



**What is a Mission Information Worker? – part two!**  
*by Chris Maynard*

Four years ago, I wrote an article in this bulletin called “What is a mission information worker?” I introduced a prototype taxonomy of mission information work and asked for help to develop it further. Following that article, I received a few suggested clarifications but only one person seemed interested enough to work with me to develop the ideas further.



She is an information worker in SIL who would rather avoid publicity. She has some background in librarianship so I will call her “Libby”.



One of the reasons for Libby’s interest was the breadth of her experience in this field. That also made her an ideal collaborator for me. She immediately saw herself in several of the roles that I had described ... and more that I had not.

I have been a visualizer, an information junkie, a strategist, a networker and an information advocate. Libby has been a librarian, a standards registrar and a communicator. So as we worked on this together, we were able to expand the list of roles significantly.



It was Libby who saw that it might be useful to group many of the roles to see if we could show an overall shape to our profession.

<b>Collector</b>	<b>Sorter</b>	<b>Connector</b>	<b>Analyzer</b>	<b>Publicizer</b>
<i>Collect</i>	<i>Organise</i>	<i>Connect</i>	<i>Analyse</i>	<i>Publicize</i>
Gatherer	Librarian	Networker	Facilitator	Journalist
Directory-keeper	Mapper or Visualizer	Expert-in-Field	Spiritual Mapper	Publicist
Specific Inquirer	Archivist	Information Trainer	Reflective Practitioner	Mobilizer
Info Junkie	Standards Registrar	Information Advocate	Realistic Strategist	Advocate



Where do you fit in? You probably have a strength or a preference to work in one particular column. But in order to be really useful to the Body of Christ which we serve, most projects in our field will need a bit of each:

*Collecting      Organising      Connecting      Analysing      Publicizing*

That is why few of us in mission information work can just stick to one role. We have to learn flexibility ourselves and to work with others who have different roles. And that can be so annoying because we just don’t think the same way! But if the whole job is to be done for the glory of our God we may



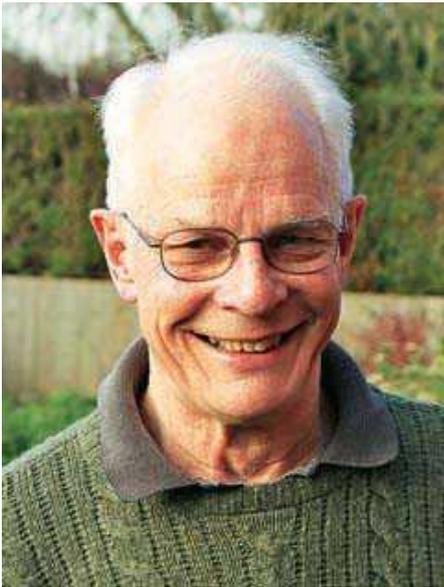
have to do things we don’t particularly enjoy AND work with people who are seriously different from us.

You can find the new taxonomy at:

[http://www.globalcmiaw.org/resources/taxonomy\\_of\\_mission\\_information\\_work\\_2018-01.pdf](http://www.globalcmiaw.org/resources/taxonomy_of_mission_information_work_2018-01.pdf)

## Missions Research – a Philosophy of Ministry

by Patrick Johnstone



I was recently asked if I had a philosophy of ministry for my research work and writing *Operation World* and *The Future of the Global Church*. I have never thought of ministry for the Kingdom as having a "philosophy of ministry", but over the years various principles have emerged that I would treasure. I have never wanted to receive the accolades of academia, but rather inspire and motivate ordinary believers to impact our needy unevangelized world. I go back two generations in my involvement in research. In earlier years things were so much more informal and verbal – and so few were researching!

Research and visionary strategy are fundamental to any Kingdom advances. I followed in the steps of Leslie Brierley of WEC International who pioneered missions research within a mission agency 1944-1978. He was instrumental in much of WEC's advances over that period, and was a brilliant church planter himself. What I will do is list a number of key points that come to mind with some explanations. This was a successful model in the past, and I think some principles are of ongoing relevance.

1. Christian Missions Research is vital for alerting the Church to the unfinished task of world evangelization, strategizing for engagement, and evaluating progress. William Carey's 1792 book, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, was the first global survey and it laid the foundation for the subsequent astonishing two centuries of mission endeavour. I believe *Operation World* was a vital factor in laying the foundations for the globalization of mission recruitment after 1978 with over half the 2017 mission force now from AfAsLA (Africa, Asia and Latin America) rather than EuNAPa (Europe, North America and Pacific).
2. The ideal environment for a research team is within a Christian body focused on actual ministry and able to apply the results of that research. The research is therefore not aimed at the academic, but those on the front line. This enables the research to both be sensitive to practical issues – worker preparation, availability, and deployment and also security sensitivities due to opposition and persecution. This has become especially so since "911".
3. The lead researcher should be part of the leadership structure of the agency. Leslie Brierley and I were an integral part of the leadership of WEC. We were in constant touch with the other leaders to help them see that strategy is as important as administration and survival!
4. There needs to be dual role in research – for the organization and for the Body of Christ. Both Leslie (with his LOOK and WIDER LOOK information circulation in magazine form) and I (with *Operation World*) were recognized and appreciated as serving not only WEC but also the wider Body of Christ.
5. The lead researcher and the CEO(s) must have regular brainstorming times together. So many of our WEC International advances and growth in the 1980s blossomed out of such times.
6. Prayer should be fundamental to every component of ministry. The research team should meet regularly for prayer and have the deep sense of God's leading for the development and application of the results of every research project.
7. As far as possible any research should result in products that provide or stimulate the funding. In our case, at the peak of *Operation World's* success, royalties funded our research and also parts of our WEC International Office! Our overhead transparency production generated nearly \$150k of revenue!
8. There must be a written memorandum of understanding for the research function that covers the ministry and incorporates what is appropriate of the above, and this should be accompanied by an annual review mechanism.
9. The research leader must have, as a primary focus, the discipling of those he/she leads - and this means both ministry and spiritual life. (Matt 28:19, 2Tim 2:2). The aim is to birth subsequent generations of missions researchers.
10. Every organization needs, for spiritual vitality and advance, re-evaluation and re-articulation of

its vision every half generation (approx 16 years). Any shorter and there are problems of agency and worker burnout. Longer and consolidation and decline sets in.

11. Communicating findings to denominations and churches is a valuable component of research ministry to ensure that findings are earthed in the realities of church life. The local church must be the launch pad of missions. Research should be articulated in a way that excites, envisions, and gives ownership to those to whom the research is imparted.
12. A researcher needs a good standard of ethics in handling information. Here are several principles:
  - a) Respect for all security requirements requested by informants.
  - b) Humble willingness to welcome criticisms and, where appropriate, invite critics to be part of the info-team for the future.
  - c) All information and every statistic should be dated and the source identified.
  - d) Never use percentages without a related absolute number.
  - e) Always apply the 100% rule wherever appropriate. This means that for any cut of a population segment all the components should add up to 100% and all should be mentioned or aggregated in the survey.

*Patrick Johnstone*  
*Author Emeritus – Operation World*  
*October 2017*



### **Lausanne International Researchers' Conference!**

Registrations are coming in for the Lausanne International Researchers' Conference and the venue is approaching half capacity! If you are considering attending, please note that the early registration discount will end in February. Note too that the process to obtain a visa to Kenya may take longer than anticipated, so early action is recommended. Here again are the details:

**What:** The 8th Lausanne International Researchers' Conference

**Where and When:** Nairobi, Kenya, 30 April through 4 May 2018

**Purpose:** To connect influencers and ideas as they relate to church research for global mission.

**Theme:** "Research that Guides Kingdom Impact".

Full details and registration form can be found at: [www.globalcmiw.org/lirn](http://www.globalcmiw.org/lirn)

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### **See You There!**

We've been informed that there will be some friendly, fascinating, well-informed, charming, coffee-drinking information workers (IWs) at the following events:

- The NC2P Learning Community meetings in Berlin, Germany. February 5-7, 2018.
- The EMDC in March, 2018.

Might you be there as well? If so, and if you should want to share a bit of brew (or a casual cuppa) with a fellow IW, send us a note at [info@globalcmiw.org](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org) and we'll put you in touch with each other.

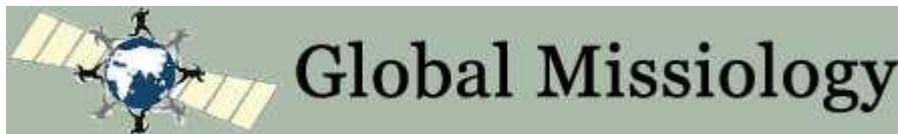
## "Where are my keys?"



Have you ever been impeded from getting somewhere because you couldn't find your keys? Well, the GCPN (the Global Church Planting Network) is not making the forward progress they would like in accelerating church planting globally because they have not been able to identify who is doing research on the existence and distribution of churches in all their network countries. Their list of "Key Contacts" is incomplete.

Do you know of anyone who is doing research on the existence, nature and distribution of churches in the country where you live? In the countries that are neighbors to your own? If so, could you please send their name(s) and email address(es) to Dan Eyestone ([daneyestone@oci.org](mailto:daneyestone@oci.org)) who is serving the GCPN by creating an International Church Planting Research Key Contacts Directory. (Or, if you think your contacts would prefer not to have their email address given away without permission, can you please pass Dan's email address on to them)?

Check out the GCPN at <https://gcpn.info/>. Please collaborate if you can.



**Global Missiology** is an online, quarterly journal made up of contributions from international researchers, practitioners, and scholars who have a global perspective. Access is free at <http://globalmissiology.org>, including the newly posted January issue. You can find helpful information there, ranging from practitioner-oriented content to scholarly analysis. Pay a visit and look around!

## Who's Who in Missions Information

*Special Profile: Warren Lawrence*

1. [CMIW] **Please tell us about yourself and your family.** [WL] My wife Alisa and I were married in 1987. That same year we attended Urbana together as newlyweds and committed our lives and marriage to mission service unless God would close the door. God blessed and opened the way for us to serve him and he has not closed that door for us yet! I have been serving God in mission research full-time since 1990. We have five children. All but one of our children have graduated high school and three have graduated university. Our youngest is in high school with us in Southeast Asia. We served for nine years (1990-1999) with Global Mapping International based in Colorado. We have served with One Challenge for the past seventeen years (2000-2017) in South East Asia.

2. [CMIW] **What is your current ministry?** [WL] Currently I serve with One Challenge as Director of the Asia Resource Team, as a research consultant for Asia church and mission leaders, as well as a researcher for unreached peoples and unchurched areas of Asia. I have the privilege of working with the leadership of several National Evangelical Alliances in Asia, the Global Church Planting Network-GCPN, the South East Asia Church Planting Network-SEACPN, a movement for frontier peoples church planting-ETHNE, and the South East Asia unreached peoples network-SEALINK as an information consultant.



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

1. Perhaps my most fulfilling research effort was the eight years that I dedicated to the coordination of the Language Mapping Project (LMP). The LMP was a joint initiative of Global Mapping Int'l and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) to map, on computer, the world's languages to aid in tracking disciple-making progress to each language, tribe, tongue and nation. The result of the LMP was a ministry tool called the World Language Mapping System that assists some denominations and language-based organizations in ministry efforts.
2. It was a great privilege to work with Pray Through the 10/40 Window (PTW) ministries in the 1990s at Global Mapping to help design and publish the PTW1, PTW2 and PTW3 prayer mapping resources.
3. In the 2000s, God worked through me and a unique team of ministry partners in our SEALINK network to research and publish a prayer guide for, *The Peoples of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei*. This book, with the Indonesia Unreached Peoples prayer guide served to inspire similar prayer books for the unreached peoples in the Philippines and Cambodia!
4. Lastly, it has been encouraging to see God use our ETHNE network, the India Mission Association and our core team of researchers to launch an all-India Mission Research Network recently.

4. [CMIW] **What dreams do you have for your next ten years of ministry?** [WL] It has been a dream, since Global Mapping days, to help the Church have a clearer picture of the Least Reached Peoples of the earth. In the next ten years, Lord willing, I would like to be a part of the Church better understanding the India and South Asia region that contains an overwhelming majority of the world's least reached population.

A second dream is to assist in the researching of the SEACPN to see the doubling of the churches in the South East Asia countries to 320,000 churches by the end of 2020.

5. [CMIW] **Is there some way you'd be willing to help the CMIW community?** [WL] As a cultural geographer, mission researcher and ministry networker in the Asia region I am happy to partner with those interested in helping Asia's church leaders reach Asia for Christ.

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### Information from the Word

Consider the story of Caleb and Joshua as mission researchers. What additional light does it throw on Patrick's "philosophy of ministry" in this bulletin's lead article? We could, for instance, consider Patrick's numbered principles in the light of these scriptures:

2. Aimed at those on the front line. *Numbers 13:17-20*
3. Part of the leadership structure. *Numbers 13:3*
9. The importance of spiritual life. *Numbers 14:5-9*
10. Re-evaluation and re-articulation. *Joshua 18:1-10*
11. Communicating findings to the Church. *Numbers 13:26*

Do you see other parallels? Let us know!

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#### Final Details:

- This bulletin is produced by the Community of Mission Information Workers Task Force comprised of Larry Kraft, Stephanie Kraft, Chris Maynard & Nelson Jennings. Please send any suggestions of issues to discuss or any other ideas to "[info@globalcmiw.org](mailto:info@globalcmiw.org)".
- Back issues can be found at: [www.globalcmiw.org](http://www.globalcmiw.org).