

**Seventeenth North American LCJE Meeting
Atlanta, 13-15 March 2000**

**International LCJE Report 2000
By Kai Kjær-Hansen**

From Y2K Problems to Y3K Challenges

The transition from 1999 to 2000 was not as bad as feared by many. We are still alive and kicking - and so are our computers. And so is even LCJE. But best of all: our Messiah is alive. He is the same whether we call it the second or the third millennium. Yesterday, today and forever - he is the same! Therefore: the Y2K problems are a thing of the past. Ahead of us in LCJE are Y3K challenges. We are not going to be intimidated by the future of the third millennium. And we are not going to rest on our laurels - if there are any. The present challenges us, because Jesus is the same. Always, in the past and in the present. He is Israel's Messiah.

As I wrote in the LCJE Bulletin no. 59 (February 2000) I cannot help being annoyed that Christian extremists stole the scene in Israel in the change for 1999 to 2000. It could have been a lot worse - but nevertheless. There were more journalists in pursuit of a good story who were hunting for people who had been committed to Jerusalem's Kfar Shaul Mental Health Center than there were people committed there with various forms of the Jerusalem syndrome!

And yet there were Christian extremists in Israel who stole the scene with their crippled ideas of what might hasten the return of Jesus.

If we turn our eyes to North America, which is where some of these Christian extremists came from, I have noticed the ongoing media debate about Jewish evangelism triggered off by, among other things, the prayer guide which the Southern Baptists produced. A culmination of this was the Larry King Live program about Jewish evangelism in January 2000, in which David Brickner participated. I am sure Susan Perlman will comment on this in her Media Report.

A debate about Jewish evangelism is an opportunity to present Jesus as the Messiah when the debate is used in the right way.

As an example of this I want to mention that in January-February 2000, Lawrence Hirsch, LCJE Coordinator for Australia and New Zealand, was involved in a similar debate in Melbourne, Australia. The Jewish community in Victoria set up a task force to combat the work of the local Messianic Jews. Lawrence Hirsch' comment is: "We are actually very flattered that a task force has been set up especially to combat our work. God is doing a wonderful thing in drawing Jewish people to faith in Messiah Jesus here in Melbourne and obviously the Jewish community has noticed that." Lawrence adds, "We do, however, takes these threats seriously and ask our brothers and sisters in the Lord to especially pray for Celebrate Messiah and also for the Jewish people that we love and wish to reach with the message of Messiah. It's sad that the Jewish community see us as a threat to their existence. Even so, Jesus wept over the Jewish people saying, 'how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.'"

You need not be a prophet to predict that such reactions on Jewish evangelism from the Jewish community will continue even in the third millennium.

It is my hope that we in LCJE, even if we have different outlooks on a number of theological questions and missiological strategies, will continue to stand together and together voice the message that Israel need Jesus for salvation. And this is all the more important because we belong to a minority: this is true about Jewish believers in Jesus, and it is true

about Gentiles who are involved in evangelization of Jewish people, “we” are also a minority. It is my sincere hope that Jewish believers and Gentile believers *together* can encourage and support each other in this important thing. I believe we are all still needed.

LCJE Since Last in St. Louis (March 1999)

When we look back on the year 1999, LCJE’s Sixth International Conference at Hofstra University, New York, is vivid in the memory. This was the first International LCJE Conference to be held here in North America. There were few signs of disagreement at the conference, the participants were at ease, the various papers and contributions were of a high and inspiring standard, and there was time for interaction between speakers and participants between the sessions. The feedback I have got after the conference has been very positive.

I want to express my thanks to both Chosen People Ministries and Jews for Jesus for their assistance prior to and during the conference and for the manpower they provided us with. It was important for the success of the practical arrangement.

The best memory from Hofstra is nevertheless that out of the approximately 130 participants in the conference there were some 20 young leaders who set up a “young leaders” network. Here in Atlanta they have had their own Youth Track. It looks promising for the future.

At the meeting at Hofstra, Theresa Newell was elected new Coordinator for LCJE North America with Robert Specter as secretary. They replaced Fred Klett and Murray Tilles who served for four years as coordinator and secretary respectively. Both deserve our thanks.

Theresa Newell has taken on the task with determination and was responsible for the production of our new LCJE brochure, which appeared in the autumn of 1999.

Another task, which Birger Petterson is in charge of, is the production of a new Directory. The latest Directory was from 1992! At present we have had responses from a little more than half of our members, agencies and individuals. This Directory will only contain information about LCJE members. In order to avoid printing errors, we have asked members to send the information via e-mail, which has also been done in some cases. The Directory will be available on print, a thin booklet, and as a data file, a disk. It will be updated once a year.

A third matter which is a result of the Hofstra meeting is the planning of a conference for CEO’s. The Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel (NCMI) offered to arrange this meeting, which is scheduled to 9-13 August 2001, in the vicinity of Oslo, Norway. In order not to pass over any one, all LCJE members will be invited. It is then up to each individual to decide whether or not they belong to this group.

Let me finally mention that Tuvya Zaretsky and I have been in close contact concerning the conference arranged by LCWE/AD 2000 and Beyond in Jerusalem around the turn of the year 2000-2001. As we see it, it is a must that this world conference should have Jewish Evangelism on the program - especially since the conference is set in Jerusalem. Tuvya Zaretsky has discussed this matter with Paul Cedar, President of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE), and I am sure he is going to inform all of us about this sometime during our meeting.

LCJE’s International Coordinating Committee (ICC)

At Hofstra in August 1999 a new ICC was elected with Tuvya Zaretsky as President and Lisa Loden (Israel) and Pirkko Säilä (Finland) as committee members - all three newly elected. And I, the International Coordinator, and Bodil F. Skjøtt, secretary, are the only relics from the old millennium. If somebody thinks that this radical change of staff is due to a crisis, they are mistaken. Two of the outgoing ICC members, President Ole Chr. M. Kvarme and committee member Susan Perlman, have been with us since the beginning of time, that is

1980, so the time for replacement had come. Both have done a terrific job in the committee. And Tsvi Sadan wanted to leave his post because he needed time to concentrate on his PhD studies.

It has not yet been possible for new ICC to gather. I hope it will happen in the autumn of 2000. An important point on the agenda will be the tentative preparations for the next international conference, which is scheduled to 2003. The place has not yet been decided.

I have looked forward to being together with you here, I thank you for encouragement and prayers in the past and hope I can also count on it in the future.