

August 14, 2018

Dear Statistical Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write in the wake of a very successful JSM 2018 for ICS. Hallelujah - the LORD is building the house (Psalm 127:1)! In what follows, I will fill you in on: (1) JSM, (2) Year in Review, (3) News on our status with ASA, (4) What's coming this year, and (5) Closing.

**[1. JSM]** We had about 50 people attend the meeting, which is the most I've ever seen. Peter Kozushko shared about a pre-post survey he conducted for his D. Min research to assess the effectiveness of a presentation on a modern defense of the reliability of the gospels (his slides and a video of his original presentation will be available on our [website](#)). The ensuing discussion was rich and could have continued into the night. Regarding our ICS Table, we had it covered for at least 10 hours during which time we gave away 56 Bibles (Spanish – 5; Large Print English – 11; Chinese CCB – 6; Chinese/English – 8; Korean – 2; English (NASB) – 24), shared the good news with at least 3 attendees, prayed for attendees, and had many thought-provoking and seed-planting conversations! For next year, in addition to our annual meeting/discussion, we would like to sponsor an invited session. If you would be interested in helping organize it, including speaking/discussant, please contact Don Lewis ASAP.

**[2. Year in Review]** By the grace of God, we have gained momentum this last year, some of the fruit of which we saw at JSM. The board worked effectively together. We hosted two webinars (see [website](#) for recordings). We completed one successful statistical consulting job (survey for Portland pro-life ministry First Image). Our email list is now over 400 statisticians. Lastly, we held our first formal election for board members, with unanimous approval of both new officers! Thank you for voting – our process is working! Thank You, LORD!

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Last Year (2017-18)</b>	<b>Next Year (2018-19)</b>	
<b>Chair-Elect</b>	Don Lewis	Gideon Bahn	gideonbahn@gmail.com
<b>Chair</b>	Jason Wilson	Don Lewis	lewisdkl@comcast.net
<b>Past-Chair</b>	---	Jason Wilson	jason.wilson@biola.edu
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Paul Stephenson	Paul Stephenson	stephenp@gvsu.edu
<b>Secretary</b>	Diane Richardson	Dongfeng Wu	dongfeng.wu@louisville.edu

**[3. ASA Status]** As you may recall, the board sought this year to improve our status within the ASA by becoming a formal Outreach Group. The process included a phone meeting with three ICS board members and Ron Wasserstein and four ASA board members which was positive and constructive. Nevertheless, our request was denied. After major deliberation, they formulated a policy that requires ASA Outreach Groups to have an explicitly statistical identity, as opposed to a religion, or other non-statistical identity. While this is disappointing, we found them to be considerate, objective, and fair in their treatment. We retain all we have had from the ASA in the past (JSM table, meeting room, website, and ASA community group). This will likely prove to be a blessing in disguise as one of the tasks of the board this year will be to revisit our organizational affiliation. One option under serious consideration is the formation of a

501c3, with which our new chair is familiar. If you have any questions, or would like to provide input to the board on this decision, please email Dongfeng Wu.

**[4. Upcoming Year]** As good as all of the above is, the most exciting of all is the building materials the LORD is assembling this year....

**[Webinar]** We have a monthly webinar series planned for the year that will help us to better see the world from God's perspective and more deeply integrate Christ into all of life. The first webinar will be Sept 12, noon (EDT, 9am PDT). [See website for more details and to register.](#)

**[Consulting]** We have established contact with some Christian non-profits, churches, and missions organizations. We need volunteers to both lead and serve on consulting teams. In particular, we are looking for survey statisticians! If you would like to find out more information on consulting with missions organizations, please contact Cathy Jenkins, [jenkica17@gmail.com](mailto:jenkica17@gmail.com). To find out about all other consulting, contact Don Lewis.

**[Mentoring Program]** George Tseng of U. Pitt wrote, "I would be glad to participate or help establish [the ICS mentoring program] if it is a vision of at least multiple of us.... If our group decides to develop a mentoring program, we'll need to first recruit enough God-fearing, experienced and willing mentors. I suggest we then take time to pray together, discuss vision and plan (e.g. define the scope, frequency and suggested methods for mentoring). We should be well-prepared before we advertise and seek interested mentees to get help so that our mentoring is not from human ideas but is with wisdom, truth and spirit from God. After all, many already have mentors in their own department and ASA also has some sort of mentoring matching." Wow, thanks George! Is the LORD drawing you to help establish this? Would you like to be such a mentor? If so, please email Dongfeng Wu.

**[Communications]** In light of not getting Outreach Status with ASA, we will not have access to the non-ASA-member email functionality we had anticipated through ASA Community. The board will discuss the best solution to this issue, but it will include switching from my email address to a dedicated ICS email address. Thanks to Cathy Poliak for volunteering to continue help with this aspect of our organization.

**[5. Closing]** Brothers and sisters, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I write my last chair's report to you. I hereby pass the baton to our new chair, Don Lewis - a man of deep Christian commitment, 38 years of statistical and ministry experience, and a profound burden to see this ministry expand and flourish. I have every confidence that the LORD will lead this ministry to new heights under his leadership. I will support Don this year as past-chair, and then I will step out and make room for fresh leadership. Thank you for supporting me over the past eight years. In particular, I would like to thank those who helped in some way at JSM 2018: Don Lewis, Paul Stephenson, Diane Richardson, Soeun Kim, David Bristol, Mei-Miau, Luis and Guillermo Frank, Andrew Hartley, Matthew Hawkes, David Ruth, Peter Kozushko, Byran Smucker, and the ASA.

I see a day when we have a webinar coordinator who oversees 'big' webinars on specific topics as well as 'small group' webinars that meet regularly for prayer and discussion. I see a day when we have an annual invited session at JSM that strengthens the moral, ethical, and spiritual fiber of our discipline. I see a day when we branch out and have tables and meetings at other statistic conferences, like CPS and SDSS. I see a day when we have a reputation for Christian statistical consulting, with a repertoire of successful past church surveys to draw from, overseas missions work accelerated due to our analysis, and non-profits strengthened from our technical work. I see a day when we have a budget, providing JSM travel support

to Christian grad students and international faculty; and honorariums to noteworthy strategic speakers for invited sessions. In order to get to that day, we need to start with today.

Let me close on the verse with which I opened our JSM meeting: Exodus 31:6. The context is the LORD appointing leadership to build the tabernacle – temporary housing for His presence among the people,

*And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you.*

In the same way as the Israelites, so too, has the LORD appointed and spiritually equipped leaders like Oholiab in OUR midst to lead all of the craftsmen-statisticians to build a structure for God's presence in the midst of the statistics community – and our other respective spheres. The new, and still forming, structure of our organization is analogous to the tabernacle. The equipping webinars, mentoring program, and consulting projects are analogous to the craftsmen and craftswomen doing the LORD's work. Would you please pray for us, and watch for openings the LORD gives you to help?

In Christ,

Jason Wilson

ICS Past-Chair

[www.christianstatisticians.org](http://www.christianstatisticians.org)