REPORTS ON REGIONAL MEETINGS

*Latin American/Caribbean Group*

Present:
Edmund Davis - Jamaica
Ana Langerak - Costa Rica
Nestor Miguez - Argentina
Norberto Saracco - Argentina
Rey Riquelme - Chile
Rev. and Mrs. Hanoch Duke - Jamaica
José Miguel de Angelo - Bolivia
William Numa - Jamaica
Marlene Condon - USA (Chile)
David Grainger - Britain (Brazil)

1. It was suggested that future IAMS conferences and contacts between members in the region might include a separate group for the Caribbean.

2. Efforts need to be made to widen IAMS membership on LA Continent. Could *some* IAMS material be available in *Spanish*? It might be possible to circulate copies of individual articles from the IAMS magazine in Spanish, or to ask for their inclusion in existing publications (as *Pastoralia, Misión, Cadernos de Teologia, Aconteceu Evangélico*). If Quito or any other LA location is chosen for the IX Conference this makes the above both desirable and perhaps possible.

Some aspects of LA/Caribbean reality were discussed.

These included:

a) the continued and indeed deepening poverty and destitution in the region, and the continued consequences of massive internal and external debt - what is it to preach and to live the gospel in the context of destitution?

b) The *new evangelization of the Catholic Church (Lumen 2000 et al)*. The renewed intention of evangelization of the LA culture and the intention of promoting LA identity as a Catholic and working out of the Catholic vision of its people (to be Latin American is to be Catholic) - involving a realignment of Church with LA culture.
c) Problems of divisions of understanding within Catholicism and amongst Protestants.

d) Growth of Afro-Brazilian and Afro-American religions and the reemergence of satanic and demonic cults.

Many of the above socio/economic/political issues need to be considered as one with the religious issues mentioned and vice versa.

e) The early drafts of the documents for the meeting of the Catholic Bishops in October include exclusivist phrasing which flies in the face of ecumenical relationships and the growing awareness of the pluralistic vision of human society. Some tension had been occasioned by criticism of the Catholic evangelization of LA, coupled as it had been with the process of domination and colonialization, in papers for the forthcoming gathering of CLAI. Ecumenical relationships and cooperation were more extensive and harmonious in the Caribbean. The combination of the renewed Catholic commitment to evangelization and the persistent Protestant counterpart are likely to cause continuous tension in the future. Ecumenical relationship is difficult where growth occurring and where one church is vast majority.

f) Problem of identity between some Roman Catholic leaders and right wing political forces (also a danger with some Protestants) - evident in the ambivalent response to human rights abused in recent decades.

g) We (briefly) discussed the search for appropriate patterns of evangelism.

**Nominations for IAMS Executive**

It was agreed to submit the following names:

ANA LANGERAK, NESTOR MIGUEZ, EDMUND DAVIS

*David Grainger*

**Pacific Group**

1. We would like the IAMS to take seriously the question of Mission and Ecology. We mean earth equals LAND and SEA. The sea is a very important part of human life.