



IAMS matters January-March 2013

Dear colleagues in Mission studies,

This IAMS Matters begins with yet another issue from Toronto, namely by presenting the honorary members nominated in the General Assembly. They are:

Dr Joachim Wietzke
Rev Dr John Roxborough
Fr Sebastian Karotempel, SDB
Dr Martin Conway
Fr Willi Henkel, OMI
Dr Wilbert Shenk

The IAMS executive committee met face to face from 1st until 3rd February in Oxford. These are some of the issues discussed and decisions made – the full minutes will appear on the IAMS website:

IAMS Financial Situation

In spite of the fact that the IAMS costs have been cut to the very minimum, the coffers of the association continue depleting slowly but steadily. The Toronto Assembly, despite the executive and smaller group planning meetings in Toronto did not generate any losses but neither did it ameliorate the financial situation in any notable manner. Please, remember to pay your membership dues!

2016 Assembly

South Korean mission studies associations have kindly invited IAMS to organize its next assembly in South Korea. By the deadline, no other formal invitations had been received in spite of a couple of informal inquiries. The executive committee happily accepted the Korean invitation. South Korea is a very interesting country for mission studies because of several reasons: the strong missionary movement, its recent history of the quick growth of Christianity, the continuing encounter with other religions as well as secularization, its location on the Pacific Rim, its painful history and present situation of national division, its rising international theological influence etc. The assembly will be held in July or August 2016. The exact date and location will be decided together with the local hosting committee which is in the process of being formed.

Mission Studies

Mission Studies has been handed over to the new editor, Kirsteen Kim. Another change in the near future is to offer three issues per year. Paul Kollman continues as the book review editor.

If you have paid up your membership fee to the end of 2012, but have not yet received *Mission Studies* for last year, please contact the secretariat (Anne Henriksen) by e-mail: secretary@missionstudies.org

Senior Advisory Group (SAG)

SAG is being formed – information on its composition in the next IAMS Matters. The tasks for the SAG, to begin with, are fundraising and updating the constitution and byelaws.

Institutional Members' Possibility of Representation in the Executive Committee

This was discussed in the executive and noted that in addition to needing to clarify the constitution on this matter, there will also be some additional questions to be addressed (in the constitution and byelaws) like: How is representation of an institutional member defined and certified, especially if there are several assembly participants coming from the institution? If the representative of the institutional member ceases to work for the institution, should (s)he be replaced by the institution or just continue?

IAMS Visibility in the Social Media and Internet

It was noted that IAMS is relatively invisible in the new media. Therefore, the executive committee approached some members and exhorted other members to be active on Wikipedia to upgrade the existing mission studies related entries and to create new ones. IAMS website will need to be included as a link in those. Rosemary Dewerse and Valentin Kozhuharov will deal with Facebook and LinkedIn. IAMS members are encouraged to increase the visibility of mission studies and our association in the virtual spheres in which they are active.

IAMS Membership of Researchers Representing Other Faiths

The executive has received an application of a confessing believer of another faith. The application was not endorsed by any of the IAMS members so it did not formally fulfill the criteria. It was highlighted in the discussion that some IAMS members work in such contexts where confidentiality is a prerequisite for even personal security and thereby a larger representation of other faiths might cause problems. However, it was also pointed out that an academic association should be open to any person researching Christian mission irrespective of one's faith or lack of such. Because such applications are bound to continue coming in, the discussion will continue in the executive committee and the topic will be taken to the next general assembly, too. The crux of the question is – like in so many other contexts – how to combine security and openness.

News from DABOH

Michael Poon, Marek Rostkowski and John Roxborough have just edited and published a volume of essays, *Mission, Memory and Communion; Documenting World Christianity in the twenty-first century*.

For more details, including the contents, ordering information and endorsements from six distinguished scholars, see <http://books.ttc.edu.sg/products-page-2/csca-publications/mission-memory-and-communion-documenting-world-christianity-in-the-twenty-first-century/>.

News from BISAM

Many members of the BISAM study group have reasons to rejoice in this springtime. I am pleased to inform that several (perhaps as many as four) BISAM papers that were read at Toronto will be considered for publication in *Mission Studies (MS)* in the November 2013 issue. Furthermore, many other papers, including those published in *MS*, will be collated into an edited volume. A respectable US publisher has just approved our book proposal. As the editor of the book, I am in the process of finalizing the contract with the publisher. More information concerning the name of the publisher will be made known once the contract is signed. For now, the working title of the book is "God's People on the Move: Global Perspectives on Migration and Mission." Obviously, those involved in the book project will begin revising, editing and even rewriting their work. It will be a rigorous exercise. Nevertheless, spring is in the air. Life is budding forth where it is least expected! So, let us rejoice and be glad!

vanThanh Nguyen, SVD

News from Oceania

Australian Association of Mission Studies (AAMS)

Check out the website <http://www.groupsthatclick.com/aams/index.php>

Membership continues to be strong, with chapters regularly meeting in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra. Steve Bevans will be in Sydney in May and may connect with the local chapter.

Twice-yearly the peer-reviewed Australian Journal of Mission Studies is published (June and December) and members also receive a quarterly e-newsletter.

A committee in Adelaide is actively working on the next AAMS (triennial) conference for 2014, which they will be hosting.

Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Mission Studies (ANZAMS)

Meeting with Chris Wright in March

Mid-Feb to mid-April Dan Shaw from Fuller Seminary is in New Zealand and will engage with ANZAMS

Upcoming Events (in chronological order):

Nordic Institute for Missiological and Ecumenical research (NIME) doctoral seminars and Lund open seminar on "**Researching the Enchanted World: Positioning ourselves in anthropology of Christianity and studies in world Christianity**" will take place on 26th and 27th March 2013 in Lund, Sweden. For more information, see <http://www.teol.lu.se/forskning/konferenser-och-symposier/2013-researching-enchanted-world/>

American Missiological Society's annual conference on "**The Future of the Discipline of Missiology**" will take place from 21st-23rd June 2013 in Wheaton, IL. For more information see <http://www.asmweb.org/content/home>

British and Irish Association for Mission Studies will organise a day conference on 15th October 2013. The topic is “**Mission and Visual Art**”. More information will be available on BIAMS website <http://www.biams.org.uk>

IAMS Europe conference 4th – 6th April 2014 will be hosted by NIME (<http://www.missionsresearch.org/>) in conference centre (Is this doc going to be British/American English?) Sofia in Helsinki, Finland. The theme is “**Mission and Money**”. More information in the near future.

When you organize conferences, symposia etc. that you think might be of interest for the IAMS membership, please, send information on them to mika.vahakangas@teol.lu.se to get the information in IAMS Matters. Please, note that IAMS Matters is sent out only four times a year!

Studies in Systematic Theology

Stephen Bevans and Miikka Ruokanen edit a new Brill monograph series *Studies in Systematic Theology* that publishes books from different denominational and cultural contexts within the discipline of systematic theology. So far, all of the titles seem relevant to mission scholars oriented towards mission theology or contextual theologies. For more information see www.brill.com/sist

A Job Opening in Glasgow

The University of Glasgow has a vacancy for a senior lecturer/reader in religion, conflict and transition. Expertise in Eastern religions would be an advantage. Deadline 28th February 2013. For more information see <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AFV605/senior-lecturer-reader-in-religion-conflict-and-transition/>