

IAMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Meeting, Ventnor NJ., USA  
13 - 16 June, 1985

Present: all members, except Henrique Dussel because of illness.

1. Personal presentation:

In order to get to know each other better, each member told part of his/her life-story.

2. Financial matters:

- Unpaid subscriptions: some persons were cancelled because they did not pay, though in a position to do so; others - coming from countries with exchange-difficulties - will be asked whether they are still interested in being a IAMS member. Seb. Karotempel will approach the Indian members; Joan Chatfield others.

- The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December, 1984 examined by David Woolls, Chartered Accountant were accepted with thanks for the work put into it.

There is a request to get information about how many members have paid their subscription.

The full report on the Harare Conference expenses will be given later, since only very recently all bills were settled, except the one of the exposure-experience in South Africa and the travel expenses for South African participation. Frans Verstraelen after consulting Shun Govender - will determine the amount to be paid and inform the Treasurer.

The money left over from donations to the Harare Conference will be used in accordance with the intention of the donors, for Third World participation in exec. committee meetings, the DAB works in Paris (1987) and the preparation for the next Conference. A financial statement of the Conference will not be sent to the donors.

The donor-agencies will receive a letter written by the Treasurer, making it clear that the Harare Conference is part of an ongoing process.

The Secretary will see to it that the report of the Harare Conference will be sent straight from the publisher in Zimbabwe (= Mambo Press).

In the letter this will be mentioned, besides the fact that the list of participants printed in the report shows the good participation from Asia, Latin-America and, especially, Africa.

The Treasurer will also write to Dr. T. Mafico that IAMS does not feel responsible for replacing checks (paid to him by the University of Zimbabwe) that got lost.

3. New members:

One new corporate/institutional member and six individual members were accepted into the IAMS (+ Prof. Dekker, Canada, but no further details).

In between committee meetings the Secretary General is empowered to admit new members at his discretion.

The application form will slightly be revised (family name, first names; corporate/institutional member, etc.).

Drive for new members: Paul Clifford will try to make IAMS better known in Canada; Frans Verstraelen idem in Indonesia. Latin-America should get special attention. We need advise and influence of Henrique Dussel and former ex.ctee members like Gaxiola<sup>2</sup>, etc.

All members of the ex.ctee should be alert in finding new members (a number of application forms will be sent to each of them).

#### 4. Relationship IAMS Secretariat/IIMO Leiden

The General Secretary presented the case, basing himself on proposals made by a delegation of the IIMO executive committee to the IIMO Board. Though officially the continuation of IAMS Secretariat in IIMO was said (in a letter to the then IAMS President, Gerald Anderson) to be dependent on the continued existence of IIMO, more is at stake: the IIMO Board wants to sever IIMO from the IAMS Secretariat, because of the alleged too heavy workload put on staff and administration capacity of IIMO. It is clear that at any rate the executive planning of the next IAMS Conference could not be done any longer within the IIMO institute. Basically the activities undertaken by IIMO on behalf of IAMS consist of:

1. Administration (correspondences, addresses)
2. Mission Studies (Journal, 2 times a year)
3. Conference (executive planning and organisation)

The officers of the committee (minus the Secretary) presented the following plan of action:

Taking into account the fact that IIMO had provided a base for the IAMS Secretariat already for more than nine years - which was appreciated very much - and evaluating the situation and atmosphere within the department of Missiology, IIMO, the IAMS executive will seriously try to find a new base for IAMS Secretariat before the next conference. At any rate, the planning and organization of the next conference will be taken out of IIMO. Hopefully this can be done by the 'new base', but if that would not be possible, Paul Clifford will guarantee the handling of it - hopefully backed up by David Kerr and his office.

Since the IAMS Secretariat needs an institutional base, the IAMS ex.ctee, in the person of John Pobeë will approach the Missiological Institute, Missio-Aachen with the request to take over IAMS Secretarial responsibility from IIMO - Leiden. The director of Missiological Institute - Aachen, Ludwig Wiedemann will be approached first by John Pobeë. The follow-up will be done by Secretary and Treasurer.

It was decided to write a letter to the chairperson of IIMO Board (who happens to be Arnulf Camps) informing him about the intentions and plans of the IAMS ex.ctee for the transfer of IAMS Secretariat from IIMO - Leiden to elsewhere.

This letter was discussed and then signed by the IAMS President and posted in the Netherlands by the General Secretary on his return.

It was also decided that - if the Missio-Aachen Institute would accept - a representative of that Institute would become an coopted member of the ex.ctee.

Connected with the issue of the Secretariat is the replacement of the Treasurer as from the next General Meeting (1988). David Kerr is already accepted as Paul Clifford's back-up and future successor. But because of developments in Selly Oak Colleges there is some uncertainty whether Kerr will stay on there. Also this point needs careful attention.

#### 5. Evaluation of VI IAMS Conference at Harare (1985) - planning for the next Conference (1988)

- 5.1. EVALUATION: On the basis of the evaluation-sheets of the participants and on the basis of their own observations several remarks were made (which are summarized):

- there is an overwhelming support of the format.
- as regards lectures: Presidential address should be at the beginning; the text of the lecture should circulate before the presentation (either sent out beforehand or handed out before each lecture: this also especially for those for whom English is a second or third, etc. language).

Respondents to key-lectures can balance the address if this is not up to standard (e.g. Shun Govender's paper was considered theologically weak by some, others considered it to be a new approach for breaking new grounds in doing missiology).

Question about how to present a key-lecture: read in toto or summarized so that there is (more) room for discussion.

- as regards workshops: there is the question how structured a workshop should be; participants should know the format of the workshop. Number of participants in a workshop should ideally be between 10 à 15 persons. Leaders should be rather facilitators than experts. Feedback of workshops not only in groups, also in the general conference (? - this easily becomes a boring exercise if not carefully and selectively prepared!).
- more biblical studies? - there was criticism of biblico-theological depth, and the absence of a systematic theological treatment of the central key-concept 'transformation'.

In Bangalore Bible Studies formed part of the programme (+ inbuilt exchange-possibilities) but they were questioned. Perhaps a solution should be sought to treat issues in a comprehensive way (= integration of biblical, theological and socio-cultural approach), so that biblical reflection is not considered as an obligatory part unrelated to the full reality under study.

- the worship met with a positive response; perhaps a time should be set for preparing a service.
- as regards resolutions: the Secretary could report he had handed the respective resolutions in person to Archbishop Hurley (in Pretoria) and to Rev. Frank Chikane, Institute for Contextual Theology (ICT, Jo'burg). It was not clear to which agencies the resolutions should be sent, though e.g. Ecumenical Press Service (EPS - Geneva) and the AACC (Nairobi) would have been obvious addresses. When resolutions are formulated, equal thought should be given to the way of distributing them.
- as regards forum: this item is welcomed very much. However, it turns out that some participants present papers which have already been published (but without mentioning it - IAMS than receives 'second-hand' results).
- colloquia - no special remarks?!
- as regards exposure-programmes: it is a pity that relatively few participants take part in these programmes. This is the more pitiful because it turns out that the exposures are of great benefit not only for those who took part but for the whole conference and also because so much effort has been put into them both by local organizers and the IAMS Secretariat in preparing viable and relevant exposure-programmes.
- as regards early leaving: a good number of participants in Harare Conference left for a meeting of CWME in Nairobi, because this partly overlapped the IAMS meeting. Dates should therefore be checked with other missionary bodies and an early announcement made as soon as the dates have been fixed. A good 'remedy' is to have a major event in the last night of the Conference.

- language - it should get more attention, but realistically in view of the financial (im)possibilities of IAMS, etc.

Decision: In Mission Studies no. 4 (=II-2) a list of reactions to the Harare Conference (as published in journals, reviews) should be published (as is already the custom). Besides Joan Chatfield is requested to write a 'reflection on the future of the Conference in the light of the experience of the Harare Conference' (this should be ready by the first of September 1985).

## 5.2. PLANNING NEXT CONFERENCE

The discussion on the location took into account that Selly Oak Colleges (Birmingham), the Centre for Mission (Oxford) and Università Urbaniana (Rome) had invited IAMS to come to their respective places for the next Conference. The importance of 'Rome' for the next venue was presented by Willi Henkel, who was present because of a DAB planning meeting, preceding the committee meeting. A decision was, however, taken in a later session.

Since the 'base' of Oxford was considered too small (organisation-wise) and Selly Oak was in a state of transition to a new presidency, ROME was chosen as the place for the next Conference (1988); however, under condition that participants could be accommodated within premises that allow for a concentrated meeting and for easy interaction between participants (in other words: no dislocation of accommodation).

An exploratory delegation of the IAMS committee (consisting of the officers in close cooperation with Willi Henkel and Willi Jenkinson) will visit Rome as early as possible after October 21, 1985. Its task is:

- 1) to locate suitable premises for the next Conference (Università Urbaniana with Collegio Americano; the SDB central house in Rome; SVD training centre in Nemi)
- 2) to meet missionary and missiological people who can form a local support and arrangements group (besides Henkel and Jenkinson: bishop Rossano, Sr. Loftus; Faculties like Facultas Missiologica, Gregoriana; Protestant centres of the Waldensers, Mennonites, Anglicans; Centro pro Unione; Secretariat for Christian Unity)
- 3) to discuss and spot opportunities for exposure-programmes within and around Rome (basic Chr. communities, communist groups, places of tradition like monasteries; Florence and Assisi ?? - )
- 4) to investigate whether the proposed dates (second half of July 1988) would be suitable and then fix the dates so that they can be made known.

Theme : the various suggested foci for a theme (unity; secularization; third world input; stress on 'missio Dei'; common witness) and a strong sense that the approaching Third Millennium marks a new era for Christianity (namely a shift from North to South) converged into a double rather similar (dissimilar as regards sequence!) suggestion for a theme to be:

- a. The gospel of hope: mission toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium
- b. Mission toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium: the gospel of hope.

In the committee preference was given by most members to the formulation under b).

Note: this formulation of a theme is still a tentative one, and should therefore not made public. However, it is good to check this theme with colleagues and also in the exploratory meeting of IAMS delegation to Rome.

Exposure-programmes should also be explored in other countries, since people travelling to Rome could use such an opportunity: (too!) many countries were mentioned such as Spain, Portugal, Greece, Tunisia, Egypt, etc.

Concrete investigations will be made by the following committee members:

- Paul Clifford: will contact Ian Frazer as regards basic communities
- Joh Pobebe tries to identify some possibilities in Spain-Portugal
- Joan Chatfield will contact Stott for identifying evangelical initiatives (Kirk and Glasser could be involved too)
- Other possibilities: Trevor Huddleston (London), Mary Hall (Mufuru-Birmingham), urban mission (Amsterdam) ...

## 6. Activities in between Conferences

### 6.1. DAB - (Documentation, Archives, Bibliography)

Paul Jenkins, chair person of the DAB working group reported about the DAB meeting preceding the committee meeting regarding issues to be decided upon by the committee.

#### a. *Workshop on missiological indexing*

The planning and holding of a workshop in Paris, 5-9 January 1987 was approved. Participation will be by invitation and will number about 25 à 30 persons.

An important input will be the Survey to be undertaken by Steven Peterson, who will visit European Centres where indexing takes place. IAMS will provide means to make this survey possible.

(N.B. 'Aachen' will convene a meeting on micro-computers indexing beginning 1986).

#### b. *Core-group*

The following persons were (re-)nominated to belong to the DAB core-group: Jenkins (chair person), Henkel (secretary), Peterson, Bosch, Anderson, Jeschke, Lagerwerf, Munthe, Von Sicard, Bernard, Balasurya, Karotemprel, Dussel, Walls, and q.q.: President, Secretary, Treasurer.

#### c. *IAMS - DAB relations*

It is important to keep also other members on board. Important for this is regular information about DAB in Mission Studies. IAMS members should feel part of 'the search for common ground' (= subtitle of planned workshop in Paris).

Another way is to involve persons and institutions (IAMS has 65 corporate/institutional members!) by way of a DAB-questionnaire. On the basis of the findings some persons could be invited to the Paris workshop.

- #### d. *Relationship IAMS-DAB to national archives organisations*: should DAB-IAMS become a member or an associate member of an organisation such as 'Verband Kirchlicher Archivaren'? (or vice versa?). A proposal was accepted to explore the nature of such relationships and to give a report to the next IAMS ex. ctee.

### 6.2. BISAM - (Biblical Studies and Missiology)

The General Secretary reported about Bisam-activities since the Bangalore Conference (1982):

- The paper on 'witness', promised by Marc Spindler, never got off ground and that was the end of something promising. Nevertheless, within IIMO context investigations into the concept of 'witness' in recent biblical scholarship was pursued and have led to a report soon to be published. A next step is to relate the findings to the use of the concept 'witness' in church documents over the last 40 years or so. (This project will start August 1985).
- The Selly Oak BISAM project apparently never got beyond John Ferguson. Yet, Selly Oak is rich in resources for biblical studies and should stay on the agenda. Paul Clifford will report back after consulting the new President Martin Conway.
- Harare-Conference according to John Pobee formulated 2 recommendations:
  - a) to look into the Syriac tradition;
  - b) to encourage IIMO to continue.

Conclusion: a) to extend an invitation to Marc Spindler to resume the proposal of Bangalore; b) to think about an overall structure of BISAM.

ad a: Marc Spindler will be asked to prepare a paper on 'witness' (Biblical and Missiological). This will be sent to a limited number of persons: David Bosch, George Prabhu, Donal Senior, René Padilla, John Pobee, Legrand MEP. Their responses (if only 3 would reply that would already serve the purpose) together with Spindler's paper and his first reaction would be published in Mission Studies, that could be a special on BISAM (if the number of pages would be sufficient).

ad b: the next exec. ctee will give thought to an overall structure of BISAM and about a core-group. (Cf. the DAB-structure).

6.2. Proposal for a continuation of Harare workshop on 'the church as a healing community'

The IAMS exec. ctee looked into the general proposal and referred it back to the initiators: H.J. Becken, Christopher Grundmann and Elda Rizzo de Oliveira, with the request:

- to define what kind of research they envisaged IAMS to do that is not yet done by other groups;
- to present a more detailed plan of action (content, participants, structure, activities, financial implications...).

To present an outline for such a working party to the next IAMS ex. ctee.

7. IAMS Journal: MISSION STUDIES

7.1. The General Secretary (Editor) of Mission Studies presented the forthcoming issues:

- no. 3 (II-1), June 1985, will contain Conference proceedings.
  - (N.B. the manuscript was ready in February and should have appeared in April; the proofs got lost, hence a delay; expected now at the end of June; Gerdien V.-Gilhuis has put much efforts into it as guest-editor).
- no. 4 (II-2), October 1985, will contain a selection of forum-papers (Harare), re-written as articles.
- no. 5 (III-1), March 1986, could contain the BISAM-papers (Spindler + responses), but this will probably be too early; alternative: some articles provided or written by new ex. ctee members (either for 5 or 6).
  - Takatso Mofokeng: relevant theology (missiology) for Botswana
  - Joan Chatfield : women and mission (+ reflection on Harare Conf. - see ad 5.1.).

- no. 6 (III-2), October 1986:

Calvin Shenk: about Orthodox/Coptic involvement in mission.  
Edith Bernard: will provide an article (outstanding/  
interdisciplinary)

Other items/suggestions

- Short history of IAMS - the ex. ctee expressed great joy that Olav Myklebust has agreed to write about the history and background that lead to the establishment of the IAMS.
- In the issue 1987: description/evaluation of missionary situation in Europe/Mediterranean

7.2. Editorial Ctee/Format

Up till now the ex. ctee acted as editorial ctee. - As soon as the new place of IAMS Secretariat has been settled, thoughts can be given to formation of editorial ctee and format (e.g. professional printing, etc.).

7.3. Other questions re. Mission Studies: decisions:

- No free subscriptions to Mission Studies are available, except in extraordinary situations (e.g. Eastern Europe) and at the discretion of the Editor;
- No exchange of Mission Studies with other journals/reviews (except at discretion of Editor);
- Circulation-list (= addresses): is not available except under strict conditions e.g. - restricted use, often on an exchange basis; - to rent the list in a restricted way.

7.4. Expansion of subscriptions

Besides the members of IAMS (+ 650) there are up till now only 60 additional subscriptions (libraries, etc.). This number should be expended to at least 300 (so that Mission Studies could become + self-supporting).

Mission Studies will be indexed in Religion Index One (ATLA), and as such is recognized internationally.

Think about making Mission Studies known!

8. Varia

- 8.1. Jerry Anderson will see to it that 2000 copies of a new IAMS Brochure will be printed. Each ex. ctee member will receive a good number of them to make IAMS known (+ expand into membership).  
(Frans Verstraelen has advised Jerry Anderson to go ahead in this, since the IAMS Secretariat will be in Leiden at least till September 1986).
- 8.2. Note the following dates:

Meetings IAMS

1. Explor. visit : Rome: after October 20, 1985
2. Ex. Ctee: Rome: April 24-27, 1986
3. DAB: meeting : Paris: Missiological Indexing  
January, 5-10, 1987
4. IAMS Conf. : July 1988  
Mission toward the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium:  
the gospel of hope

Leiden, 30 June 1985

F.J. Verstraelen