Obituary – Aasulv Lande (1937–2019)

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Professor emeritus Aasulv Lande passed away on the 8 July 2019 in Arendal Hospital, Norway. Aasulv Lande was born in 1937 in Bygland Norway and served as a Lutheran missionary priest in Japan between 1965 and 1980, before entering academic mission studies. He defended his PhD in Mission Studies in Uppsala in 1988, and after that he taught at Oslo University and the Selly Oak Colleges before becoming professor in mission studies and ecumenics at Lund University, Sweden in 1994. He held that position until his retirement in 2005. In Sweden he was also a board member at the Institute for Contextual Theology. Professor Lande's close relationship with Japan continued throughout his academic career, and he worked in collaboration with several Japanese universities both before and after being professor in Lund. In addition to his research in Japanese religion and mission history, much of Lande's teaching and publishing was focused on interreligious dialogue, particularly Christian-Buddhist encounters. Professor Lande was a long-time member of IAMS.

During his career, Professor Lande made several important contributions to the field of mission studies. His PhD, which was published by Peter Lang in 1988 was titled *Meiji Protestantism in History and Historiography: A Comparative Study of Japanese and Western Interpretation of Early Protestantism in Japan*. In the study he explored the interpretation of the Meiji Protestant legacy in Japan and Western milieus between 1872 and 1945. Over the years Lande also published several articles, book chapters and edited volumes in the areas of mission studies and interreligious relations in English, Swedish and Norwegian. Among his most important edited works are *Mission in a Pluralist World* (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1997), *The Missionary Factor in Ethiopia* (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 1998), *The Concept of God in Global Dialogue* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2005), and, in Swedish, *Gud är mitt i världen: Om Bonhoeffer och hans relevans idag* (Lund: Arcus förlag, 2012).

Professor Lande and his wife Gunvor have three children. Among his colleagues and students, he is remembered as a very warm, hospitable, and joyful personality who had the gift of being able to arouse enthusiasm among students and co-workers. In many ways, his perceptive, curious, and friendly character personified the ideals of interreligious dialogue. He will be greatly missed.