

August 30, 1972

Dr. David Stowe
Executive Vice President
United Church Board for World Ministries
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10027

Dear Dave:

As you will see from the enclosed news release, the American Society of Missiology was launched in a meeting last month at Scarriff College of professors of mission and others interested in studying the missionary dimension of the Christian church. One of the very notable features of the A.S.M. is the fact that it has attracted and seeks to include within its membership a broad range of theological and church traditions, from conservative evangelicals to ecumenical scholars and Roman Catholics. Something of the spread of representation is indicated on this letterhead and, as you will see, I am serving as chairman of the Continuation Committee that is seeking to carry forward some of the concerns and commitments of this new Society.

The A.S.M. does not intend to take over the functions of the two existing organizations of professors of missions, but rather to provide a common meeting ground for scholars from a wide range of theological perspectives and also to include within its membership others than professors. We are especially eager to include within the membership of the A.S.M. executives of mission boards and agencies, missionaries, and scholars from allied fields such as anthropology, linguistics and area studies, and graduate students in all of these fields. In so doing we hope to further the recognition of missiology as an academic discipline and to seek affiliation with the Council on the Study of Religion.

We expect to begin publication of the A.S.M. Newsletter, an occasional bulletin, in October, with Herbert Kane of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, John T. Boberg, S.V.D. of the Catholic Theological Union, and Roland Scott of Garrett Theological Seminary serving as editors.

Of greatest importance is our plan to launch a scholarly North American based journal of missiology, to be published quarterly beginning in early 1973. We are projecting a journal that would be comparable in quality to the International Review of Mission, and our own journal will be all the more important in

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view of the uncertain future of the I.R.M. Dr. Alan Tippett, an Australian Methodist and former missionary to Fiji, now professor of missionary anthropology at Fuller Theological Seminary Graduate School of World Mission, has been invited to serve as editor of the new journal. A distinguished editorial board, broadly representative of conservative evangelical, ecumenical Protestant, and Roman Catholic traditions, will serve in an advisory capacity to the editor.

From our preliminary survey and study we believe this journal can be self-supporting after the first three years of publication. In order to launch the journal, however, and in order to bear the start-up costs of overhead expense until we can generate sufficient subscriptions and advertising to make it self-sufficient, we are seeking support from a broad range of North American mission agencies for the first three years. As indication of the broad range of interest and support for the project, I can report that we have already received commitments of grants from the foreign mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention and a Roman Catholic society.

The purpose of this letter is to request a grant in the amount of \$750 or \$250 per year for three years, from the UCBWM to help underwrite the launching of this North American based scholarly journal of mission studies, beginning in 1973. We believe this journal will serve an exceedingly vital function in this crucial period of world mission endeavor to help clarify many of the theoretical and practical issues that confront us, as well as contribute to the general knowledge about the missionary situation from many parts of the world. We would hope, of course, that many missionaries and mission board executives, as well as professors and graduate students, would find the journal invaluable for their work.

We are hopeful that the UCBWM will want to join with other mission boards and agencies in North America to support the launching of this ecumenical journal of world mission studies that will service and strengthen the cause of the Christian mission at a fundamental level of study, information and education.

Very cordially yours,


Gerald H. Anderson
Chairman
Continuation Committee

GHA:K

Enclosure

Copy to Dr. Ralph Winter ✓