

Dear Colleagues,

This issue of IAMS Matters contains mostly information on events and developments in mission studies. DABOH had a successful symposium in Rome under the title "New Technology=New Perspectives for Mission Studies in the 21st Century," convened by co-chairs Fr. Marek A. Rostkowski, OMI and Rev. Canon Michael N.-C. Poon. There were 35 participants from 19 countries.

Note that IAMS 2016 website has been opened: <http://www.teol.lu.se/forskning/konferenser-och-symposier/iams-2016/> More information on the conference will gradually appear there.

IAMS Secretariat is located in Oxford under the auspices of CMS for the second mandate period. From 2016 it will be time to move on. Therefore, discussion and proposals about the new location of the secretariat are welcome. The requirements are the availability of volunteering general secretary (and her/his assistant) as well as sufficient institutional support. Mika and Cathy are happy to receive proposals and answer questions.

The rest of IAMS Matters consists of an obituary of Charles W. Forman, conference announcements (CEEAMS in Austria, FOIM in India and Lund March seminar) as well as announcements about doctoral positions in Stavanger and Lund.

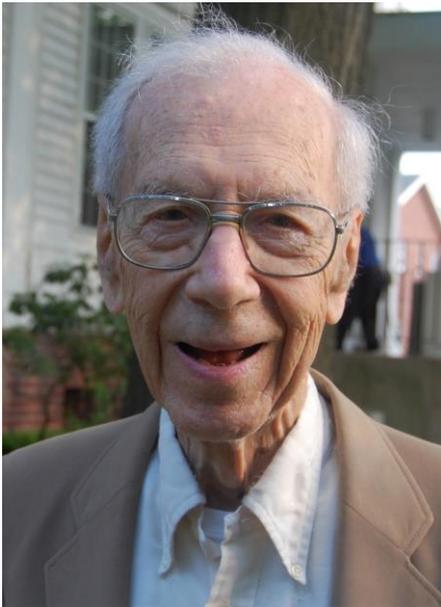
With wishes of a restful Christmas time and a blessed New Year,

Mika Vähäkangas, IAMS President

DABOH in Rome October 19-23, 2014



# CHARLES W. FORMAN



## In Loving Memory 1916 to 2014

Charles W. Forman was born in Gwalior, India in 1916, the son and grandson of Presbyterian missionaries. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Ohio State University, a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and a B.D. and S.T.M. from Union Theological Seminary in New York. Following his marriage to Helen Janice Mitchell, he went as a Presbyterian missionary to India and taught at North India United Theological College in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh from 1945 to 1950. Forman was the successor to Kenneth Scott Latourette as professor of missions at Yale Divinity School, serving on the faculty from 1953 until his retirement in 1987. He was Acting Dean of the Divinity School from 1961 to 1963. He was chairman of the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches from 1965 to 1971, chairman of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the Presbyterian Church from 1965 to 1971, chairman of the Foundation for Theological Education in Southeast Asia from 1970 to 1989. He was also active for many years in peacemaking and antipoverty efforts and assistance to refugee families, and was a leader in the American Society of Missiology. —*Martha Smalley*

## Call for papers

Beyond the Iron Curtain: Being Church in Central and Eastern Europe twenty five years after the political changes

Heiligenkreuz, Austria, 10-13 February 2015

The Central and Eastern European Association for Mission Studies organizes the conference:

### **Beyond the Iron Curtain: Being Church in Central and Eastern Europe twenty five years after the political changes**

Through the metaphor and the experiences of 'Iron Curtain', Europe has been conceptually divided in west and east for more than four decades. Christian communities from both sides were challenged to deal with the reality of barbed-wired borders. Therefore the fall of the communist systems had consequences both for east and west. The collapse of the Iron Curtain does not mean it has disappeared, as its rusted pieces continue to influence the life of those who 'step' on it. This conference seeks to provide an opportunity to theologians-missionologists to reflect on the questions of the extent and the ways in which the communist experiences continue to influence the life of Christian communities in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and what it means to be or become church in the post-1989/1990 period?

Often focus is only given to the changes in former communist countries. The present conference departs from the understanding that both west and east are standing on the remnants of the Iron Curtain and therefore it is important to reflect together on the complexities which have been shaping the life, position and form of the Christian communities in Central and Eastern Europe in the last twenty five years. The conference seeks to bring together theologians-missionologists, Master and PhD students researching in mission studies as well as reflective practitioners coming from different confessional backgrounds.

Papers should focus on the following topics (though other relevant proposals will be considered as well):

- Churches (re)defining their identities in the post 1989/90 CEE
- Understandings of mission within CEE Christian communities
- Models of reconciliation in processing the past, facing up to the present challenges and envisioning the future
- Understanding and conceptualizing culture in post 1989/90 CEE
- Church and State in the post-communist space
- Meaning of the concepts of east and west in post-communist conditions
- Church partnerships between east and west beyond the Iron Curtain in post 1989/90 CEE
- Changes in missionary engagement(s) to and from Central and Eastern Europe- Being Church: searching for new relevance in a changing world
- Ways of facing new missional challenges in post-communist times.

Deadline for abstract submission: 1 December 2014.

Abstracts should be sent to [ceeams@gmail.com](mailto:ceeams@gmail.com). and should not be longer than 300 words.

Notification of the acceptance of the proposal will be sent by 15 December 2014.

Conference papers should be restricted to 20 minutes of presentation time.

Date of the conference:

Arrivals 10 February 2015, conference starts in the afternoon

Departure 13 February 2015 after lunch

Conference Venue:

TCM International Institute

Haus Edelweiss

Sattelbach #16

A-2532 Heiligenkreuz N.Ö.

Austria Europe

Phone: +43-2258-8752

Fax: +43-2258-8727-45

Language of the conference: English.

Conference costs:

Registration fee EUR 25

Accommodation in one person bedroom, meals, and coffee break drinks and snack: EUR 135

Accommodation in shared (two persons) bedroom, meals, and coffee break drinks and snack:  
EUR 112,5

Scholarships:

Participants, especially those whose abstract will be accepted, may apply for partial or full coverage of the conference costs. Travel expenses cannot be reimbursed.

Papers presented at the conference may be submitted for publication in the CEEAMS' journal.

Please register as soon as possible using the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1H1cpX\\_nb8eLIEMTP0DkZtIF5g4KdA6rJWz\\_ePhobnio/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1H1cpX_nb8eLIEMTP0DkZtIF5g4KdA6rJWz_ePhobnio/viewform)

Organizers:

Dr. Pavol Bargár

Prof. Dr. Scott Klingsmith

Prof. Dr. Anne-Marie Kool

Dr. Valentin Kozuharov

Dr. Dorottya Nagy

Prof. Dr. Peter Penner

Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Petraru



# FOIM: Fellowship of Indian Missiologists

## REPORT of FOIM EXCOM Meeting

**Bangarapet 28-29 October 2014**

On the invitation of the President, the Executive Committee members met at his residence in the *Sparrow's Nest* at Bangarapet from 28-29 October 2014 to plan the next FOIM Conference and Research Seminar. I am happy to report to you our deliberations and decisions.

### **1. Venue and Time of next Conference**

As it is our custom to hold the conference in a new mission area, the Excom Members chose Guwahati as the next venue for three full days' Conference and Seminar from 13-15 October 2015 (Tuesday to Thursday). On 16<sup>th</sup> there will be an optional picnic to Shillong to visit the Tribal Cultural Museum and other relevant sights. As we have no sponsors the board and lodge including all other expenses will be Rs. 500/- per day (we are trying for sponsors as TA itself will be quite a bit). The address of the venue:

SVD House, Goral Village, Battapara, New Airport Road,

Guwahati-781 017, Assam; Tel: 9435128973/9403185214.

It is just 5 minutes drive from the Airport and 20 km from the Railway Station. Arrangements will be made to pick you up.

### **2. Topic of the Conference and its Breakup**

#### **“DIGITAL GENERATION: CHALLENGES AND MISSIOLOGICAL RESPONSE”**

1. Digital World – S. K. Jena
2. Children and Internet – Joe Patmury
3. God Language in Digital Generation – Joe Mattam
4. Challenges in IT Working Places – Joy Thomas
5. Digital Pressure on Family – Asangla Lemtur
6. Impact of Informatics – Paul Vellarackal
7. IT Pressure on the Rural Youth – Dasan Jeyaraj
8. Digital Potentials for a United World – Thomas Kulangara
9. E-Waste and Ecology – Mudita Sodder
10. Positive Impact of Media on Mission – Sreekumaran Nair
11. Challenges of Social Net-working – S. C. Rajesh
12. Pornography and Challenges – Clare Purakary
13. Digital Divide from a Human Rights Perspective – Thomas Varghese
14. Inter-Religious Discourse and Civility in Cyber Space – H. L. Richard
15. Media and Challenges to Mission – Joe Mangalam

We are trying to get the local bishops and the secretary of the CBCNEI for the inaugural function and a Keynote address on the Overall Mission Situation of North East (both Protestant and Catholic). The paper presenters are requested to send their papers by September 2015 and are again reminded to make their presentations more Ecumenical. All are requested to make a Power-Point Presentation of 20 minutes followed by 20 minutes discussion on the paper. It is recommended that all members come prepared with at least one page presentation on a topic of your choice, which could be pooled together into Panel Discussions.

Everyday Prayer Service will be given to different churches. Sharing sessions and a cultural evening will be part of the dynamics.

### **3. Election of Office Bearers**

As the Article V of FOIM Constitutions read, "The work of the FOIM is carried out by the General Body and the Executive Committee.

- a) The General Body is composed of all members and meets at least once in two years for a bi-annual Conference and Research Seminar.
- b) The Executive Committee is elected on the basis of absolute majority by the General Body for a term of three conferences. It consists of a President, Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and one elected member and they may be re-elected."

Actually all are completing their term of office. Hence election or re-election of the office bearers including the editors is a must at the next meeting. Before I conclude, I must thank sincerely Joe and Gloria Patmury and the team of Sparrow's Nest for their hospitality and warmth. They went out of their way even to the extent of paying our TA and organizing the transport. No words to express such exemplary service!

Reported by,

Joy Thomas SVD

(FOIM Secretary)

<b>President:</b>	<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Secretary:</b>
Dr. Joseph Patmury	Dr. Dasan Jeyaraj	Dr. Joe Mangalam SJ	Dr. Joy Thomas SVD
Sparro's Nest, P. Box 1	Logos Bhavan	Sneh Jyoti	Ishvani Kendra
Deshalli P. O.	Jeedimetla	Sevasi	Sainikwadi, P. Box 3003
Bangarapet - 563 162 KARNATAKA	Secunderabad-500 055 ANDHRA PRADESH	Vadodara - 391 101 GUJARAT	Pune - 411014 MAHARASHTRA
Tel: 9972200197	Tel: 8008004726	Tel: 9426525130	Tel: 9403185214
<a href="mailto:patmury@hotmail.com">E:patmury@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:joythomassvd@gmail.com">joythomassvd@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:jeyaraj.dasan@om.org">jeyaraj.dasan@om.org</a>	<a href="mailto:jmangalamsj@gmail.com">jmangalamsj@gmail.com</a>	

## **Lund Mission Studies Open Seminar and NIME doctoral seminar 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March 2015** **Theological and Philosophical Responses to Syncretism**

The event consists of the open seminar on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March (10am-6pm) with plenary sessions and of paper sessions mostly for doctoral students on the following day, the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

The aim of the open seminar is twofold. First, it aims to elaborate theologically the consequences of syncretism to Christian faith. Second, this project aims to elaborate the consequences of syncretism to philosophy and empirical research on Christianity.

The confirmed contributors are e.g.:

Gavin D'Costa, Bristol

Peter C. Phan, Georgetown

Tan Kang San, Kuala Lumpur

Elisabeth Gerle, Uppsala

Jonas A. Jørgensen, Copenhagen

Mika Vähäkangas, Lund

Patrik Fridlund, Lund

Lotta Gammelín, Lund

Participation in the seminars is free of charge.

For more information and registration: <http://www.teol.lu.se/forskning/konferenser-och-symposier/tprs-2015/>

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## **PHD RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, THEOLOGY OF MISSION AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES – “CRACKS AND IN-BETWEENS”**

The MHS School of Mission and Theology (Stavanger, Norway) will start up a four years research project on how migrants establish and create meanings in their encounters with Norwegian society (in particular Norwegian Christian traditions and the Norwegian welfare system). Linked to this project, two PhD Research Fellowship positions are now open: one in Theology of Mission and one in Religious Studies, both starting up August 1, 2015.

<http://www.mhs.no/news?565>

A Norwegian PhD scholarship is a four year full salary project, and the candidates are supposed to have MHS as their workplace.

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### **4-YEAR DOCTORAL POSITIONS IN E.G. MISSION STUDIES WITH ECUMENICS AT LUND UNIVERSITY**

Faculties of theology and humanities will announce four 4-year doctoral positions (full salary) in theological disciplines at Lund University in February 2015. The contract begins September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. For more information see <http://www.ht.lu.se/en/education/phd-studies/>. The vacancy announcement will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015, application deadline being 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

PhD program director: [mika.vahakangas@teol.lu.se](mailto:mika.vahakangas@teol.lu.se)