
THE 8TH LAUSANNE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS' CONFERENCE

Global Research Team, One Challenge Inc.
August 1, 2018

Executive Summary

One hundred people from 23 countries convened in Nairobi, Kenya for the 8th Lausanne International Researchers' Conference (LIRC8) from April 30 to May 4, 2018. One-fourth were women, one-third were younger than 45 years of age, one-third focused their research at the local, state, and national levels, and three-fourths had not attended an LIRC before. Financial assistance was given to nearly half the conference participants, particularly emerging researchers attending their first research conference and focused on their state or nation. The conference had a new track to help these younger and emerging researchers.

Conference participants were sent a post-conference survey to provide information on how the conference affected them. Response was high and positive. This report summarizes the findings from this survey, provides an assessment of the conference by the facilitation team, and provides an extensive appendix with conference timeline, schedule, and survey.

The survey findings resulted in five prayer recommendations:

1. How can the interest in the younger and emerging researchers track be built upon during the interim before LIRC9 and in the planning for LIRC9?
2. In what region should LIRC9 be located that will enable significant numbers of resident researchers to attend, particularly younger and emerging researchers who focus their research on the state and national levels?
3. Should future conferences focus on a single function, have designated tracks for several of these functions, or develop workshops for skill development?
4. Is the true status of research best reflected by the optimism of youth or the pessimism of the elderly, and how can the LIR Network best move the contribution of research more toward the optimism of youth by helping researchers connect with each other? Should the use of social media be promoted?
5. With LIRC8 in the past, how can the LIR Network best leverage and allocate resources between encouraging and facilitating follow-through on what was learned during LIRC8, and the planning for LIRC9?
6. Considering the breadth of organizations that sponsored and participated at the LIRC8, who might be best indicated to give leadership to the LIRC9? Might the Lausanne Movement's interest and ability to utilize research for the fulfillment of its fourfold vision be best accomplished by having more young, female, or Non-Western researchers making decisions for the next International Researchers' Conference?

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Background



One hundred people from 23 countries convened in Nairobi, Kenya for the 8th Lausanne International Researchers' Conference (LIRC8) from April 30 to May 4, 2018. The Lausanne International Researchers' Network (LIRN), The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI), The World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission's Community of Mission Information Workers (CMIW), and the Global Research Team of One Challenge partnered together to organize this conference. (The timeline for the conference registration and the conference schedule are given In **Appendix A.**)

The theme for the gathering was "Research that Guides Kingdom Impact." Sessions for the gathering focused on the fourfold vision of the Lausanne Movement: the Gospel for Every Person; an Evangelical Church for Every People; Christlike Leaders for Every Church; and Kingdom impact in Every Sphere of Society. In addition to the plenary addresses following these themes, Rev. Reuben Ezemadu, the Continental Coordinator of MANI, developed his four devotional messages around the Lausanne Movement vision. Reuben's deep biblical insights resonated with many participants. (See **Appendix B** for the complete conference schedule.)

This conference was the first LIRC held in Africa, with 47 participants coming from the continent.

Dr. Peter Brierley, keynote speaker and initiator of the conferences in 1986, said: "(This conference) was easily the best we have had thus far, both in terms of numbers, the number of countries represented, and the wonderfully efficient organization that surrounded it."

A new addition to this year's conference was a focused track for younger or emerging researchers. "The track for younger and less-experienced researchers was a highlight," says Larry Kraft, the Lausanne co-Catalyst for Church Research. "It created a lot of energy and enabled mentor relationships to begin that have the potential to continue well into the future." The hope of this focus was to see emerging researchers become better equipped, understand

how research fits into the larger picture of world missions, have a better sense of what they need to do to advance in their unique career path, and become better connected and encouraged.

The planning team prayed that God would cause all pieces to come into place, that participants would have good travel, and that attendees would be fully engaged. God answered their prayers affirmatively and exceeded their expectations in so many gracious ways. The facility used was very adequate, and 80 of the 81 beds they could provide were filled. The Committee gave financial assistance to 43 of the 100 attendees and still finished the conference “in the black.” God even woke a team member up at 2AM to “open the gates,” literally, for a group that needed to depart for the airport but found themselves behind two locked doors. The Lord's presence and provision were richly evident!

A staple of conferences in the past has been the opportunity for participants to share papers about their own mission research. In total, 31 papers were presented at LIRC8. The majority of the papers and plenary presentations are available on the CMIW website (<http://globalcmiw.org/lirn>), along with many papers from previous conferences.¹

The 9th Lausanne International Researchers' Conference is tentatively planned for 2021. During a discussion of the future, significant interest was expressed in exploring the potential of hosting regional research gatherings in the interval between global gatherings.

The Lausanne International Research Network steering committee is inviting new members to guide the activities of the network over the intervening years. Larry Kraft says: “If God should give impetus for a LIRC9, I pray that the ethos our team tried to create (i.e. of nurturing mentoring relationships, of encouraging regional initiatives, of giving value to both theoretical and applied missions research) will become something of a tree under whose shade many will feel comfortable to sit.” Follow the Lausanne International Researchers' Network on Facebook.²

¹ The link to the papers shared at the Lausanne International Researchers' Conferences is: <http://globalcmiw.org/lirn>.

² <https://www.facebook.com/LausanneInternationalResearchersNetwork/>.

Post-Conference Survey

A Post-Conference Survey was sent to all participants on the last day of the conference, and the remainder of this report presents the results of this survey.

Methods

The Post-Conference Survey was emailed to 94 participants on Thursday, May 3, 2018, the last day of the conference. The survey was accessible by tokens only, and responses were confidential. Those who had not yet completed the survey received reminders 6, 8, 11, and 16 days later. By May 24 when the survey closed, 68 people had completed through the last page of the survey, although not necessarily every question within it. An additional 22 surveys had useful information for at least one question, although it is possible that some of these represent incomplete surveys by participants who later completed a survey on a different computer which did not have the cookie to bring them back to the place they had stopped. However, this analysis will treat all 90 surveys with useful information as if they reflect 90 unique individuals. The response to the survey was very high: 72% if only the 68 completed surveys are considered and 96% if all 90 surveys reflect unique individuals invited to complete the survey. (See **Appendix C** for a copy of the survey.)

The survey took an average of 24 minutes to complete, with a standard deviation of 20 minutes. This means two-thirds of the respondents took between 4 and 44 minutes to complete as much of the survey as they did. However, a few spent only a fraction of a minute on it while others spent an hour and a half. In general, respondents spent about one-fourth a minute (0.22) per fixed-response question and about 2¾ minutes (2.70) per open-response question.

Respondent Characteristics

Background characteristics of the respondents are available for three-fourths of the 90 records.

About three-fourths (72%) were men and one-fourth (28%) women. (See **Table 1**.) About one-eighth (13%) were young researchers under the age of 35, and one fifth (19%) were 35-44. The largest group (31%) was 45-54 years of age.

More than three-fifths (63%) of the respondents had a multi-national or global focus for their kingdom work. An additional 24% had a nationwide focus. A small number focused on the local church (4%) or their state or region (9%). Almost all (96%) of those focused on the local church, the state or region, and the nation have ministries in their one region. Those with a global

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Total	90	100%
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	50	72%
Female	19	28%
Unknown	21	--
<i>Age</i>		
25-34	9	13%
35-44	16	19%
45-54	21	31%
55-64	18	26%
65+	7	10%
Unknown	22	--
<i>Kingdom Work</i>		
Local church	3	4%
State/regional focus	6	9%
Nationwide focus	16	24%
Multi-national focus	42	63%
Unknown	23	--

or multi-national focus are diverse: 27% focus on one or two regions, 44% focus on 3-6 of the 14 regions, and 29% focus on 7-14 regions.

Conference registration showed that 100 persons attended at least some part of the conference. Almost half of them (47) were from eight African countries. The other half (53) were from 15 other countries. Two-thirds (67) answered questions about their regions of residence and ministries. Among these who responded, 43 (64%) had ministries in East Africa, with 23 of them residing in the region. (See **Figure 1.**)

Twenty had ministries in West Africa, although only six lived in the region. Twenty had ministries in North Africa and twenty in South Africa, although none of the respondents resided in North Africa and only three resided in South Africa. Seven of the respondents resided in Asia (4 from Southeast Asia, 2 from South Asia, and one from east Asia), but 16 non-residents had ministries Central Asia, 17 in East Asia, 18 in Southeast Asia and 21 in South Asia. None of the survey respondents lived in the Middle East, although 21 had ministries there. In contrast, 16 survey respondents lived in North America and four non-residents had ministries there.

The two most frequent types of research involvement of the respondents are collecting data (56% ranking it 1st, 2nd, or 3rd) and analyzing it qualitatively (58% ranking it 1-3). (See **Figure 2.**) Slightly fewer (47%) ranked using information among their top three involvements, but almost half of them gave their first ranking to using information. Analyzing qualitative data was more likely than analyzing quantitative data to be among the respondents'

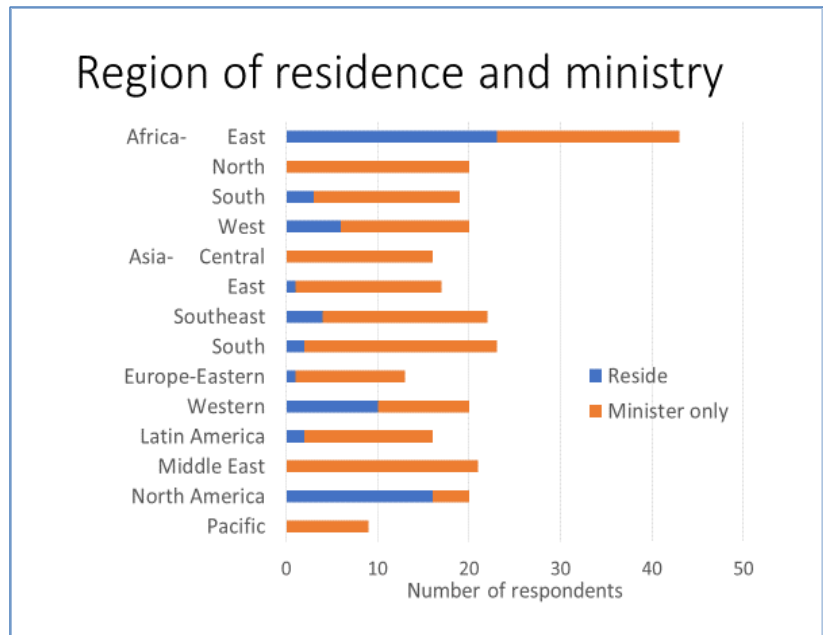


Figure 1. Region of residence and ministry

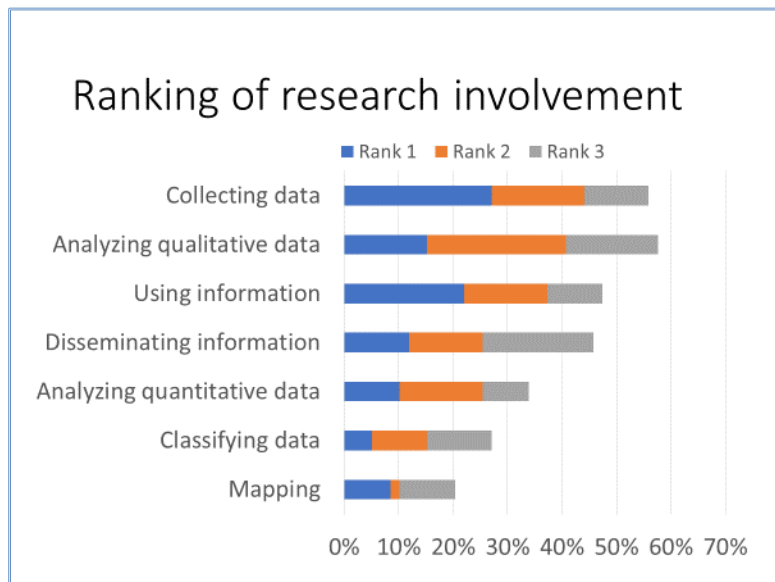


Figure 2. Type of research involvement of participants (ranked)

research involvement (58% and 34%). Classifying information was least likely to be ranked first (5%), but mapping was least likely to be in the top three types of research involvement (20%).

Lausanne Vision

The Lausanne Movement has a fourfold vision:

- *The Gospel for Every Person;*
- *An Evangelical Church for Every People;*
- *Christ-like Leaders for Every Church;*
- *Kingdom impact in Every Sphere of Society.*

The conference was built around this vision. When asked how well research is reaching these goals, 26%-30% of the respondents said “very well” on each of them. (See **Figure 3.**) For the second level response, “Well”, 39% said research is reaching well the goal of “The Gospel for Every Person”, while only 17% said research is reaching well the goal of “Kingdom impact in Every Sphere of Society”. When the “some” response is included, 99% thought research is at least to some extent reaching the first goal (The Gospel for Every Person), 89% the second goal (An Evangelical Church for Every People), 84% the third goal (Christ-like Leaders for Every Church), and 80% the fourth goal (Kingdom impact on Every Sphere of Society).

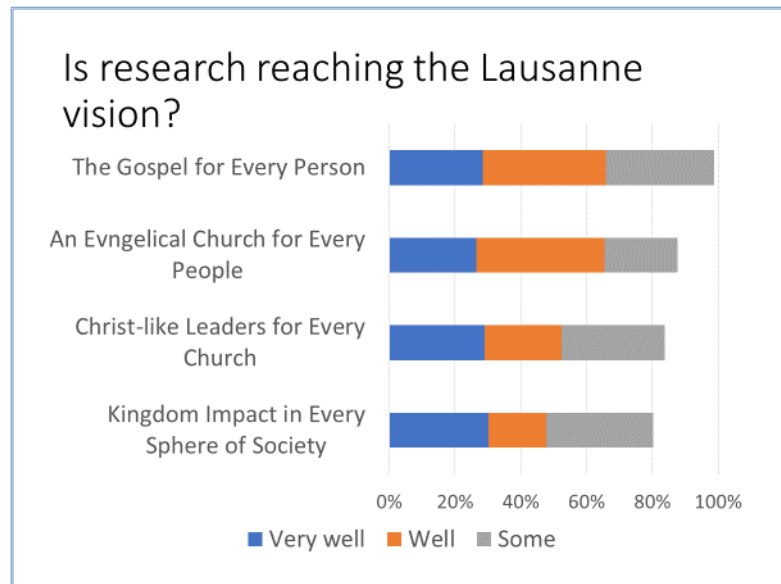


Figure 3. How well is research reaching the aspects of the Lausanne Vision?

Fifty-five participants wrote comments on research reaching the four Lausanne goals. Their responses were classified into 10 categories, with one-third of the responses being coded in two or three of these categories. Three of these categories were positive and accounted for one-third of the codes. The other seven were negative (shown in italics) and accounted for two-thirds of the codes. To a large extent, they reflect the information in the above figure 3. Half or more of the respondents thought research was reaching the Lausanne goals well or very well, and the largest number (14) of written comments were positive. The figure showed that two-thirds of the respondents felt research was reaching the goal of a gospel for every person well or very well, with eight writing detailed positive comments about this area while only two wrote negative comments. (The verbatim comments can be found in **Appendix D1.**)

- Overall positive support (14);
- *Insufficient research to drive Lausanne goals (12);*
- *Insufficient support for Christlike leadership (12);*

- *Gap between effort & outcome- research & practice (10);*
- *Insufficient support for Kingdom impact (9);*
- *Adequate support for Gospel for every person (8);*
- *Unclear/inadequate understanding/application of Lausanne goals (7);*
- *Adequate support for Evangelical church for every people (4);*
- *Insufficient support for Gospel for every person (2);*
- *Insufficient support for Evangelical church for every person (2).*

Age explained 17% to 29% of the variation among respondents on their beliefs that research is reaching the Lausanne goals. Younger conference participants were generally more positive than older participants. (See **Figure 4.**) At most ages, they were generally most positive that research is contributing to the gospel for every person, and less positive that research is having kingdom impact in every sphere of society. Gender and region of ministry did not have independent effects on these beliefs.

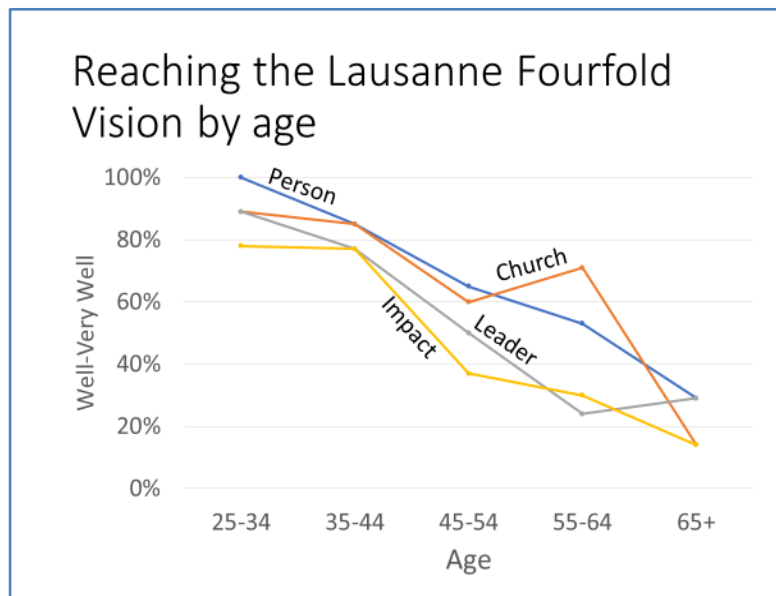


Figure 4. Percent saying research is reaching the Lausanne Fourfold Vision well or very well, by age

The second question in the survey asked respondents, “How might the LIR Network encourage or assist you in your research ministry?” The responses of 67 people were coded into ten categories, and up to three codes were assigned to each response. More than one-third (25) of the responses indicated that facilitating personal connections and prayer with other researchers would provide the greatest assistance. About one-fourth expressed the desire for collaboration and sharing (18), mentorship (17) and exposure to other research (16). (The verbatim responses can be found in **Appendix D2**).

- Personal contacts, connections with other researchers, prayer (25);
- Collaboration, sharing resources, tools (18);
- Mentorship, direction, skills training (17);
- Exposure to information, data, case studies, reports (16);
- Articulate/maintain focus on role of research in ministry (10);
- Help with writing, publishing, disseminating research (7);
- Creating platforms for local, national, regional level research (7);
- Create means (structures, finances) to promote research (5);
- Development/implementation of research-based strategies (4);
- Building bridges between academy & applied research (4).

Conference Benefits

The conference was designed to help researchers in several ways. Half (51%) of the respondents said that what they learned during the week helped them clarify their role in the research mission of the Church. (See **Figure 5**.) Most of the rest (38%) said they learned some. No one reported that they had learned nothing, although 11% only learned a little. However, half (49%) of the respondents said there was an element they were looking for at the conference which they did not find. There was little relationship between what people learned during the conference and the expectations they had for the conference. Age and gender also had no relationship to whether their expectations were met. Region of residence did have some relationship, with people from South Africa, West Africa, South Asia, Eastern Europe and North America less likely than average to say they had unmet expectations.

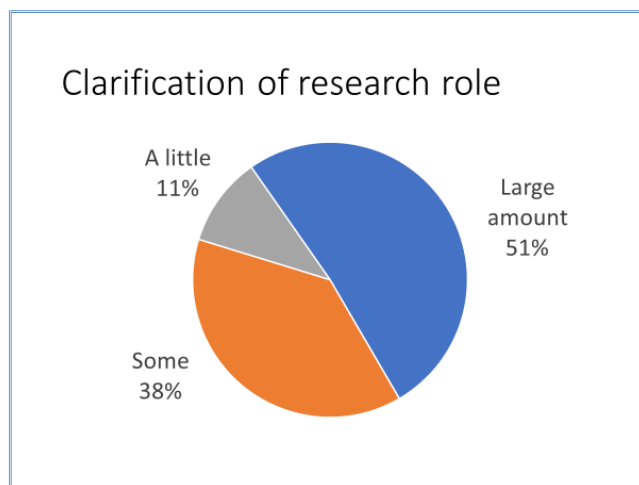


Figure 5. Amount learned to clarify research role

Most of the respondents who said they did not find all they were looking for at the conference gave a description of what they did not find. These were coded into ten categorized (verbatim comments shown in **Appendix D3**):

- More specific case studies (evaluation, mobilization, etc.) (8);
- Specific training (workshops, hands-on) & study opportunities (5);
- More attendee interaction & feedback; deeper reflection (5);
- How to do research/build research teams (manual, instruct) (4);
- How to coach/support field missionaries to do research (3);
- Help with writing and publishing (2);
- Muslim issues (2);
- Best mission practices (2);
- Knowledge management (local responsibility, open data) (1);
- Continuity with the past (impact of previous LIRC research) (1).

About one-third (8 of 27) of the respondents who were looking for something more said they would have liked to have had more specific case studies, such as evaluations or mobilizations. The next most frequent were desires for specific training (workshops, hands-on) and study opportunities (5 of 27), and more attendee interaction, feedback and reflection (5 of 27).

An important part of the conference was the opportunity to network with other researchers. Over half (55%) of the respondents said they had many opportunities to network and develop

potential partnerships. (See **Figure 6.**) Most of the rest (35%) said they had some opportunities.

The responses given by about half of the people, when asked to describe any new partnering opportunities they foresee developing out of this conference, could be classified in ten categories. (See **Appendix D4** for verbatim responses.)

The most frequent networking opportunities indicated by 12 of the 42 responders were collaborations within and between regions. This was followed by collaboration with global or multi-regional ministries (10 respondents) and mentoring or coaching opportunities (9 respondents):

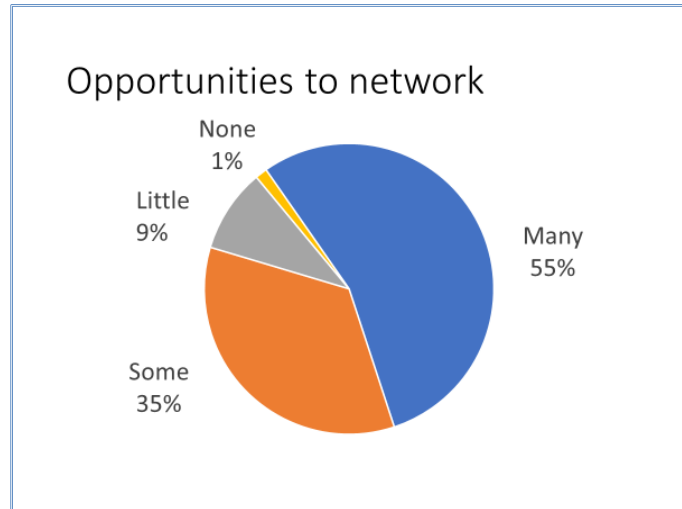


Figure 6. Amount of opportunities to network

- Regional collaboration within and between Asia, Latin America, Europe, and Africa (12)
- With ministries such as Vision5:9, SAIACS, Onnuri, OW, OCMS, and KSKI (10);
- Mentoring and coaching opportunities (9);
- African Researchers Network (6);
- For education (AIU, Gordon Conwell, Biola) (5);
- Tools & capabilities (Ishare, mapping, media) (4);
- Research training and interaction with and for field missionaries (3);
- For publishing (2);
- Lausanne issue groups (2);
- National initiatives (1).

At the end of the conference, those in attendance wrote down their responses to two statements: 1) "I believe God has spoken to me in the following way during these days of the LIRC8," and 2) "In obedience to His voice, I will." Fifty-five people shared how they believed God had spoken to them during the conference. Their responses were coded into ten categories, with some responses sub-divided into two or three categories. One-fifth (11) of the responses were about God using research to enhance all ministry, and another one-fifth (10) were that they would undertake a research project. (Verbatim responses can be found in **Appendix D5.**)

- God can use research to enhance all ministry (11);
- I shall undertake a research project (10);
- God encouraged me, rekindled my enthusiasm (9);
- Research only for Kingdom impact; all else meaningless (9);
- Empower, mentor, initiate training others. Don't hold back (8);
- Bridge the gap between research and implementation (8);
- I need to intentionally develop my research capabilities (5);
- Become a better listener, to people & to God (3);

- The role of the Holy Spirit is fundamental (3);
- I need to partner, network with others (2).

Forty-eight people shared their responses to the statement, “In obedience to His voice, I will....” Two-fifths (17) of them said they would undertake a research project in their church, ministry, or locale. One-fourth (12) indicated they would work with others to execute a research project. All their responses are summarized in the following ten categories, with their verbatim statements shown in **Appendix D6**:

- Undertake a research project in my church, ministry, locale (17);
- Work with others to execute research projects (12);
- Share what I have learned/ mentor someone (others) (10);
- Study, increase/develop my own knowledge & skills (10);
- Participate in national, regional, continental, global efforts (9);
- Ask more questions/ listen (7);
- Identify/develop electronic tools & collaborative platforms (6);
- Be a bridge between information & ministry (5);
- Reflect and write (5);
- Pursue mentorship (1).

Participation

This was the first Lausanne Researchers’ conference that 76% of the respondents had attended. Age had a strong influence: 100% of the respondents younger than 35 were attending for the first time compared to 57% of those 65 years and over. Having previously attended was significantly higher than average for those ministering in Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The conference began Monday evening April 30 and ended Thursday evening May 3, 2018. Four-fifths (81%) of the respondents had checked into the retreat center by Monday and attended the Monday evening welcoming session. (See **Figure 7**.) Tuesday had the largest attendance with 92% of the respondents. Attendance declined afterwards, but 84% were still in attendance on Thursday. Three-fourths (75%) of the respondents attended all four days: 68% of those who were attending for the first time and 94% of those who had attended previous research conferences.

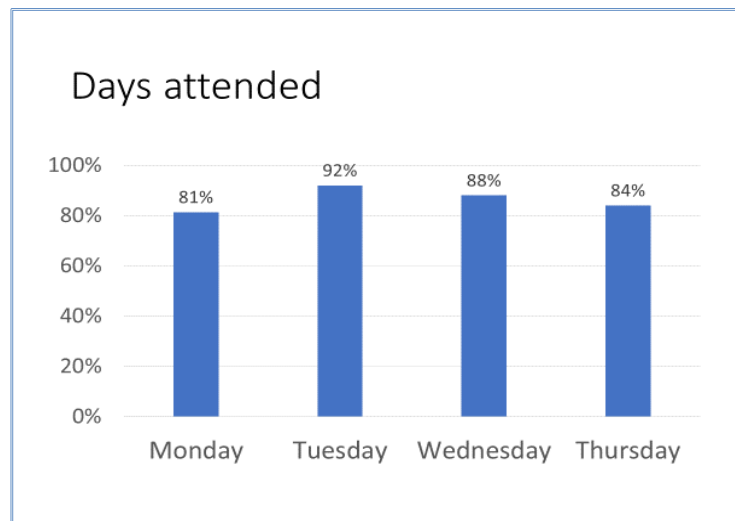


Figure 7. Percent attending each day

The conference offered three or four choices of seminars during each of 11 seminar time periods. Half (49%) of the respondents attended seminars in at least 10 of the time periods. Only one-tenth attended fewer than half of the seminar periods.

Forty respondents identified a seminar or seminar series that stood out as particularly helpful to them. Half of them cited the Emerging Researchers Track of seminars, and one-fifth cited the Qualitative Research seminar by Leanne Dzubinski. Nine other seminars or series were mentioned by two or more of the respondents. (The verbatim responses that often included how it helped them are given in **Appendix D7**.)

- Emerging Researchers Track (20);
- Leanne Dzubinski (Qualitative Research) (8);
- Steve Spaulding (New Research- Obedient Nations) (5);
- Gordon Bonham (Quantitative, PSPP, Fruitful Practices) (3);
- Hoskins & Hickman (Assessing Christward Movements) (3);
- Keith Seaborn (Ishare) (3);
- Russ Mitchell (Church Leadership Advancing CP Process) (3);
- Samuel Kebreab (Outcomes 12+ Years DMM) (2);
- Rudolf Kabutz (Media Ministry) (2);
- Chris Maynard (Shining a Light) (2);
- Joel Trudell (Adult Literacy in Africa) (2).

Most of the papers were available on the conference website before the conference. Two-fifths (41%) of the survey respondents had accessed papers before the conference began. (See **Figure 8**.) An additional one-seventh had tried to access papers, but were unable to do so. Three-fifths (57%) accessed papers from the website during the conference. A few tried to access papers, but were unable to. About one-fourth (28%) did not try either before or during the conference.

Participant’s age was a factor.

While 88% of those under 35 accessed papers during the conference, only 41% of those 55-64 accessed papers during the conference. All of the unsuccessful attempts to access papers during the conference were made by people 45-64 years of age.

The Lausanne International Research Network (LIRN) had a Facebook page available during the conference for participants to post comment about the conference. Four-fifths of the

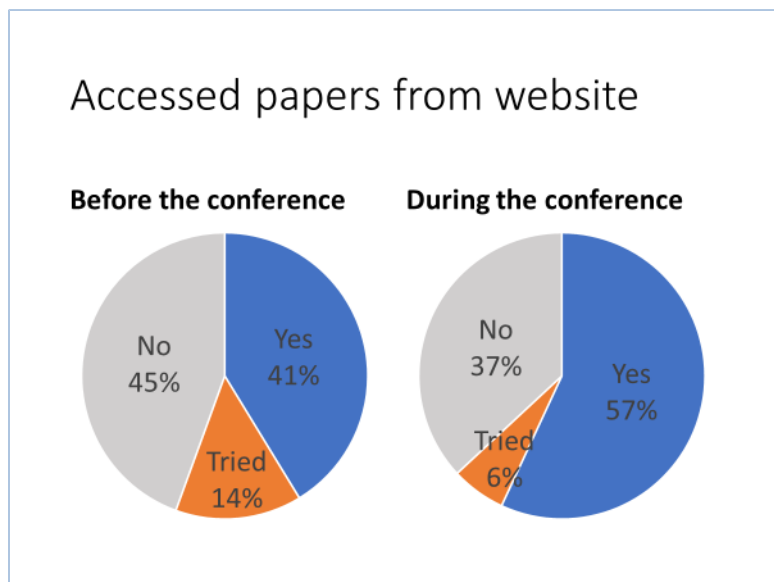


Figure 8. Accessing papers from conference website

respondents did not try to use this available technology, but 12% did use it. Another 8% tried to use it but were unsuccessful. Use of Facebook was also related to age: 25% of respondents under 35 years of age used Facebook during the conference, while none of those 65 and older did.

The conference had a dedicated prayer room. One-fifth (19%) of the respondents used the prayer room. Five out of six of those who used the room for prayer found it helpful (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale). Respondents 55-64 years of age were twice as likely to have used the prayer room as those in any other age group (33% compared to 13%-17%).

Logistics

Half (53%) of the respondents said they first came to know the conference was taking place through a friend or colleague. (See **Figure 9.**) One-fifth saw it on the Global Community of Information Workers (CMIW) website or in the Correct Me If I'm Wrong (CMIW) newsletter. The others came through their organization or college, from a superior, from other involvement in the Lausanne Movement, or other and unspecified sources. Source of knowledge was not related to age or former attendance at Lausanne research conferences.

People who registered for the conference could request financial assistance. About half (47) of the registrants requested financial assistance and wrote what they hoped to gain from attending the conference. Most of them (83%) said they wanted to learn about research. (See **Figure 10.**) Most frequently their words indicated general learning and inspiration, but also included effective research procedures and specific research techniques, tools and skills. Half (52%) also

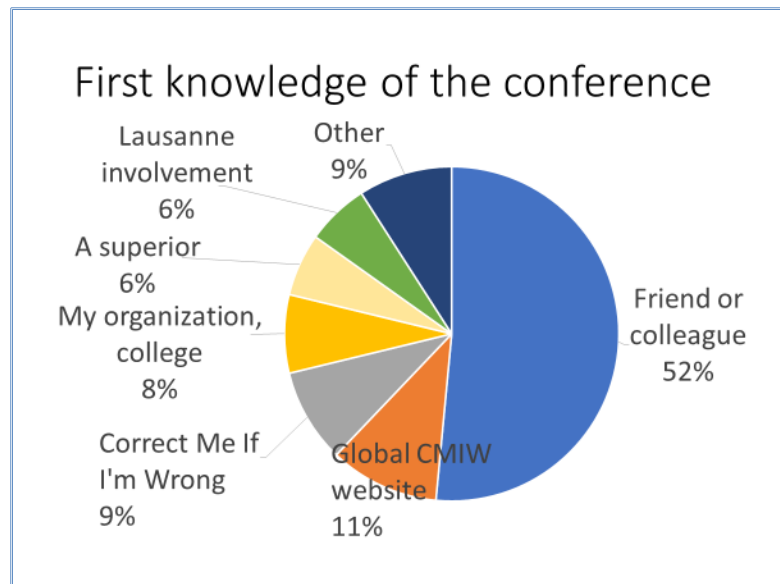


Figure 9. How did you first know about the conference?

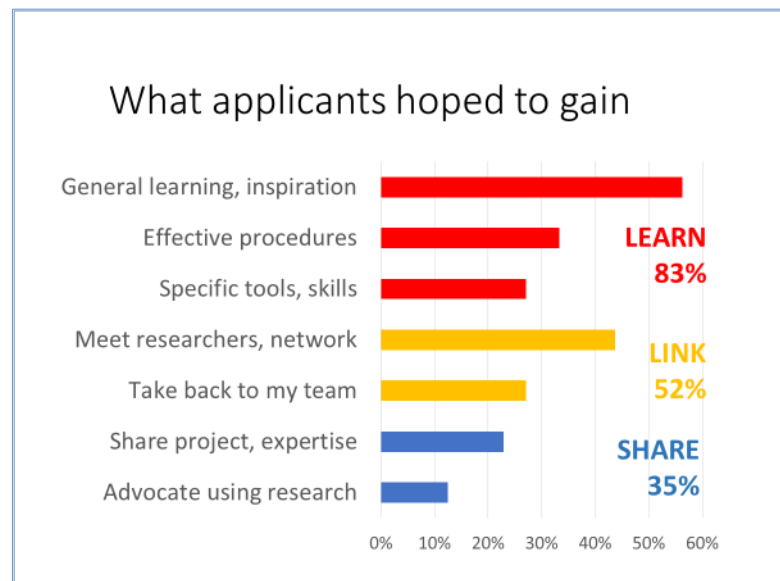


Figure 10. Expectations of financial assistance applicants

indicated that they wanted to develop linkages through meeting other researchers, developing networks, and by taking back to their home teams the information they gained at the conference. One-third (35%) wanted to come to the conference to share with other researchers about their project or expertise and to advocate for the use of research.

About half (47%) of the people attending the conference received some form of financial assistance. This included the plenary speakers and students who came on a student discount. Aid was derived from “additional” funds received in the common budget—that is, an amount was included in the full registration price to cover potential scholarship requests from those who might need assistance. Those requesting financial assistance completed an on-line 14 question application and sent a link to a person who completed an 11-question recommendation form. The Planning Committee had established priorities for funding based on the provided information. Younger researchers, women, and participants with the potential to make broad, valuable contributions to the interactions were given highest consideration. Response to the post-conference survey showed that participants 25-34 years of age, those attending the LIRC for the first time, and those with a state, regional or national focus were the most likely to receive financial aid. Of the three factors, however, the focus of research had the most direct statistical relationship to financial aid. Two-thirds of survey respondents with a state/regional focus (67%) and a nationwide focus (69%) received financial aid compared to one-third or less of those with a multi-national/global focus (20%) or focused on the local church (33%).

At the end of the survey, 44 respondents provided additional comments about the conference and suggestions for future ones. Half (23 or 52%) were only positive, with comments such as well-organized, excellent, eye-opening and life changing. The rest gave suggestions, the most frequent (4 or 9%) of which suggested more time for prayer, coffee and informal interaction. Three gave suggestions to encourage national and regional conferences, and to continue the emerging researchers track. Other types of suggestions were provided by one or two respondents, with the verbatim comments provided in **Appendix D8**:

- Was well-organized, excellent, eye-opening, life changing (24);
- Need more time for prayer, more interaction, more coffee (4);
- Encourage national & regional conferences (3);
- Continue emerging researchers track (3);
- Consider E. Europe, Asia. S. America, Ethiopia for future (2);
- Grateful for financial assistance, continue this (2);
- Appreciated prominent role of women (2);
- Include more help/emphasis on publishing research results (2);
- Record sessions for future listening (2);
- Provide for translation/participation in other languages (1);
- Other, not classified (9).

Discussion

One hundred people from 23 countries convened in Nairobi, Kenya for the 8th Lausanne International Researchers' Conference (LIRC8) from April 30 to May 4, 2018. The Lausanne International Researchers' Network (LIRN), The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI), The World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission's Community of Mission Information Workers (CMIW), and the Global Research Team of One Challenge partnered together to organize this conference. This conference was the first one held in Africa, and half of the participants came from the continent. The person who initiated the research conferences in 1986 and had been involved in every one since, said: "(This conference) was easily the best we have had thus far, both in terms of numbers, the number of countries represented, and the wonderfully efficient organization that surrounded it."

One hundred people attended at least part of the conference. Ninety-four were sent a post-conference survey to provide more detail on the value of the conference for them and how such conferences could be more effective in the future. Response was very high, with about 90 people sharing some of their thoughts. One-fourth of the respondents were women, one-third were younger than 45 years of age, one-third focused their research at the local, state, and national levels, and three-fourths had not attended an LIRC before.

Financial assistance was given to about half the conference participants who were selected on the basis of a set of priorities established by the Planning Committee at the outset of the registration process. Except for a few plenary speakers, the recipients of financial assistance were overwhelmingly young, attending their first Lausanne research conference, and focusing their research on the state or national level. A new addition to this year's conference was a dedicated track to help younger and emerging researchers. The seminars in that track generally had the greatest attendance, and it was chosen by half of the forty survey respondents who identified a seminar or seminar series that was particularly helpful to them.

Prayer Recommendation 1. *How can the interest in the younger and emerging researchers track be built upon during the interim before LIRC9 and in the planning for LIRC9?*

Every region of the world was represented by respondents who had ministries in them. However, much of this was due to two-thirds of the respondents who had ministries in multiple nations or throughout the globe. Four regions had no survey respondent residing in them, although it is known that they were represented by attendees at the conference: North Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific. Three regions had half or more of the ministries represented by respondents who lived in the region: North America, Western Europe, and East Africa (which includes Kenya). This indicates the importance of the geographical location of the LIRC—only the East Africa region had a greater number of resident researchers at the conference than did the North American region. The financial assistance provided could pay for some or all of the conference costs, but could not cover travel costs. Only North America and Western Europe had significant numbers of researchers who could afford the cost of long distance travel.

Prayer Recommendation 2. *In what region should LIRC9 be located that will enable significant numbers of resident researchers to attend, particularly younger and emerging researchers who focus their research on the state and national levels?*

One-fourth (27%) of the respondents collected data as their primary research involvement, followed by respondents who used information (22%) as their primary research involvement. Analyzing qualitative data (15%), disseminating information (12%), and analyzing quantitative data (10%) were each the primary research involvement of one-tenth or more of the respondents. More than half collected data and analyzed qualitative data among their top three types of research involvement. More people mentioned seminars on analysis of qualitative research as helpful than mentioned seminars on analysis of quantitative data. Each of the five functions is important in the research process, but it is unclear whether this ordering of involvement is inherent to the research process, reflects the preferences of the researchers attracted to the conference, or reflects their level of experience and skills.

Prayer Recommendation 3. *Should future conferences focus on a single function, have designated tracks for several of these functions, or develop workshops for skill development?*

The conference was designed around the fourfold vision of the Lausanne Movement: 1) The Gospel for Every Person, 2) An Evangelical Church for Every People; 3) Christ-like Leaders for Every Church, and 4) Kingdom impact in Every Sphere of Society. More than one-fourth of the respondents thought research was serving all of these goals very well. Research is reaching the first goal at least some according to 99% of the respondents, but this drops to 80% who think research is reaching the fourth goal at least some. Age significantly influenced the respondents' thoughts. Researchers under 35 years of age were very optimistic about the contribution of research, but optimism steadily decreased with age of the respondent. Respondents provided ideas about what the LIR Network could do to encourage and assist them to be involved in research that will help reach the Lausanne goals. Their suggestions centered around linkages—encouraging personal contacts, prayer, collaboration, mentorships, and exchange of information and resources. The LIRN had a Facebook page available during the conference for posting comments that was used by one-fourth of the respondents younger than 35 years of age, but by none of the conference organizers nor anyone over 65 years of age.

Prayer Recommendation 4. *Is the true status of research best reflected by the optimism of youth or the pessimism of the elderly, and how can the LIR Network best move the contribution of research more toward the optimism of youth by helping researchers connect with each other? Should the use of social media be promoted?*

The LIRC8 received a lot of compliments. All respondents said they learned things that clarified their role in research as part of the mission of the church, with half saying they learned a large amount. Almost all said they had opportunity to network, with more than half saying they had many opportunities. The four-day conference had little attrition and 90% of the respondents attended seminars in at least half of the time slots. A substantial percent accessed papers in preparation for the conference, and the majority did so during the conference. Half of all the comments at the end of the survey indicated that the conference was well-organized, excellent in content, eye-opening and life changing. Some suggestions for future conferences were

given, but did not cluster in any specific area. LIRC8 participants will probably be the best source of promoting LIRC9 as most of them first learned about the conference informally from friends and colleagues rather than a specific website.

Prayer recommendation 5. *With LIRC8 in the past, how can the LIR Network best leverage and allocate resources between encouraging and facilitating follow-through on what was learned during LIRC8, and the planning for LIRC9?*

The findings from the post-conference survey support anecdotal comments by LIRC8 participants, and the feelings of the planning team, that the conference was a success. God allowed all the pieces to come together to provide inspiration, clarification, and skill development to church mission researchers around the world. It had a special emphasis on young and emerging researchers through financial assistance and a specific seminar track. Its location in Nairobi made it possible for a large number of emerging African researchers to attend with a focus on evangelism in their state and nation. These are very optimistic that research is helping reach the objectives of the Lausanne fourfold vision. The challenge for the Lausanne International Researchers' Network is to encourage the interconnections among conference participants that will motivate and assist them in carrying through on the conference's inspiration and learning until LIRC9.

Prayer recommendation 6. *Considering the breadth of organizations that sponsored and participated at the LIRC8, who might be best indicated to give leadership to the LIRC9? Might the Lausanne Movement's interest and ability to utilize research for the fulfillment of its fourfold vision be best accomplished by having more young, female, or Non-Western researchers making decisions for the next International Researchers' Conference?*