

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES

c/o Dept. of Missiology IIME
Boerhaavelaan 43, 2334 ED LEIDEN, The Netherlands

MINUTES of Executive Committee Meeting,

August 17-19, 1979 - Dunbar Hall, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Present: J. Aagaard (Chairman), G.E. Anderson, F.J. Verstraelen (Secretary),
P.R. Clifford, A. Camps, Joan Chatfield, C.E. Padilla.

Absent (with regret): E.A. Adeolu Adegbola, D.P. Niles.

Since all members who were expected were already present around noon-time (17/8), a brainstorming session was held starting from recent experience, meetings and reflections. This in view of formulating a provisional theme for the next IAMS General Meeting.
The meeting proper started after supper.

1. The Minutes of the previous Ex.Ctee meeting (Amsterdam, 17-19 November, 1978) were passed without comments.

2. Correspondence

- A cable sent by Preman Niles was read informing about his inability to attend because of official and domestic problems.
- Ade Adegbola in a letter expressed his disappointment for not being able to attend because of some compelling reasons. (N.E. New address: P.O.Box 9270, Ibadan, Nigeria).

3. Financial Matters

- The 'Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December, 1978' was passed with the addition that the ASM donated 500 US\$ towards the Maryknoll Conference.
 - Two formal resolutions in connection with the transfer of IAMS money to The Royal Bank of Scotland were read and approved of, and hereafter signed by the Chairman (Aagaard) and Secretary (Verstraelen). Copies of these resolutions are in the possession of the Treasurer (Clifford) and attached to the original minutes in the IAMS Secretariat, Leiden.
 - In a discussion on the actual and prospective financial position of the IAMS the following points were mentioned:
 - . Camps told that he finds it more difficult to get money, though CMC (Holland) and Missio (Aachen) are still favourable; he still expects a subsidy from 'Aid to the Church in Need' for travel expenses of Committee members of the Third World (about Fl. 12.000).
 - . It was said that most Protestant organisations in USA are financially in trouble.
 - . Subscription fees from individual IAMS members are coming in all right, but corporate members tend to limit their fees to the minimum.
- Conclusion: the financial position of IAMS is for the time being all right.

- A recommendation re. Travel Arrangements to the IAMS Congresses, drafted by the Treasurer was accepted. The procedure will be as follows:
 1. The Treasurer be notified by the Secretary as early as possible of the travel plans of each participant.
 2. A quotation be obtained from the Travel Agent in London of the **cheapest** return fare available to him.

3. The participant be notified at once of the cost, and if he is able to obtain a cheaper concession in his own country he should do so and claim for reimbursement. Otherwise the ticket will be bought in the U.K. and telexed to the point of departure.
4. The Association would not be prepared to meet any additional cost incurred by the participant over and above the quotation from the Travel Agent.

4. IAMS Membership

4.1. Resignations: all members (19 indiv.; 1 corporate) who had resigned were scrutinized. The main reason for resigning is reaching retiring age. Although it was mentioned that e.g. in U.K. retirement means also a meagre income, it was said that if IAMS membership continued to be of importance, each person would be in a position to pay the subscription fee.

However, a list of members who already for years had not paid their fees, was examined. Most of them were taken off the IAMS membership list (however, each will receive an announcement of this fact with the explanation why it is done, so that there is a chance for 'repentance'). All in all: 21 individual and 5 corporate members were cancelled.

4.2. New Applications: The following applicants were accepted as IAMS members: 9 from USA (Thomas P. Banat, Roland Foster, Rose Marie Franklin, Stephen T. Eoke, Gerald J. Persha, Waldron Scott, Samuel Silva-Gotay, James B. Vigen), 10 from rest of the world (Gerald Benjamin Ball, Benedikt Bujo, Enrique Dussel, Michael Louis Fitzgerald, John S. Mutiso-Mbinda, Lars Anders Thunberg, Enda Watters, Jan Weitjens, Antonie Wessels, John Wilson Gladstone).

Mr. Robert F. Rice was delayed because of an incomplete form (a new application form will be sent to him).

Three persons were accepted under condition that first an application-form will be received: T. Valentino Sitoy Jr., Rev. Robert P. Peters and Ernest H.-G. Reid.

4.3. Criteria: Though no special paper had been prepared (based on former discussions in ex. ctee meetings), there was a consensus to state that a criterion for admission to IAMS membership is: to be seriously interested and involved in mission studies, with some evidence of it.

4.4. Internationalisation:

- Key-people in *Africa, Asia and Latin-America* (concerned with mission in one or other way) should be approached, preferably by ex. ctee member of respective continent, to join and strengthen the fellowship of IAMS. Forms and IAMS-brochures should be enclosed.

- The question was raised about the non-participation of our *German members*. Two points were stressed:

1. according to some members IAMS and its conferences are 'nicht wissenschaftlich'.
2. the existing rivalry between the protestant missiological centers: Tübingen (right), Hamburg (left) and Heidelberg (middle).

Because Gensichen is connected with IAMS, Hargull and Beyerhaus are disconnected? (However, Schreiner, Bürkle, Kohler, Wagner, do not seem to belong to this rivalry):

The Catholic German members also do not consider IAMS sufficiently 'wissenschaftlich' (whatever it means!)

- In order to guarantee some continuity and continued interest and involvement of important key-people it was decided to nominate

all former presidents as advisory members of the executive committee, who will receive all information and documentation regarding ex. ctee meetings; it is however understood that this does not carry any financial obligation to make attendance possible.

A. Camps will contact to this end H. Gensichen and inform him about this ex. ctee's intentions in this respect. The ex. ctee will present this decision to the next general meeting for approval.

5. On keeping IAMS membership meaningful in between Conferences

5.1. Working Party on Documentation, etc.

Several times during the meeting the situation that had arisen after the postponement of the Aberdeen meeting (14-17 August, 1979), was discussed. There were differences of opinion regarding the reason of postponement, commitments made and new steps to be taken. After lengthy deliberations (in which W. Menkel and A. Walls partly took part), it was decided that the postponed meeting should be held in Rome, 25-31 July 1980 at the Universitas Urbaniana (opposite Vatican).

W. Menkel guaranteed that all necessary arrangements could be made. Because of the new venue some suggestions were proposed to revise and adapt the programme. Regarding the financial obligation incurred because of not using the premises of Dunbar Hall (University of Aberdeen), it was decided that the Treasurer would seek the most favourable solution. Because A. Walls felt that, by transferring the Documentation meeting from Aberdeen to Rome and by the suggestions made re. the programme, the concept of the meeting had altered. He therefore asked the executive committee to be released as president of the Working Party. He, however, said to be ready to work for IAMS as a loyal member. Hereupon, A.F. Walls was asked to reconsider his request.

However, in order to prepare the coming meeting in Rome and to adapt the programme in time it was decided that the following persons would soon meet in Amsterdam: J. Aagaard, W. Menkel, A. Walls and F.J. Verstraelen. J. Aagaard was prepared to act as chairman of the Rome-meeting. September 28-30 was fixed as a provisional date.

5.2. Continental Workinggroups on Biblical Studies and Missiology.

F. Verstraelen reported in general on the responses of those who expressed their readiness to act as 'motores and coordinatores' of a taskforce concerned with Biblical Studies and Missiology: H.R. Spindler (Europe), J.W. Bergquist (North-America), C.R. Padilla (Latin America), Ade Adegbola (Africa), D.P. Niles/Choon Chee Pang (Asia).

There were already 3 papers/outlines available, these were briefly discussed.

1. *Latin America*: R. Padilla presented a paper 'Missiology in Latin America: Biblical Insights', outlining a plan for further study. This was prepared in consultation with Orlando Costas, Higuez Bonino and Sidney Rooy. The paper mentioned 13 persons as possible authors. The trend of materialistic Bible reading is represented by Juan Luis Segundo and Miranda.

The approach will be twofold: survey of what is done and additional research in relation to new Biblical insights in mission. The year 1982 was envisaged as target for finalizing the project.

2. *North America*: J.W. Bergquist had prepared a 'Preliminary Proposal re. The Importance of Recent Biblical Research for Missiology' (North American Region).

To form a taskforce of biblical scholars and missiologists, he had approached a number of N. American biblical scholars both Old and New Testament, holding preliminary and exploratory discussions with several. However, in the proposal no names were mentioned. Sr. Joan Chatfield proposed as possible co-workers Luis Alonso Schückle S.J. and Donald Seniur (Walsh-Brice fellowship). James Bergquist mentioned also the possibility for himself to spend the major part of an academic sabbatical (1981) researching and writing on this project. Target for completion: by summer 1982. Re. thematic studies, the suggestion was made to add also: Encounter of Gospel with religion(s).

3. *Europe*: H.E. Spindler had from his holiday address sent a paper to the Secretary entitled 'Task force Missiology and Bible Studies', in which he outlined more the product of his own thoughts than that of an extended inquiry. Different stages are envisaged: bibliographical inquiry; inquiry among Biblical scholars and missiologists in various European countries. Some names mentioned by ex. ctce members: Siegfried Pederson (Theol. Fac. Aarhus), Bürkle, Schreiner, Hahn in Germany (ask whether young persons are studying in this field), Alonso (?- Italy). It was said that the tension between biblical scholarship and missiological relevance was well expressed under HB at the bottom of page 2.

General conclusions: appreciation was expressed for the serious preliminary work done. Each regional group should be encouraged to develop its own format, though the common topic should remain: biblical studies related to missiology. Different approaches are already now becoming visible. North American and European outlines ask for relevancy of biblical scholarship (object is reading and researching all the exegetical stuff and relate it to missionary situations), the Latin American approach wants to study the Bible rather in the light of people.

In order to stimulate interest in this study project and to remain with it, progress reports should be published regularly in IAMS Newsletter. Because this project should be considered more a process than a complete rounding off, the target of presenting the results should be 1982 !

5.3. IAMS Newsletter

- *Content* for December issue (no. 15): the Rome-meeting (25-31 July 1980), plans for next general Conference in Bangalore (4-9 Jan. 1982), outlines of regional taskforces for Biblical Studies and Missiology, etc. etc..

- *Advertisements*: it was decided that the price of a full-page advertisement on cover would be 100 US\$ and on other pages 75 US\$.

(Because OMSC had paid for the expenses of the new IAMS Brochures it would get one free ad.)

- 5.4. No mention was made of any regional meeting to be recommended by IAMS.

C. Next Conference.

Every ctce member had received information about investigations in Bangalore by IAMS President. There was a consensus to go to India. The

questions discussed were: when, what theme and how.

Time: Taking into account the fact of three major theological and missionary meetings in 1980, (Melbourne; Pattaya; Third World Theologians), it was considered wise not to have the IAMS Conference beginning 1981, but beginning 1982.

According to IAMS Constitution general meetings should take place every three years. This means that January 1982 would be 6 months later - The Ctee, aware of this, is however prepared to defend this decision before the forthcoming general meeting.

Positive points are: a better preparation is guaranteed, in which also the results of the three meetings of 1980 can be incorporated; there will be more time for raising adequate funds. Besides: there will be a IAMS meeting in 1980 anyhow (though restricted to people really involved in documentation); also the research of the various continental Taskforces on Biblical Studies and Missiology will require much time and energy in the period 1980-1982.

The IAMS Newsletter will inform IAMS members already in advance about this decision.

Dates proposed are: 4-9 January 1982 for the meeting proper. Opportunity will be given for participants to be exposed to some typical Asian (christian/missionary) situations (in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Dates for exposures: 31 December 1981-4 January 1982.

Theme: meeting in India will be more difficult for certain IAMS members than in Maryknoll. The style will be more modest, etc. The result will probably be that less people participate (150?). But this may contribute to quality. An important issue, affecting the outlook and orientation of the whole Conference is the theme. During a brainstorming session a provisional theme was formulated: *Salvation and the human condition*. This is considered a typical Indian challenge, yet Universal, because India mirrors the human condition as such. The question was asked whether the theme as it stands would not be too academic/neutral, should therefore 'mission' or something similar not be added? Is it *salvation 'from' or 'out of', or 'in', or 'to' the human condition*? At any rate, it is not only a question of restructuring society, it goes much deeper and has something to do with metanoia. The ctee agreed that 'salvation and the human condition' is a working area in which we think to develop the theme. All IAMS members will be invited to assist in locating and clarifying a central and inspiring theme for the next conference.

J. Aagaard will prepare a text for the next IAMS Newsletter, to which all IAMS members can react with suggestions, in this way contributing to the development of the programme.

Procedure: First of all a letter must go out to Rev. J.R. Chandran, Principal of the United Theological College, informing him about the new plans (which includes also an Ex. Ctee meeting in Bangalore, 30 Dec.- 2 Jan. 1981).

As soon as dates and accommodation are guaranteed, an official writing should go out to *Christian bodies* (Nat. Christian Council, Bishops' Conference and Evangelical group via Bruce Nicholls) to inform them about this forthcoming IAMS meeting in Bangalore.

Important is the formation of a local committee, effective and of a broad christian spectrum.

The question of *speakers* must be considered in an early stage. Whether non-Christian speakers will be invited depends on the format. The idea is to have a minimum of lectures and a good number of interest-groups (workshops), in which also members of non-Christian faiths can participate;

the open forum is also an accepted feature. Although India is the focus, bridges must be built towards situations in other parts of the world. In how far Indian Christians will be present at the preparatory meeting of the ex. ctee in Bangalore (20 Dec. - 2 Jan. 1981) will be considered in the next ctee meeting.

At any rate, we would like to have present at the Bangalore Conference (1982): *M.M. Thomas* and *Sam Rayan*, who will already now be invited (*M.M.* for a key-lecture).

Also 'reactors' should be invited from other parts of the world: *S.J.* Latin America, African woman, Indian woman (e.g. *Romila Thapar*).

Other people mentioned in connection with the Bangalore meeting: *Richard W. Taylor*, *Leslie Newkigin*, *Saphir Athyal*, *Viney*, *Pearl Drago* and *Oswald Sommerstan*.... (addresses please : F.V.)

7. Cooperation with missiology

J. Anderson explained why there were so many difficulties around Missiology. 1979/1, containing the Maryknoll Conference Report. Because of changes in management (the administration now moved to Elkhart, Indiana, which is supposed to be helpful for the smooth running of M). Things are alright now ! *Arthur Glasser* has been reelected as President ASI. There is still a willingness and eagerness to cooperate with IAMS e.g. by devoting one issue of Missiology per year to IAMS concerns. It is proposed to offer the Rome-proceedings to Missiology 1982, and to elicit a special issue on India in 1981 in preparation for the 1982 Bangalore meeting. This presupposes that *Glasser* has to attend the Rome-meeting. *Glasser* should be informed about these proposals, with a copy to *Willard Roth* (ASI Publisher, Mennonite Board of Missions, Elkhart, Indiana, USA).

8. Cooperation with Theol. Associations

A concrete occasion for contacting the Theol. Associations is by sending to them information about the forthcoming meeting in Rome (however, without any commitment of money).

There are 3 types of Associations:

- a. *TEP*-related theological colleges: (Geneva; S.East Asian Theol. Assoc., etc.)
Director of *TEP* is *Marvin Hoff* (*J. Anderson* is also involved)
- b. *Evangelical*: we should be careful in pulling them in; their question is how serious IAMS is about evangelism (*Bong Rin Ro*). The topmen are not (yet) in IAMS (e.g. *Norman Anderson*, Prof. of Islamic Law, Bangalore, who is more significant than *Stott*; *Saphir Athyal* etc.)
- c. *Roman Catholic*: *Opus Scti Petri*, etc.

9. Representation of IAMS at Worldconferences

After considering the answers received from the various bodies the following proposals were made:

- a. WCC/CWIE conference Melbourne, May 11-25, 1980: write to Dr. Castro proposing the President (*J. Aagaard*) and Vice-President (*G. Anderson*) to be invited.
- b. Lausanne/World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand, June 16-27, 1980: to accept the invitation sent to *F.J. Verstraelen*
- c. EATWOT/Lat. American meeting in Sao Paulo, Brasil, 20 Febr.-3 March, 1980: to suggest *R. Padilla* as observer

The Secretary will write to these organisations about these proposals. The idea is that the ex.ctee members attending these meetings will channel their experiences and insights/questions into the next ex.ctee meeting (24/7-1/8, 1980 in Rome).

10. Other points

- a. It was resolved to put forward to the next General Conference a recommendation that past presidents of the IAMS shall be advisory members of the executive committee (with the explanation that this does not imply their attendance nor financial obligations).
- b. P. R. Clifford would like to see that 'mission' be put on the agenda in meetings of BC and other Christians in U.K. organised by the British Council of Churches (with reference to a meeting in Venice on 'dialogue and mission').
- c. To invite both M.H. Thomas and Sam. Bayan for the ex.tee meeting in Bangalore (1981) and the Vth IAMS Conference (1982).

11. Next executive committee meeting

will take place immediately before and after the Rome-meeting i.e. 24 July and 1 August, 1980 in Rome (Universitas Urbaniana).

Leiden, 13 September, 1979

F.J. V.