



IAMS matters April - August 2013

Dear colleagues in Mission studies,

We are gradually back to the everyday routines after the assembly year which is reflected in the fact that this bulletin contains less news than the previous ones.

In the previous executive committee meeting on the 26th of April, six new members were accepted - we welcome them warmly.

SAG (Senior Advisory Group) is still in the process of being formed. The 2016 assembly is under work at the same time with the 2014 European assembly that will be organized by NIME (see call for papers below). In South Africa, they are launching FAM – Friends of African Missiology. Study groups continue actively, too. So, there are several issues in the pipeline, even though less is ready so far. First, there are some short notices from IAMS, and then a call for papers and finally news from study groups.

2016 Assembly in South Korea

The preliminary title for the 2016 assembly is “*Conversions and Transformations*”. A clarifying subtitle is under construction – creative proposals are welcome. Please send to Mika. A Korean hosting committee is being formed, and it is wonderful to hear that it will probably have a very wide representation across the Korean denominational field and missiological associations.

Please, note that the subsidy process will be carried out following an earlier schedule than last time, and preference will be given to those IAMS members who have submitted a paper abstract. More on this in the coming IAMS Matters.

IAMS in Social Media

IAMS has a Facebook page! It is, however, a matter of being invited to join. Shortly you can expect to receive an email inviting you to join the IAMS Facebook group. If you decide to accept, please keep us posted as to what is happening in your part of the world by putting news onto the site.

IAMS also has a LinkedIn group that you are welcome to join in.

News from Biblical Studies and Mission (BISAM)

I am pleased to inform you about the status of our book project entitled, “*God’s People on the Move: Biblical and Global Perspectives of Migration and Mission.*” We have signed a book contract with Pickwick Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers. John Prior and I (vanThanh Nguyen) are the editors. Other contributors include: Philemon G. Beghela, Felix E. Enegho, Robert L. Gallagher, Sarita D. Gallagher, Colin R. Godwin and Saphano R. C. Akuei, Gerard M. Godman, Craig S. Hendrickson, Paul Hertig, Timothy A. Lenchak, Peter Sam Nguyen, Batara Sihombing, Amy West, George M. Wieland, and Wenxi Zhang.

Best wishes to all,

vanThanh Nguyen, SVD

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News from „Religious Freedom and Persecution“

The new Study Group „Religious Freedom and Persecution“ had its first regular meeting in the framework of the **International Consultation on Religious Freedom Research, Istanbul, Turkey, 16-18 March 2013**. The consultation was organized by the “International Institute of Religious Freedom” (Bonn, Cape Town, and Colombo) and the Working Group for Human Geography at the University of Tübingen, Germany, together with this study group, the Unit for Church and Law of the Beyers-Naudé Centre, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the Department of Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law, Faculty of Law, University of the Free State, South Africa.

This consultation was the first of its kind and brought together activists and academics in theology, missiology, law, geography and other disciplines who presented research about Religious Freedom. Istanbul as the city on two continents and often seen as a bridge between East and West was a great location for a consultation on a worldwide issue. Participants came from all continents. Thirty-three papers were presented in plenary sessions or in one of the two working groups. The consultation was mainly designed by Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer, the convenor of the IAMS study group. Here are some missiologically relevant highlights:

Todd Johnson from the Institute of Culture, Religion & World Affairs at the Boston University spoke about the effects of “global trends of religious demography on religious freedom”. Rod Boyd-MacMillan and Frans Veerman, researchers for Open Doors International, presented „First experiences with the new World Watch List methodology“ concerning persecution of Christians.

In Working Group 2 with a special focus on theological and missiological implications of religious freedom among others Wolfgang Haede, co-convenor of the IAMS Group, presented his research about „Perceptions of Christians in Turkey“ as evaluated in Turkish newspapers. Doctoral candidate Jonathan Andrews presented on “Religious Registration: Blessing or curse for the Church in the Middle East?” Doctoral candidate Daniel Roethlisberger spoke about his exegetical-theological study on „Contents and limits of assistance and self-help for persecuted Christians“. Nigerian scholar Yusuf Turaki offered his insights into „The Systematic Persecution, Marginalization, Discrimination of Christians of Northern Origin in the Northern States of Nigeria“. Working group 1 discussed numerous case studies about various countries and considered legal matters. Among them were members of the study group: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher reflected on the Christian population of the OIC member states, and Abhijit Nayak (PhD cand.) explored “The Culture Clash: A Civilizational Approach to Hindu-Christian Conflict and Religious Freedom in Post-Independence India”.

Many participants expressed their appreciation of the interdisciplinary exchange of results on research about religious freedom and pleaded for a continuation of this kind of format. Some of the results will be published in the International Journal for Religious Freedom and a compendium with all the papers is planned.

Contact for the IAMS Study Group “Religious Freedom and Persecution”: Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer (convenor), IIRF, PO Box 535, Edgemoed 7407, South Africa, email: christof@iirf.eu Tel. +27-21-558 77 44.
// Wolfgang G. Haede (co-convenor): whaede@swissmail.org

Upcoming Events:

European Missiological Conference, Spring 2014

Conference theme: *Mission and Money – Mission in the Context of Global Inequalities*

Venue: Cultural Center Sofia, Kallvikintie 28, 00980 Helsinki, Finland (<http://www.sofia.fi/en>)

Dates: 3.-6. April 2014

Call for panels and papers for the European Missiological Conference:

Deadline for submissions of abstracts: 1. September for panels / 1. December 2013 for papers

Dear mission studies colleagues,

On behalf of the Nordic Institute for Missiology and Ecumenism (NIME), we invite you to submit a paper abstract or panel proposal for the 2014 European missiological conference. With encouragement from the International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS), NIME is hosting the European meeting in 2014. The NIME board has selected the Cultural Center Sofia, an Orthodox center in Finland, for its conference venue. The Sofia center is beautifully located and easily accessible from Helsinki Airport.

The theme for our 2014 conference is 'Mission in the Context of Inequalities'. The program includes annual regional meetings of the various European missiological societies. We hope to include panels both on teaching missiology and developing courses, on research methodology and publication, mission history, contemporary global Christianity, and mission theology, and we encourage scholars to submit proposals for panels. We invite papers submissions in panels or as individual papers, relating to the conference theme of 'Mission in the Context of Inequalities'. What we have in mind is not simply the economic dimension of missions let alone fundraising but the more fundamental question of the relation between economic power, development and shifting economies, and Christian missions. Possible themes and questions include, but are not limited to:

- Money, economics, and Christian missions
- Has Christian missions been a friend of the poor or a friend of poverty?
- How do unequal economic abilities affect Christian missions and partnership in mission?
- New economies and reverse missions
- The relationship between the transformation achieved by Christian missions and the goal of economic development

Confirmed plenary speakers of the conference include the missiologist Dr. Jonathan Bonk (OMSC, New Haven, US) and the economist Prof. Dr. Magne Supphellen (Bergen, Norway). Updates on conference plenary speakers will be posted on our website www.missionsresearch.org as it is available.

How to submit a panel or a paper

Paper abstracts (single papers) and panel proposals (a panel consisting of up to five papers and allotted a fixed time slot for presentation and discussion) should include your name, institutional affiliation (if a panel, then also other possible contributors), a 500-word max proposal outlining the issue, your argument, and the relevance. Questions concerning panels or papers should be directed to chairperson of NIME Jonas Adelin Jørgensen as should your proposal by email attachment to: jaj@dmr.org

Deadline for panel proposals is September 1st 2013

Deadline for paper abstracts is December 1st 2013.

Preregistration

Do you want to make sure to get updates on the conference as planning continues? Free online preregistration is available already now at www.missionsresearch.org . Please follow the directions on the front page.

Registration Fee

Registration takes place online at www.missionsresearch.org from September 1st 2013.

Before December 1st 2013

Students 75 €

Non-students 100 €

After December 1st 2013

Students 90 €

Non-students 115 €

Registration includes

Registration includes conference fee only. Please note that cost for lodging and board is not included. Depending on the type of accommodation, prices range from 330 € (shared double bed room) to 540 € (single room). Accommodation is registered when registration for the conference takes place, but paid directly and separately to Cultural Center Sofia upon arrival.