW] What are the contributions you have made to world missions that have brought you the greatest satisfaction? [RT] I had the great privilege of serving with DAWN Ministries and GMI for India and Egypt. My contributions were to facilitate the research work in conducting field surveys, serve as a data clearinghouse for several mission entities, and provide training and technical support for research and mapping. The two significant accomplishments that I can zero in now are, 1)The North India Harvest Networks Initiatives and 2)The Bless India gathering. Starting the research work of these projects was exciting, but they would not have been possible if there had been no team effort, especially the Bless India gathering.
- 4. [CMIW] What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry? [RT] a) To mobilize a research function to obtain, maintain (make available) and communicate needed information. b) To see obedience-based disciple making movements start among the least reached and unengaged segments or groups in India and beyond.
- 4. [CMIW] Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community? [RT] Yes,

certainly. We can all find some ways to help the community. We need each other. Please keep before us your goals and objectives so we can be connected more through prayer and in person.

Information from the Word

What makes a good church researcher? In Numbers 13:31 the ten spies said, "They are stronger than we are". In Numbers 14:9 Joshua and Caleb said, "They are only helpless prey to us". All had discovered the same basic facts from their research in the land. But something made a big difference to their understanding, their report, and the way they presented it to the people. What was that? Should it make a difference to us and our work? Is it enough to present the facts?

Final Details:

- This bulletin is produced by the Community of Mission Information Workers Task Force comprised of Larry Kraft, Stephanie
 Kraft and Chris Maynard. Please send any suggestions of issues to discuss or any other ideas to "cmiw@worksmail.net".
- Editorial team: Stephanie and Chris; layout and distribution: Larry.