

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting 12 - 16 January 1989, Bossey

Present: J.S.Pobee, M. Amaladoss, M. Hoesl, G. Cook, M.J. Mananzan, J.S.Ukpong
G.Verstraelen-Gilhuis, N.E. Thomas, C.Grundmann, P.Clifford, C.Johannsen,
J. Wietzke

Apologies: Th. Kramm

The meeting started with a warm reception by the Bossey staff headed by A. Geense.

The president welcomes the new IAMS Executive and expresses the hope that

- this meeting helps us to spell out the joint vision of IAMS
- we grow together to make IAMS a useful instrument in service to God's mission.

Evaluation of Rome Conference

The Secretary introduces comments made by Conference participants on the basis of their evaluation papers and follow up correspondence. The discussion centres on the non negotiable aspects to be kept in mind in preparation for the next Conference. The following elements are to be retained

- the focus on a central theme and an integral program
- the emphasis on the Bible
- the platform and forum character of the Conference
- the central place of worship
- the opportunity for exposure experiences.

The following elements are to be stressed or changed

- to introduce the theme by key lectures (number controversial) and panel discussion (rather than response lecture)
- to give more room to forum papers trying to overcome the individualistic approach by grouping them in clusters of concern
- to make the whole a forum for sharing international study projects in mission rather than a Church Congress
- to integrate the IAMS projects into the Conference (rather than additional meetings at the end)
- to provide room for small Bible study groups related to the Conference theme (rather than lecture type Bible studies in plenary)
- to plan regional meeting to stimulate networks of scholars
- to have a cultural night.

Conference Report

A letter of appreciation should go to Missio/Aachen for financing the report in MISSION STUDIES No. 10 and to Th. Kramm for producing the report.

MISSION STUDIES No. 11 should have a selection of additional Conference papers, i.e.

- forum papers (Yates, Gort, Krohling, Ustorf, Ikenga-Metuh)
- project-papers (BISAM, DAB, HEALING)
- report on worship by E. Bernard
- presentations on exposure experiences

In addition to this

- letter from the President
- perspectives on IAMS projects (based on reports presented at the Executive meeting)

- reflection on the Rome Conference, e.g. paper by Mar Osthathios
- new membership list
- photos of Executive members.

The phraseology of the new treasury is: Selly Oak Colleges - Martin Conway/
Marcella Hoesl.

Since space is limited, there should be no Communication section this time.

The following proposals were made in regard to the lay out of MS

- to reconsider the cover
- to include inscription "MISSION STUDIES No. ..." on spine (if possible) and at the beginning of each article (like "Missiology" magazine).

Th. Kramm is requested to make a proposal at the next Exec. meeting.

IAMS Leaflet

The Exec. agrees on a revised version of the present leaflet (see encl.).
G. Cook is requested to produce the Spanish translation, E. Bernard the French version. The Spanish title of the Association is changed into "Asociación Internacional de Estudios de la Misión".

Regional Impact of IAMS

The executive is aware of the task

- to recruit membership for IAMS especially in areas like Latin America, Pacific, Middle East, Eastern Europe
- to get the agenda of IAMS to the regions.

There is need to throw more responsibility on IAMS members in the region in order to make IAMS grow from bottom to top rather than the other way round. The following persons are considered to be key-figures to stimulate this gradual though uneven process

Latin America - G. Cook, R. Padilla
Pacific - M. J. Mananzan, J. Chatfield
Middle East - Tarek Mitri, Th. Stransky
Asia - M. Amaladoss, M.J. Mananzan
Africa - J. Ukpong, G.Verstraelen-Gilhuis, D. Bosch

New Membership

The following are accepted as new members of IAMS

1. Corporate members

St. Ephrem Ecumenical Institute /S.E.E.R.I., Kottayam, Kerala, India

2. Individual members

Nicolas Bado, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Jean Pierre Bastian, Mexico D.F., Mexico
Jean-Pierre Benit D.I.C.M., Brussels, Belgium
Albert G. Cohen, Pasadena, CA, USA
Richard G. Cote, Ottawa, Canada
Edmund Davis, Kingston, Jamaica
T. Dayanandan, Madras, India
Jan Gorski, Eichstätt, Fed.Rep.of Germany (on study leave from Poland)
Joseph Gross, Paris, France
Wolfgang Günther, Hermannsburg, Fed.Rep.of Germany
Roelf L. Haan, Utrecht, Netherlands
Marcella Hoesl, Selly Oak, U.K.

David Lim, Manila, Philippines
Cyrus Hee-Suk Moon, Bossey/Geneva, Switzerland
Margaret-Mary Moore, Rome, Italy
Andrews Sunday Oyalana, Ibadan, Nigeria
Helene O'Sullivan, Rome, Italy
Solomon Pulidindi Raj, Vijayawada, India
John Riches, Glasgow, U.K.
A. Jacob Thekeparampil, Kottayam, Kerala, India
Johannes Triebel, Neuendettelsau, Fed. Rep. of Germany
Antony Vallavanthara, Leuven, Belgium

The membership applications of L.S. Konzapi and B.M. Ngqozela are postponed for further consultation with J.D. Gort and D. Bosch.

The application of Bishop Ndimi for membership of the Evangelical Methodist Church (T), Mwanza, Tanzania, is not accepted.

Finances

P.R. Clifford presents

- the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31st December 1988
- the revised statement of receipts and expenditures of the Rome Conference (including Lira account)
- the statement of receipts and payments US\$-account Jan. 1 - July 22, 1988.

The Executive adopts them subject to the audit report with many thanks to the outgoing treasurer.

It is highly appreciated to come out of the Rome Conference with a surplus of about 20,000 Pound Sterling. A letter of thanks should go to the donors requesting them to use this surplus for travel of Third World participants at IAMS Executive meetings. However, the general financial situation of IAMS is a matter of deep concern, since the annual total income does not match the expenditure.

On the basis of this the Executive takes the following decision:

1. The Treasury, President and Secretary are requested
 - to review the financial situation of IAMS
 - to draw up a budget for 1989 and 1990 or preferably a three year budget
 - to explore further sources to raise funds.
2. Martin Conway, Marcella Hoesl, Gillian Davis are authorized to be the signatories for the IAMS Treasurership.
3. The Treasury is asked to investigate the possibility of opening local accounts with IAMS related institutions in the regions.
4. The treasury is given the discretion to handle the IAMS investments.
5. M.J. Mananzan is asked to provide figures for printing and mailing costs of MISSION STUDIES in/from the Philippines (see enclosure).

IAMS Projects

The conveners of BISAM, DAB, HEALING present their reports (see MS 11).

BISAM: In addition to the four task forces outlined by J. Pobe (Syriac tradition; IIMO study on witness; Bible, spirituality and mission;

southern and feminist perspectives on mission) M. Hoesl recommends the following

- Bible and interfaith dialogue
- Scriptures of the major religions: hermeneutical keys
- Bible in context

DAB: N. Thomas underlines the need to find institutes taking leadership for the various tasks. P. Jenkins continues to be responsible for the Archives section. E. Bernard is requested to be in charge of the Documentation section. The budget request is accepted up to 4000 Pound Sterling as a total for the next 3 years. Serious attempts have to be made to raise extra funds. The convener is going to approach J. Chatfield for potential funds from the Ford Foundation.

Healing: The convener's report proves that the HEALING project has developed into a genuine IAMS project with a global perspective and wide local participation. It meets the lack of theological reflection to be observed with CMC. However, close contacts with CMC have to be established in order to avoid duplication and to make the best use of available funds.

Since the convener of the HEALING project is not an Executive member it is considered necessary to provide for a reciprocal process of information between the Executive and the convener. There should be a progress report once a year. The HEALING convener should participate at Executive meetings whenever necessary in view of the agenda.

The Executive approves the following general criteria for IAMS Projects:

1. The topics need to have an inter-national, intercultural and inter-denominational outreach and interest.
2. There must be a missiological focus.
3. No topic should be taken up already handled by existing "fora" or institutions.
4. Before launching a new project there should be a preliminary study leading to an interest group at the next conference. Only after testing the interest of IAMS members the project is taken up for serious consideration by the Executive.
5. There must be a person in the Executive to follow up the project.

Teaching of Missiology

J. Pobee introduces his outline "Towards a Handbook on the Teaching of Missiology - An Ecumenical Perspective".

The topic is considered of high importance and touches on basic questions like the following:

How does this proposal relate to the "ongoing project of education in mission"? (Marcella)

What is the distinctive missiological orientation of IAMS over against PTE and others? (Mary John)

Is missiology one theological discipline among others or rather a common concern to be infused in all disciplines? (Michael)

J. Pobee refers to new developments at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey and proposes to bring back the issue of education in mission to the next Executive.

Next Conference Venue

The Secretary presents the letter of invitation from the...

and the Hawaii Council of Churches
Hawaii Loa College

There is also a letter from Faith Sand recommending to have the next Conference at Recife. Though Brazil is considered to be a place to meet as soon as possible, at present there is neither an official invitation nor a reliable local planning committee.

In view of this situation the Executive makes the unanimous decision to explore the possibilities of having the next Conference in Hawaii. G. Cook is asked to build up a IAMS network in Latin America and to work towards planning the 1995 Conference in Brazil.

Conference Theme

A sub group working on the theme came up with the following proposal:

1. The Meaning and Validity of Cross Cultural Evangelism as a Call to Conversion and Union with Christ.
2. Christian Mission in the Light of the Globalisation of Advanced Technology
3. The Place of Ideologies in the Understanding and Promotion of Christian Mission
4. Global Capitalism, its so-called Crisis and the Possibility of a Just Economic System in the Context of and for the Future Christian Mission
5. Urbanization and Mission: City and Kingdom
6. The Forgotten Factor: "I am with you always"
7. Christian Mission in the Age of Science and Technology
8. The Kingdom (Reign) of God and the Kingdoms of this World
9. Christ and the Plurality of Religions
10. Ecology, Wholeness and Mission
11. Texts and Contexts of World Christianity
12. The Great Commission - Claim and Reality of Christian Mission Today

From the first brainstorming session emerge the following clusters of issues:

a) Mission and the Modern World

"We have to be concerned with the most burning issues of today, i.e. globalization, urbanization, science and technology. This has to be met with a message of wholeness" (Michael)

"We are in the midst of a movement towards a monolithic culture. We have to face the issue of Christian mission and new humanity." (Marcella)

"We have to keep in mind the context of the venue. Ecology is a big issue in the Pacific." (Justin)

b) Plurality of Religions

"Pluralism is the cutting edge of present day theological debate. We cannot avoid this issue dividing missiologists into two camps." (Norman)

"There is a lot of experience in Christian-Buddhist encounter in Hawaii." (Joachim)

c) The Kingdom of God and the Kingdoms of this World

Paul Clifford refers to an exciting study "The Kingdom of God and the North East of England" and pleads for a theme relating the kingdom message to the "pathetic theologies of today".

The second session focusses the attention on the proposed theme No. 8 and 9 (Mission in a Plural World). The phrasing of No. 8 "The Reign of God and the Kingdoms of this World" is considered to be the most challenging and inclusive one covering also the concerns of the No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 10. This, however, is not yet the final choice. We are still in the phase of exploration rather than conclusion.

Conference Schedule

Enclosed is a first draft of the Conference schedule. Time was short to discuss it at depth.

Next Executive Meeting

It is desirable to go to Hawaii before the next Executive to come to a final decision on the venue. If possible the President, the Secretary (M. Hoesl or M. Conway?), G. Cook and M. J. Mananzan should go to Hawaii the first week of January 1990 (arrival Monday night, departure Thursday morning).

The Executive is going to meet somewhere in the USA (Chicago?)

Thursday, 4 January, evening
to Monday, 8 January, noon.

Norman Thomas is requested to look for a suitable place to meet.

Meeting with CWME Staff

Gerhard Linn, Joan Delaney and Fred Wilson introduce the preparation for the San Antonio Conference scheduled for May 1989. We are left with the challenging question whether IAMS being a free Association of scholars and mission people makes full use of its liberty (over against the member church bound CWME) to give a vigorous lead in present day mission thinking.

Lunch with the WCC General Secretary and Heads of WCC Departments

The meeting comes to a close with an invitation for lunch by Emilio Castro. He outlines the great opportunities God is providing to the ecumenical movement by recent developments in the socialist countries. Is IAMS aware of these new frontiers in mission?

April 7, 1989

Joachim Wietzke

enclosures: IAMS leaflet
MISSION STUDIES cost calculation
Conference Schedule (first draft)