

Sixteenth North American LCJE Meeting
St. Louis, 8-10 March, 1999
International LCJE Report 1999
By Kai Kjær-Hansen

Here we are again, gathered under LCJE's umbrella. The many familiar faces from earlier years' meetings indicate that there are still people involved in Jewish evangelism who see the need of a network like LCJE and who are willing to spend time and money to come here. Fortunately there are also new faces. Welcome in the LCJE fellowship! So here at the end of the 1990's LCJE is still alive and kicking. I'm afraid this is more than can be said for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE), from which the Lausanne Consultation on Jewish Evangelism (LCJE) sprouted. At least LCWE shows no signs of life at the moment and has stopped the publication of their magazine *World Evangelization* due to lack of finances. But no organisation lasts forever - and yet it may have fulfilled an important mission. LCJE will not last forever either, but as far as I know there are no plans to stop the work.

The first North American LCJE meeting in which I participated was in 1990 - and even here in St. Louis. Don't worry, I am not going to nostalgic about it. But I remember one thing from that meeting, namely that Moishe Rosen in the corridor gave me, who was a newly-elected member of LCJE's International Coordinating Committee (ICC), reprimand to the effect that if ICC did not get its economy in order, then LCJE's would soon be numbered. We did get it in order and have a very sound economy based on annual dues from individual members and from agency members and a surplus from the international conferences.

That the finances are in order is a satisfaction but as International Coordinator this is not what fills me with joy. But what makes me glad is for example an announcement which came from Germany in the fall of 1998 which declared that they has established a German LCJE "branch", a national chapter like the one in Finland. Three organisations are behind this branch of LCJE: Evangeliumsdienst für Israel (EDI) and Arbeitsgemeinschaft für das Messianische Zeugnis an Israel (AMZI) - (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für das Messianische Zeugnis an Israel means Partnership for Messianic witness to Israel). Both these organisations are agency members of LCJE. The third organisation is Beit Sar Shalom Evangeliumsdienst (BSSE) in Berlin, which from 1999 is a new LCJE member. BSSE is the German branch of Chosen People Ministries in the USA . Also in 1999 a Dutch organisation has joined us, namely Board of Israel of the Netherlands Reformed Church.

For such organisations it is not the same whether there is a network like LCJE or not. At the end of 1998 there were 77 individual members of LCJE from the USA.

The number of agency members in North America was, at the end of 1998, 11. Here is a list of them:

Bible Testimony Fellowship, Canada
Jews for Jesus, Canada
Ariel Ministries
Congregation Beth Messiah
Congregation Tiferet Israel
Good News for Israel
Jews For Jesus
Love Israel Ministries
UMJC
Fuller Theological Seminary

New agency members from North America in 1999:

Shoresh

Tikkun

Of course the period from last year's North American meeting till now has, in various ways, been influenced by the upcoming Sixth International LCJE Conference in New York, 12-17 August 1999. In my opinion we have managed to make up an engaging and diversified program with opportunities for interaction in plenary sessions. This is the first time an LCJE international conference is going to be held in North America. So you are a kind of hosts. Hosts are expected to show up and to help make the conference known. In the LCJE context we do not usually spend resources on colourful brochures. Nor are we going to do it this time. We count on you! It shall be my pleasure to take your registrations at this meetings. I am also willing to receive LCJE dues for old and new members.

In New York we shall be gathering under the theme of Jewish Evangelism on the Eve of the Third Millennium. And we shall come together aware that the words which were pronounced at the beginning of the first millennium are still in force, the words which were written by the author of the Letter to the Hebrews: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

As already said: LCJE exists. LCJE will not exist forever. Jesus Christ is the same - forever! He was it who said to some Jews: No one comes to the Father but by me. LCJE would like to take that message into the next millennium.