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This edition of Research LINK focuses on the recent GMI grant of the *Breakthrough Mentoring Suite* to One Challenge and the creation of a Directory of Christian Organizations for Colorado Springs.

We also share two thought provoking quotes from our colleagues at Global Mapping International.

Plus find out how you can subscribe to Research LINK and not miss a single edition.

One Challenge Becomes Steward of GMI Breakthrough Mentoring Suite

One Challenge is thrilled to have been chosen as the recipient of Global Mapping International's *Breakthrough Mentoring Suite*. The *Breakthrough Mentoring Suite* provides a well-defined, time proven process that empowers a mission worker to gather and analyze information to make effective ministry strategies. Two programs are included in the *Breakthrough Mentoring Suite*. The two-month version is called *SearchLite*. The one-year version is called *Breakthrough*. Additional information about the *Breakthrough Mentoring Suite* can be found at OCresearch.info under the *Research Mentoring* tab.

The Global Research Team is thrilled to be able to offer this training to those inside the OC Global Alliance and to other ministry partners. If you know of ministry partners who could benefit from research mentoring, you can refer them to the Global Research Team at Research@oci.org.

OC Creates Directory of Christian Organizations for Colorado Springs

OC has a long history of producing directories of Christian Organizations and workers going all the way back to Taiwan in the 1950s. Stan Downes recently created a directory of Christian Organizations in Colorado Springs. Stan graciously answered our questions about this project.

RL: *What was the motivation behind creating this directory?*

SD: I can mention three primary motivations.

1. Two senior leaders in the Springs who occasionally convene meetings of leaders wanted the directory to be updated. A directory had been prepared at least twice before by another organization. The last update was in 2011. Dean Carlson offered to have OC take on that task.

2. In addition there has been an increase in interest in having leaders get together. Dean is now part of two groups that meet somewhat regularly. The directory will help with organizing such meetings.
3. There has been very little cooperation between organizations in the Springs. Each organization tends to focus on its own ministry, and often that ministry in international (the ends of the earth) with little impact on the local community (Jerusalem). Colorado Springs has a lot of crime and social needs that could be better addressed if the organizations would collaborate more.

RL: *Who is included in the directory?*

SD: The directory includes Christian organizations that are based in or do work in the general Colorado Springs area. Most of the organizations would be considered evangelical. I currently have information on about 180 organizations and am continuing to track down more. I am collecting basic contact information, information about the leader of each organization, a description of the ministry in general, and a description of the ministry (if any) that the group does locally.

RL: *How will this directory benefit workers in Colorado Springs?*

SD: The directory will help organizations find others that are doing similar things or which are working in the same parts of the world. That will enable collaboration. It will also allow people to convene events related to interests that are shared between multiple organizations. It will also provide a means for communicating information that may be of interest to the whole community of organizations.

Directories of this sort are primarily a tool that people can use to connect with one another.

RL: *How did you go about gathering information about these groups?*

SD: I started with the previous version of the directory and also had a copy of another significant list prepared by another individual here in the Springs. I also used the Christian "Yellow Pages" that had a section on organizations. I added additional organizations as I became aware of them. I got what information I could about each group from the internet and prepared a document for each organization with all the information I had. I then sent that document to each organization so they could verify or change the information.

RL: *This is not the first directory you've had a part in creating. What do you see as the value to OC and the Church in creating such directories?*

SD: Directories of this sort are primarily a tool that people can use to connect with one another. We can do more for the Lord if we work wisely and work together. Directories provide a means for sharing of information and other resources. While this directory will help organizations collaborate, it should also improve cooperation between organizations and the churches in the area.

RL: *What were some of the challenges you had to overcome to create this directory?*

SD: The biggest challenge has been getting some of the organizations to respond. Some never have responded in spite of multiple emails and phone calls. I have actually gotten in my car to go visit a few of them that I really wanted to have in the directory.

Another challenge has been to decide which organizations to include. I have chosen not to include church daycare programs or pre-schools. I have been encouraged to include Catholic charities, but haven't done that yet. It has also been a challenge to know which for-profit organizations to include. I have not included companies that have Christian leadership unless the purpose of the company is a ministry. For example, I have included a company that produces evangelistic and other materials for churches and another company that sets up small water distribution businesses overseas.

RL: *Is there anything else you would like to share about this project?*

SD: It is one thing to collect data. It is quite another to encourage or facilitate its use. I have just started to think about what OC can do to encourage and facilitate collaboration using this information. For example I am looking into ways that information from the organizations can be helpful to local churches and ways that information on church projects can be shared with the organizations.

GMI Research Quotes

Here are two thought provoking quotes that honor the contribution of our friends at Global Mapping International to the ministry of research.

The right information in the right hands at the right time has a powerful effect.

Bob Waymire, OC Research Pioneer and Founder of Global Mapping International

Asking the right questions to the right people in the right way in order to gather information that provides fresh insight leading toward creative recommendations and actions according to God's will and for his glory.

Global Mapping International's Definition of Research

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Questions or Comments?

Research LINK is a quarterly bulletin produced by the Research Department of One Challenge and distributed among workers within the OC Global Alliance. Share your comments or questions with us at Research@oci.org . For additional information about OC Research visit www.OCresearch.info.