

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES

Gen.Secr.: c/o Dept. of Missiology I.I.M.E.
Boerhaavelaan 43
2334 ED LEIDEN - The Netherlands

MINUTES OF IAMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 17-19, 1978 - San Luchasio, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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

In order to get to know each other (better) and to create human and spiritual fellowship among the committee members, each and everyone told his/her lifestory (roots and orientations). On Sunday morning a common liturgical service was celebrated.

1. The Minutes of the Maryknoll meetings (August 1978) were passed.
2. Correspondence: no correspondence was received from Prof. A. Glasser re. point 8 of the Agenda. (= Proposal ASM/Editorial Board of Missiology to IAMS). G. Anderson will contact Glasser and send a letter to IAMS President and General Secretary.
3. Financial matters (P.R. Clifford)
 - 3.1. IAMS is now registered as a Charity. Clifford will send the registration number to the General Secretary.
 - 3.2. Regarding subsidy in travexpenses of conference participants: because of apparently too expensive refunds to conference participants (who ordered a ticket themselves) the need was felt to formulate a policy statement regarding this point. The usual practice should be to send tickets to the beneficiaries, however, taking into account that locally bought tickets sometimes can be cheaper.
A request was made to the Treasurer to formulate a policy statement and present it to the next committee meeting.
 - 3.3. Although up till now no invested money had to be used, the available reserve in liquid would not be sufficient for paying the expenses of this committee and other necessary expenses (Contribution to Missiology, the running of IAMS Secretariat, Working Party on Bibliography, etc.). Besides subscriptions, other funds should come in.
A. Camps sees a possibility of getting money from some institutions in Holland if a budget can be presented.
J. Aagaard will approach the Church of Sweden Mission for financial assistance;
G. Anderson will study possibilities for the same in U.S.A.
 - 3.4. There is a limited number of sets of studymaterial (Maryknoll Conference). It is decided to sell each set for US \$ 30.--, post-paid.
 - 3.5. Members should be invited to pay their subscriptions 1979 and be reminded about it in the IAMS Newsletter. Clear information should be given how this can be done: Bank - Giro - Check. Of those who did not pay, a list will be published in IAMS Newsletter

4. Applicants for membership:

4.1. G. Anderson likes to know the reasons why some members withdraw from membership.

4.2. Members who go on retirement should be given the opportunity to pay only half of the subscription-fee.

4.3. Rules for acceptance

Several remarks were made: some pressure should be put on the members to make themselves more visible e.g. by publishing in the IAMS Newsletter views/experiences of mission (Cf. The Latin American Theological Fraternity requires one paper each year - if not produced, you cease to be a member!).

As criteria were mentioned: clear evidence of contribution to mission studies (Clifford); certain evidence of reflection (Padilla); publications should not be the only measure, but also involvement - even without publications - coupled with educational standard (Anderson).

It was proposed that all that up till now had been brought forward in previous ex. ctee meetings re. criteria should be put together in a paper.

4.4. Revision of application form: a slightly revised form was accepted, stating e.g. that the sponsors should be members of IAMS.

4.5. All 10 applicants were accepted as members.

Individual members: Beozzo (Brazil), Okulugbo (Nigeria), Viviers (Argentina/USA), Hughes (USA), Fernando (India), Gyan (India/USA), Levêsqe (France), Yates (U.K.), Rudalevige (USA).

Corporate member: CEHILA (Bogotá, Colombia)

5. Evaluation Maryknoll Conference in view of next Conference:

The General Secretary produced a paper summarizing the evaluations made by 56 participants.

5.1. Taking into account the remarks made about this Conference, the committee agreed:

- that Western dominance is not only a question of numbers but also of approach

- that the balance of key-lectures was good

- that leading a workshop is also a cultural problem (some people think much but speak less; and vice versa) and a language problem

- that reporting on a workshop does not mean to continue the discussion, but presenting the harvest (findings)

- that a trip for exposure to the problems of the region should be recommended

5.2. The suggestion that there was a felt need to go 'beyond Blauw' by evaluating recent Biblical scholarship in its meaning for mission today (theoretically and in practice) was taken up seriously and led to a new initiative (see ad 7.4).

5.3. The procedure of electing new officers during the General IAMS meeting shall be revised in this way that the nominating committee will be made known early on in the conference, so that it can be approached and suggestions for nominations given.

6. Internationalisation of the IAMS

A 'paper' presented by Preman Niles stimulated discussion. The questions raised in this paper concern: the balance of viewpoints on the whole subject of mission; the use of criteria for membership to have better and more effective participation from Third World countries; a proposal to have a somewhat larger body like a General Committee of IAMS which meets once a year within which policy and decision making body we could attempt to have a better representation of viewpoints; the ex. ctee, drawn from the General Committee, could meet once more every year to transact business; to monitor what is already taking place (regional and national mission studies) and also encourage new ventures.

The discussion coined the concepts 'missiological movement' and 'missiological milieus'. Although the Third World is weak in missiology in its traditional sense, it certainly belongs to the missiological milieu and movement and is developing its own understanding of and response to mission. It will be important for IAMS to identify the real concerns by relating to people (groups) with real concerns. Regarding Conferences, this means to get the right people invited and to identify them in an early stage so that their input can be real. Also for the period between Conferences, IAMS should be on the look out for what is happening in the 'missiological movement' especially in the Third World and report about it e.g. in the IAMS Newsletter.

7. On keeping IAMS membership meaningful in between General meetings (1978-1981)

7.1. Regional meetings: IAMS should encourage participation in regional meetings. It was mentioned that the way IAMS is conducting Conferences seems for Germans not 'wissenschaftlich'. Regional meetings give an opportunity to persue regional concerns (+ biases).

Criteria for cooperation of the IAMS with regional meetings should be:

- a) there should somehow be a link with the ex. committee
- b) the level should be high
- c) the meeting should be open to all

The following meetings were recommended by IAMS:

- A residential Summer School on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations. July 15 - 27, 1979, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, U.K.
- Conference on 'Basic Communities and New Religious Movements' December 14 - 16, 1979, Aarhus, Denmark.
- A Conference on 'Christ's Lordship and Religious Pluralism' Last week of October 1979, Princeton, U.S.A.

7.2. IAMS Workingparty on Documentation, etc.

An important activity of IAMS will be the realization of several plans of the Workingparty, formulated at a meeting in Amsterdam (May 1978).

A stimulus for greater involvement of IAMS members will be a Conference on Instrumenta Studiorum for Mission Studies, taking place 14-17 August, 1979, in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The IAMS ex. ctee authorized the planning of the Conference and agreed to pay for the expenses involved in bringing the Workingparty members together for finalizing the planning. However, it was thought that it would be sufficient this time that Walls, Henkel, Hansen and Moritzen meet. Verstraelen would represent the IAMS ex. ctee.

7.3. The IAMS Newsletter should better be used as an instrument for exchange. It was proposed to invite all (ind. + corporate) members to send to IAMS Secretariat their publications. These will be listed and made known in the IAMS Newsletter. The intention is to keep this collection in tact.

7.4. Continental workgroups on exegesis and missiology

Concrete proposals were made to implement the suggestion mentioned under 5.2. In the discussion it became clear that because of the cultural coloration of theologizing, the areas of research should be restricted to the respective continents. In a later stage the findings could be exchanged.

The idea is to find out the importance of recent exegetical research for missiology. In each continent a task force should be formed. Persons mentioned to act as coordinators are: Spindler (Europe), Bergquist (USA/Canada), Padilla (Latin America), Niles (Asia), Adegbola (Africa).

These coordinators are requested to write a project-paper for the next ex. ctee meeting (about 2 pages). A two-fold approach is possible: 1) a survey of what is being done, 2) new research. A combination of 1 + 2 seems the most appropriate.

7.5. Cooperation with Theological Associations

Contact should be made and if possible established with Theological Associations; relevant information could be published in the IAMS Newsletter. The Secretaries of these Associations should be approached. Preman Niles and Ade Adegbola will provide a list of addresses for Asia and Africa respectively. For Catholic Associations, J. van Nieuwenhove (Nijmegen) should be contacted. Information can be gained also from Dr. Aharon Sabsezian, Programme on Theological Education, WCC, 150 route de Ferney, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

7.6. A Brochure on IAMS has to be printed for broader distribution. Jerry Anderson will prepare a draft.

8. Since no proposals were forwarded for cooperating with Missiology in the future (e.g. special issue), the discussion on cooperation IAMS/Missiology was postponed till the next meeting.

It was decided that US\$ 1000.-- will be given to Missiology for a subsidy towards the Maryknoll Conference Report. In return 750 copies will be reserved for IAMS.

9. Next Conference: A first round of discussing the next Conference led to the following tour d'horizon and conclusions:

9.1. LOCATION

The offer of Prof. Pobee to come to Ghana was seriously considered. However, many difficulties were mentioned. As an alternative Bangalore was presented as having good meeting facilities and a stimulating 'missiological milieu', with local institutions capable of co-organizing a Conference. The meeting place could be the Ecumenical Centre (M.A. Thomas), offering room for about 200 persons. Other names and institutions present in Bangalore are: Fr. Gerwin van Leeuwen, Dharman College (Carmelites), Union Theological College, Pastoral Centre (Amalorpavadas), etc.

TIME: 1981; period middle of July till middle of August

9.2. Since our African member himself was critical of meeting in Ghana (Africa) at this stage, and the newly developed emphasis corresponds to the missiological milieu of India, the possibility of meeting in Bangalore should be explored. Aagaard and Niles will be around Bangalore in the beginning of 1979. A letter will be sent to M.A. Thomas informing him about their visit in view of a possible IAMS meeting in 1981. Two or three people from other Institutions in Bangalore should be alerted too. Dependent on the results of that visit, a (provisional) definite reservation should already be made.

10. Representation of IAMS at World Conferences:

The General Secretary should write to the following Congresses/Conferences in order to solicit "official representation in whatever category is appropriate to the consultation concerned".

- WCC/CME - Melbourne/Bangkok 1980
through Emilio Castro

- Third World Theologians 1980
through Sergio Torres

- Follow-up Lausanne, 14-28 June, 1980
through Dr. John Stott

11. The next meeting of the IAMS ex. ctee will take place August 17-19, 1979 at Aberdeen, Scotland.

Leiden, 7-12-1978

F.J. Verstraelen