

**TENTH NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE LCJE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, 22-24 MARCH 1993**

International LCJE Report 1993

By Kai Kjær-Hansen

It is privilege for myself and my wife, Kirsten, to attend yet another North American LCJE meeting. For me it is the fourth time, for Kirsten, the second, and for some of you I assume it is the 10th time. What began with the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization's consultation in Pattaya, Thailand, 1980, has developed into a network which functions. Who would then have believed that? Maybe it does not always function as well as we would like it to. There are tensions, things could be handled in a better way, no doubt. But that is the way life is. The meeting here in Minneapolis is the tenth, something to be celebrated, and as International Coordinator I am pleased to congratulate you on it. The North American LCJE network has not yet entered the teens. When that happens, I am sure you will know how to solve and come to terms with the teen-age conflicts - or challenges! As individuals and agencies involved Jewish Evangelism we need each other. And perhaps more than we sometimes think. Therefore I also take this opportunity to welcome more North American agencies to become members of LCJE.

Since last year's meeting in Los Angeles the following items may be of interest.

1. International Coordinating Committee (ICC)

LCJE's ICC was gathered in Switzerland in October in connection with the European LCJE meeting in Adelboden. ICC consists of the President, Ole Chr. M. Kvarme, Norway, Jim Sibley, Israel/USA, Susan Perlman, USA, and myself, coordinator. Bodil F. Skjoett, Jerusalem, acted as secretary.

The major decisions from that meeting were mentioned in the LCJE Bulletin, no. 30, November 1992.

a. LCJE and Eschatology

Allow me to repeat what was said about a theological question which is not without relevance to Jewish evangelism, namely LCJE and eschatology:

An LCJE member has, on behalf of his organisation, expressed the concern that there is not enough room for their view of eschatology and not enough room for Messianic Jews in LCJE.

In his answer President Ole Chr. Kvarme has referred to LCJE's foundation as agreed upon in Thailand 1980, that

- the basic theological issue for LCJE is to point away from replacement theology
- different views of eschatology should not be allowed to create fronts and stumbling blocks between members

- a common Christology and soteriology is the base.

LCJE is to be an open organisation with room for different views and participation and involvement.

Concerning the input of Messianic Jews the President stated that the Pattaya meeting was the first of its kind. The work has since then grown with greater participation of Messianic Jews. They are central in the regional leadership.

In other words: Within the framework of LCJE there is room for different views on eschatology. What unites us is the conviction that Jews need Jesus for salvation. To put is

briefly: In LCJE a discussion of the validity of John 14:6 can not become an item on the agenda. But a number of questions concerning eschatology may very well be points for discussion.

b. Ballot on voting rights

At the conference in Zeist 1991 there was some confusion over who had the right to vote. There were participants who became members a few hours before the election in Zeist. The ICC decided to put the following proposal to the vote among LCJE's members:

Only members who have paid their LCJE dues in the calendar year prior to the year of an International Conference are eligible to vote in the elections at the Conference. This proposal was carried with a big majority in a vote in the beginning of this year (cf. The LCJE Bulletin, no. 31, p.2).

This decision will be incorporated in the new guidelines which are on the way.

c. Membership and dues

Membership dues for agencies were raised, while individual membership dues were kept at USD 25. Every year there are agencies and individual members who fail to pay and who are therefore deleted from the list. A few agencies appear to have resigned due to the rise in dues.

Over the last few years the number of individual members has been between 125 and 150 and the number of agencies between 25 and 30. These numbers should be larger!

Just as it is possible for an organisation or a church to enjoy an associate membership, it is now also possible for individuals to join the "Friends of LCJE".

d. Publications

Since we last met we have got a new International Networking Directory, which Susan Perlman has been in charge of and for which she deserves much credit. Together with the Bulletin we send out correction sheets. If there are changes of address we also communicate such changes and hope that they will be pasted on the relevant pages in the Directory.

The LCJE Bulletin is published four times a year with a circulation of 750. It is being produced with the assistance of Birger Petterson and Flemming Markussen, who both put a lot of work into it. As editor I welcome suggestions for themes which might be of interest to the readers of the Bulletin.

A brochure about LCJE is being prepared. So is a booklet. LCJE will hardly become a book-publisher, but we would like to support the publication of books with themes relevant to Jewish evangelism. In this area LCJE agencies should be able to function better as a network than is the case today.

3. Jewish Prayer Needs

Jewish Prayer Needs (JPN) is also an LCJE publication, but it deserves special mention. It is edited by Betty Baruch, Area Coordinator for LCJE Australia/New Zealand, and is a prayer letter "linking Asia and the Pacific in prayer". In 1992 it appeared four times with a circulation of 1000. The receivers of these letters are mainly Asian Christians. We are very grateful for this initiative. It adds a new perspective to Jewish evangelism that Christians in that part of the world are involved in prayer. It also makes an impression when I receive letters from Singapore and the Union of Myanmar because such letters show that JPN in these places has succeeded in communicating interest in and love of Jewish evangelism. This leads me to the next point.

4. The Far East

At the initiative of Kenichi Nakagawa, the leader of Harvest Time Ministries, Japan, a

seminar on Jewish evangelism was held in Japan in July 1992. Bodil F. Skjoett, Jerusalem, and I were invited to give lectures. In November 1992 there was another seminar with the participation of Angi and Steve Silverstein. Kenichi Nakagawa has chosen to work through LCJE, and in his magazine Tsunobue there is almost invariably a substantial article translated into Japanese, taken either from the LCJE Bulletin or from these seminars.

Perhaps, in a not so distant future, we may see an All Asian Conference on Jewish evangelism under the auspices of LCJE. Tentative preparations have been initiated.

5. Consultations and meetings

The last year has seen LCJE meetings in Israel and in Europe. And LCJE members have been active in meetings sponsored by other organisations. Of particular note is the consultation in South Africa sponsored by The Evangelical Fellowship of South Africa. This consultation issued "The South African Declaration on the Christian Gospel and the Jewish People", which is an excellent document highly recommendable for a careful study (published in the LCJE Bulletin, no. 31, 1993).

Three conferences are being prepared:

Consultation on Soviet Jewish Evangelism, Forum for Chief Executive Officers, and European Theological Consultation on the Church and the Jewish People. It is possible that the last one will be divided into three: one for the United Kingdom, one for Scandinavia, and one for Germany.

6. International Conference 1995

The next International Conference is scheduled to take place in Israel, 11-16 June 1995. At the next ICC meeting in January 1994 we will be working on the program. But it is not too soon to make a note of it in the calendar.

7. A challenge to LCJE North America

And then I want to end where I began, namely with the fact of this being the tenth North American meeting. As far as I know, it has been demanded of all speakers at these meetings that they should submit their manuscript. If these papers are put on top of each other, it will be quite a pile. I think it would be a fine idea if LCJE North America at this its tenth meeting decided to review some of these papers to see if some of them were of such a quality that they deserved publication in a book.

Of course there are!

And of course they can be published.

If some of the North American missions are willing to network on this.