



## “Correct Me If I’m Wrong”

The quarterly bulletin of the Global  
Community of Mission Information Workers

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### Knowledge Stewardship for Kingdom Impact in 2019

By Chris Maynard and Nelson Jennings

There are about 200 people registered in our Google group, “Knowledge Stewardship for Kingdom Impact” (KSKI). This compares with about 600 who subscribe to the English language version of this bulletin. During 2019, 46 of those 200 people posted messages to the group, which seems a good participation rate.

There were four particular posts that generated a lot of discussion. One from Nelson Jennings had the bland title of “Stat source?” and said, “I was just asked for the source of the oft-repeated claim, ‘85% of those serving as pastors have little formal training.’ Anyone know?” It is quite common for people to ask KSKI about sources and, as usual, this request generated a few direct replies to that question. But it also led into discussion about the significance of claim, the value of “formal training”, and what type of training is most valuable. Sometimes the briefest of posts can lead to lengthy discussions.

A more intriguing title was “The Rival Hypothesis of Randomness”. Under that heading Les Hirst shared a link to “a fascinating article which brings to our attention a major flaw in much research. Rival hypotheses of many types are often overlooked when we draw conclusions to our research.” This led into discussion about our own biases and what to do about them.

Jay Matenga asked us to reconsider the concept of “the task”, throwing out this challenge: “... My challenge to this group and the wider Community of Mission Information Workers is how can we move forward with missions research in such a way that it does not commodify or objectify the focus of missions activities...”. This initiated the biggest discussion of the year, or rather several discussions, since Jay’s initial post covered a lot of ground and people took up different points from it. We note that Jay has since been appointed the Executive Director of the WEA Mission Commission. Does posting on KSKI further your career in missions, or is our bias blinding us to a “rival hypothesis” to explain this observation?

One post initiated a straw poll about mission-research-produced prayer apps: “This post is to poll KSKI community members about awareness, use, and promotion of two important Mission Research-Produced Prayer Apps: <http://operationworld.org/prayer-app/> and <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>.” From the responses it was clear that the poll itself encouraged some people to begin using those apps for themselves.



You can listen in (or join in) discussions like these by subscribing to KSKI. Just follow the instructions at: <https://globalcmiw.org/joinkski>.

### Finishing The Task 2019

The goal of the Finishing The Task (FTT) initiative has been to catalyze gospel engagement of the “Unengaged, Unreached People Groups (UUPGs) of over 500 people who are beyond the reach of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” The year 2019 marked several changes for FTT even as the original goal remains.

Paul Eshleman literally handed the baton onstage to Rick Warren as the new leader of the initiative. Paul had been at the helm of FTT since its beginning. Another major difference at the conference this year is that the usual intense focus on a list of UUPGs to "adopt" for engagement was missing. That is because 2018 saw the adoption of the last groups that met the criteria for "unengaged." While there were still 261 on the list because engagement had not yet occurred among those groups, the focus was definitely elsewhere.

A newcomer to the conference (and there were many) would be forgiven for wondering where that "elsewhere" will be. In the past, "the list" has been a rally point, acting as a glue that held the conference together. In this transition year, we were left with uncertainty regarding FTT's direction.

Behind the scenes, Rick and his team listened to several key voices give input regarding that direction. Suggestions included examination of the "under engagement" of people groups, inclusion of people group "segments" and consideration of unengagement by location.

A concern every year has been the underrepresentation of the Global South at the conference and as a voice in people group research that undergirds the movement. In fact, there is a call to connect with those voices going forward. If you know someone from the Majority World community that is involved in people group research, please contact Lara Heneveld <[lara@issacharinitiative.org](mailto:lara@issacharinitiative.org)> and [www.finishingthetask.com](http://www.finishingthetask.com).



From left to right: Dick Eastman, Loren Cunningham, Paul Eshleman and Rick Warren.

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## See You There!

Reading this bulletin is interesting - otherwise you would not have read this far! But we also like to get together with other Information Workers to catch up and swap stories. Here are some upcoming occasions when we know that there will be Information Workers present:

- Blue Med in February
- GCPN in February
- EMDC in March
- There is no particular conference, but some of us will be visiting Colorado Springs around April 20th to 24th

If you'd like to share a meal or just a coffee on any of these occasions, please let us know at [info@globalcmiw.org](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org). We'll put us in touch with each other.

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## Who's Who in Missions Information

Special Profile: **Tony Samuel** [TS]

1) [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself (and your family, if you would like).**

[TS] I am Tony Enoch Samuel based in New Delhi, India. My parents were pioneer missionaries who worked with the Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB) for 40 years. My wife works as a Maths Teacher and our daughter is currently a student. Because of my parents' ministry, I had to study in several places. My classmates were from various unreached people groups, and this served to create in me an interest in missions.

I worked with the India Missions Association for seven years and served several missions with information and data. Gene Davis, the founder of the Foreign Missions Foundation from Portland, Oregon USA and Ebenezer Sunder Raj, the IMA General Secretary, encouraged me to become involved in Mission Research and Surveying. They told me to serve all missions and churches.



*Tony Samuel*

2) [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?**

[TS] At present I am helping two missions as a member of their project staff:

1. Operation Agape – This involves a language survey and mapping, mainly for India and Nepal.
2. Pathways Data – We maintain a South Asia database with admin divisions, people groups and languages. I help them in survey and mapping.

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

[TS] I've collected data on administrative divisions, people groups and languages of India and South Asia, I've developed Bible teaching tools, and I've made over 70,000 maps and published several books on mission research and demographic data for India and South Asia.

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

- [TS] 1. I hope to train more people for evangelism and church planting in Asia. I want to serve mission organizations and churches with information for effective and strategic planning to reach every segment of society.
2. I would like to see Kingdom Planting movements (KPM) begun all over Asia, starting in India. I hope to train mission and church leaders to reach their own community and language groups.

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

[TS] In addition to serving with others in the above (#4), I would like to collect and present data for missions and produce maps on people groups and locations.

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## Information from the Word

Jesus answered, 'You give them something to eat.'

His disciples said to him, 'That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?'

**'How many loaves do you have?' he asked. 'Go and see.'**

When they found out, they said, 'Five – and two fish.'

Much of mission research is concerned with understanding the need. In Mark 6 Jesus tells his disciples to research the available resources. Should we spend more of our time and attention in this direction?

(This Information from the Word was inspired by a talk given by Reuben Ezemadu at the Eighth Lausanne International Researchers Conference - LIRC.)

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### Final Details:

- With the help of God this bulletin is now produced quarterly in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
- The Editorial Team is comprised of Stephanie Kraft, Chris Maynard, Nelson Jennings, Rodrigo Tinoco, Duane Frasier, and Larry Kraft.
- Please send any comments, suggestions or ideas to us at [info@globalcmiw.org](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org).
- Back issues can be found at [www.globalcmiw.org](http://www.globalcmiw.org).