

**MISSION STRUCTURES:
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MOVEMENTS:
India Missions Association –
Indian National Movement of Mission Organisations.
*K.. Rajendran, India Missions Association:***

The background:

The early Christians passed through the ages of persecution during the period of Nero and latter peace under the Emperor Constantine. Eventually the misunderstanding of Christianity gave birth to Islam which wiped out Christianity in the North African regions. Then the Crusades to occupy Jerusalem brought further animosity between the Muslims and Christians. This also closed the trade route to Asia, particularly to India by the Islamic nations such as Turkey which blocked the Christian nations to pass through to India. Because of which the Pope commissioned kings of Europe to find India by sea route which resulted in finding the Continents of America, Africa, Asia and thus the whole world became the colonies of various countries of Europe. During this time the division of Christianity into two as Roman Catholics and Protestants further divided the new colonized world. The European countries which conquered brought their brand of Christianity to different parts of the world. Thus, Christianity, till today, is seen as the religion of Europe and the religion of the conquerors and some see it as the religion of the exploiters of the nations. This has its tremendous backlogs for Christianity.

The Protestant missionaries worked very hard and the world was influenced by the many missionaries who sacrificially worked to help people to follow Christianity. They shaped the present missions' thinking and the total mission endeavours in the newly awakened mission sending countries. The missions' methods and policies were strongly influenced by the then leading Protestant missionaries such as William Carey, Hudson Taylor, William Cameroon Townsend, and Donald McGavran. The philosophies and practices of mission organisations emerged from those people, thoughts and times.

In this scenario around about 1950s most of the European colonized nations became independent and lost the traditional Protestant Western missionary services. The new independent nations restricted visas for the traditional missionaries. Thus, the church was left stranded developing their own indigenous leadership for their church denominations. Once the indigenous leadership for the churches established, due to some revival and consciousness about the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, Mission organisations came into being from mid 1960s.

The Origins of Indian Missions:

In this scenario, in India prior to 1965 there were only four indigenous missions. From 1965 the new born mission organisations and Indian Christians became conscious of cross-cultural evangelism. Most of the philosophies of mission, methods, and policies were built on the exact copies of the Western missionaries of the past. Some were good and some of them were and are irrelevant for the day.

Why & How India Missions Association was formed?

In this scenario, in 1977, the newly emerged missions gathered to form India Missions Association in the gathering by the Evangelical Fellowship of India at Devlalai, Maharashtra. IMA was formed to connect and to deal with the issues of being cross-cultural missions. Thus, IMA was formed by five different mission agencies to bring together Christian organisations in India for mutual help, co-operation, and corporate expression. Today IMA represents 210 Indian mission organisations, agencies and Church groups and about 40,000 Christian workers within India and beyond.

The Mission of IMA:

India Missions Association is the national federation of missions in India, which assists Missions and Churches in the proclamation of the Good news and in making disciples of Jesus Christ among all peoples, languages, and geographical areas through members who partner to share resources, research, and training by their effective accountability and care of their personnel.

The Vision of IMA:

To connect and enhance missions and churches to establish Jesus worshipping fellowships among every people group within India and beyond.

Objectives of IMA:

- To Be An Association
 - For All Christian Organisations and churches involved in Missions in India.
- To Be A Facilitator
 - For Cooperation, Partnerships & Networks Through Sharing Resources.
- To Be A Challenging Voice
 - In the Church For Increased Commitment To Missions.
- To Be An Initiator
 - For Training, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences in New Avenues.
- To Disseminate Information
 - For Mobilising Prayer & Creating Awareness on Mission Issues.
- To Connect Peoples
 - In Churches & Missions both Locally & Globally.
- To Be a Catalyst
 - In Evolving Corporate Vision, Ethos & Strategy.
- To Empower Missions
 - In Caring For People Involved In Their Ministry.
- To Present An United Stand
 - Before the Public & the Government for the Cause Of Missions.
- To Establish Mutual Accountability
 - In Ministry, Leadership & Management Practices.

Internal Values of IMA:

- To be a visionary and a catalyst
- To strive to be a model
- To be accountable and transparent
- To care for and build one another
- To encourage formation of national and multi-cultural teams

- To have multi-linguistic personnel and operations
- To advocate excellence in ministry performance
- To be guided by the Word and the Spirit
- To comply with statutory requirements of the land
- To enrich indigenous leadership and finance

Membership:

Membership is open to Indian Missions (Christian organizations and Church groups) both inter-denominational and denominational, which are involved in ministry within or across geographic, linguistic, ethnic or socio-economic distance resulting in establishing of worshipping fellowship of peoples within India or outside.

Membership is also open to Indian missionary training centers, research centers, mission resource agencies, funding, sponsoring, facilitating, and other allied service groups.

Membership Criteria:

1. Membership is open to Indian Missions (Christian organizations and Church groups) both inter-denominational and denominational who are involved in ministry within or across geographic, linguistic, ethnic or socio-economic distance resulting in establishing of worshipping fellowship of peoples within India or outside.
2. Membership is also open to Indian missionary training centres, research centres, mission resource, and funding, sponsoring, facilitating and other allied service groups.
3. Partners: Partnership is open for overseas Missions & Churches involved in ministry to Indians.

Membership Requirements:

1. The organization (or in the case of a mission's department, its parent body) must have been functioning for at least three years as a registered body under the Societies / Trust Act.
2. The organization (or its parent body) should be registered with the Commissioner of Income tax.
3. There should be a minimum of at least seven board members or trustees and generally no two persons of the same family function as an office bearer of the organization.
4. An organization seeking membership with IMA, having satisfied itself that it qualifies, must pass a resolution seeking in its board meeting to apply for IMA membership.
5. Subscribe to IMA's statement of faith.
6. Accept the annual membership contribution.
7. Accept the Mission Field comity arrangement of IMA.
8. Accept the best practices of Ministry, Leadership & Management as advocated by IMA.

Needed Documents / Check List:

1. The IMA Membership Application Form duly filled & attested.
2. The Mission fields, branch offices and other appendix details duly filled in.
3. A copy of your society / trust / company registration certificate.
4. A copy of your audited accounts for the last three years.
5. A copy of the resolution of your board seeking membership with IMA.
6. A copy of your recent newsletter or magazine.

7. A copy of your introduction folder / information brochure.
8. A copy of your latest Annual Report read in your last AGM or Trust meeting.
9. A copy of your Memorandum of Association, Bye laws / Rules & Regulations / Trust deed.
10. Enclose a Demand Draft in favour of India Missions Association, Hyderabad for Rs 500/- as processing fee.

Membership processing Fee:

When sending the filled in membership application form, please include the membership processing fee for Rs 500/-(DD in favour of India Missions Association). You will receive an annual subscription of IMA magazine and some books.

How the Membership Application is processed:

When the membership application form dully filled in is received by our Regional office or Hyderabad office, the same is scrutinized. After which a senior staff of IMA makes a personal visit to build a relationship. Later the application is presented to the IMA executive committee that meets once in a six months. During the meeting the application again is scrutinized by the Executive members before it is accepted for membership. All the IMA members are then issued a membership certificate that is normally valid for about three years.

Membership Contributions:

a. Membership Contributions for *(Mission organisations & church bodies who are directly involved in mission & evangelistic ministry including holistic ministries)*

Number of staff/workers	Minimum Membership Contribution per year
0 – 10	Rs. 2,000
11 -25	Rs. 3000
26 – 50	Rs. 4,000
51 – 100	Rs. 6,000
101 – 150	Rs. 8,000
151 – 200	Rs. 10,000
201 – 400	Rs. 15,000
401 – 600	Rs. 20,000
601 & beyond	Rs. 25,000

b. Membership Contributions for *(Institutes, colleges, seminaries, Support services agencies, networks, associations etc.,)*

Number of staff/workers	Minimum Membership Contribution per year
0 – 20	Rs. 5,000
21 – 50	Rs. 10,000
51 – 100	Rs. 15,000
101-150	Rs. 20,000
Above 150	Rs. 25,000

The Annual Membership Contribution is to be sent to IMA before the end of each financial year.

Non-payment of the annual contribution for two consecutive years may result in losing membership in the Association.

Other Partners:

Partnership is open to overseas missions & churches involved in ministry to Indians.

IMA exists by the members and for the members. All members contribute toward the financial needs of IMA annually.

IMA's Global Relationships:

IMA partners with International bodies such as the World Evangelical Alliance - Missions Commission, Great Commission Roundtable, Lausanne, Ethne Movement and other such bodies.

IMA's National Relationships:

IMA is the founding partner of Indian Institute of Missiology (IIM), Christian Institute of Management (CIM), India Leadership Development Commission (ILDC) and Christians in Service (CIS - Prabhav) and partners with certain other national & regional networking agencies.

Statement of Faith:

We believe in:

1. The Holy Bible which is the fully and uniquely inspired Word of God, the only infallible, sufficient, and authoritative rule of faith and practice.
2. One God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. The deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His vicarious death and atonement through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial intercession, and His personal return in power and glory. He is the only Saviour of mankind.
4. The salvation of lost and sinful men through regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Salvation is by grace through faith.
5. The indwelling of the believer by the Holy Spirit, enabling the Christian to live a godly life.
6. The resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto to the resurrection of damnation.
7. The spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, who comprise the Church, the Body of Christ.

IMA Networks – 2006:

The IMA networks are based on the contemporary mission challenges in India. To impact the whole nation, the mission organisations have to network around these networks.

1. Member Care Network
2. Urban Ministries Network

3. BiG Partners / Tent-makers Network
4. Neighbours Network
5. Bandhu Seva Network
6. Missionary Training Network
7. Research Network
8. Board Members Network
9. Youth Ministries Network
10. Bible Translation & Literacy Network

Management of IMA:

IMA is corporately governed by the General Body, which consists of the CEOs of all its 200 Plus member organisations. The General Body annually elects its representatives to form the Executive Committee / Board of Directors, who meet twice a year and at other times, through correspondences.

The term of the executive members is for three years and could be re-nominated for one more term and could continue if elected by the general body. Maximum would be for two-terms and step down for a break of at least one year.

All the programs and activities of IMA have the proactive policy guidance of the representative team of leaders who are groomed and approved by the Executive Committee.

IMA Executive Committee For the Year 2006 & 2007

1. **Rev. Dr. Mrs. Kamala Chiranjeevi – Chair-person**
[Executive Director, Letha Charitable Trust, Hyderabad]
2. **Rev. John Kirubakaran - Vice Chairman, [**
General Secretary, Friends Missionary Prayer Band, Chennai]
3. **Rev. Samuel Hilel Lal – Treasurer**
[General Secretary, India Every Home crusade, Andhra Pradesh]
4. **Rev. Henry Joseph - Associate Treasurer Co-opted,**
[Director, Maranatha Miniseries, Chennai, Tamil Nadu]
5. **Rev. Victor John – Member**
[Director, Asian Shayogi Sanstha India]
6. **Rev. P. R. Parichha – Member**
[Executive Director – India Evangelistic Association, Cuttack, Orissa]
7. **Rev. Noel Kotian – Member**
[General Secretary, Indian Evangelical Mission, Bangalore]
8. **Rev. Zosangliana Colney - Member**
[General Secretary, Synod Mission Board, Mizoram]
9. **Rev. Samuel Prabhakar - Member**
[General Secretary, National Missionary Society, Tamil Nadu]
10. **Rev. Richard Howell - Permanent Invitee**
[General Secretary, Evangelical Fellowship of India, New Delhi]
11. **Dr. K. Rajendran - Ex Officio**
[General Secretary, India Missions Association, Hyderabad]

Benefits of being with IMA:

a. Contributions of IMA to its Member Missions

- Creates a National platform for fraternity, fellowship and corporate vision.
- Creates common mission focus to corporately affect the whole nation with the Gospel in the light of the contemporary evangelistic challenges.
- Connects members with one another for mutual learning.
- Connects members to prayer partners & resource agencies.
- Equips members for excellence in ministry, leadership & management practices.
- Promotes active networking among members on the field.
- Trains & develops emerging multicultural & linguistic leaders among members.
- Initiating Appropriate Trainings to be contextualised and enhance missions
- Provides a forum for sharing of information through all media.
- Provides a national voice for the cause of mission.
- Provides opportunities for members to contribute for global missions.
- Provides corporate credibility through mutual accountability.
- Creates think-tank forums to rethink and regroup for the current missions' issues. Informing - Analysing the present and pointing the way forward.
- Creates membercare forums of all the missions personnel concerned [CEOs, missionaries, missionary families, MKs and missionary welfare]
- Making Peace between the missions on possible misunderstandings.
- Serving all missions and churches in any possible way.

b. Contribution of Member Missions to IMA

- Honour the comity agreement
- Complement and cooperate with other missions and churches on the mission field resulting in partnership & networking rather than competition.
- Maintain the corporate credibility
- Comply with the statutory requirements of the land and develop excellence in ministry & management practices.
- Share the resources & expertise
- Share your resources like training, research information, infrastructure facilities, ministry tools and personnel with other missions.
- Participate in all IMA programs
- Participate in all the IMA programs such as conferences, seminars, consultations, training programs and fulfill a larger vision for our nation.
- Communicate your ministry
- Communicate with other missions and churches what god is doing in your ministry and various ministry needs through IMA publications.
- Support the functioning of IMA by regularly sending the annual membership contribution, seconding your staff to IMA to assume various responsibilities, sponsoring IMA's publications, partnering IMA in joint program & events and voluntarily sending in gifts and donations for other needs of IMA.

IMA exists by the member missions and for the member missions. Only when the members fulfil their obligations, IMA will be able to function to its fullest potential of connecting and

enhancing missions and churches to establish a worshipping fellowship of people among every ethnic, social, economic, vocational and linguistic people groups within India and beyond.

Mission Field Comity Arrangement:

1. A 'mission station' is defined as a place where one or more full-time paid missionaries of a particular mission reside permanently and work in and around that place in evangelism/ pastoral/ socio-economic ministries. An occasional preaching point or the residence of an honorary worker will not amount to a 'mission station'.
2. Member organisations will send to IMA annually, the location of all their 'mission stations'. They will also inform IMA of any change in the location of their mission stations periodically.
3. The opening of a new station in a geographical (rural, urban or tribal) area should not be done within the working distance of another mission. *One practical unit of working distance is the Postal PIN code area. Each Postal PIN area represents a population of about 35,000. If a mission or a church has a regular working station in a particular PIN code area, the other missions/churches should avoid establishing similar work in that PIN code area.*
4. Clause [3] shall not apply where two organisations work in or near the same place among two distinct people groups [*for example: Punjabis and Tamils in Delhi*] or are working among two different linguistic groups [*for example Bhojpuri's and Mythili in Patna*] or are involved in two distinct ministries [*for example: Bible Correspondence Follow-up and Ministry to the Blind*]. IMA advises that before starting the work, the two organisations should enter into a mutual written agreement to confine themselves to their stated goals and not overlap at a later date.
5. Any overlap of ministry or intrusion into one another's work or structure should be reported immediately to the leader of the concerned organisation. It is best to immediately sort out such problems between the two organisations by themselves. If there is no solution found within a reasonable period, the matter can be brought to the notice of IMA. *Once both the organisations establish and develop their work in their own way by overlapping, later it becomes extremely difficult to resolve comity issues.*
6. [a] If a missionary leaves one mission (organisation) and joins another mission (organisation), but wants to continue to work in the same place, this should not be permitted. The second organisation (mission) cannot inherit the work in that station as its work. The mission station and the work belong to the first mission. The second mission should post that missionary to a new area as per the above guidelines. If the first mission is unable to continue to work in that station, then with the written consent and invitation of the first mission, the second mission can start work in that station.

[b] A Congregation is defined as a group of at least 6 adults [from non-Christian background] led to faith, baptized and given pastoral care by that organisation. A smaller group is called a preaching point.

Other missions should not enter the congregation [or weekly preaching point] established by one mission / church. If the paid worker who is pastoring that congregation [like a pastor / evangelist/ Social worker] leaves this and joins another mission, the congregation still belongs to the first mission. The second mission cannot post any of its paid or voluntary staff to pastor this congregation. In all such posting of staff, clause 6 [a] of the guidelines shall apply.

7. Before opening any new station among any people groups, linguistic groups or geographical areas, organisations should refer to IMA to verify if there are any other organisation working in that particular people groups, linguistic groups or geographical areas.
8. IMA strongly advises the member organisations to concentrate on selected people groups, linguistic groups or geographical areas. *Most of the conflicts in overlap of mission field work between missions happen because missions do not concentrate their manpower in a few selected areas. Instead, many missions scatter their manpower all over the country.*
9. What is stated above for member organisations should equally apply to member church / denominations which are involved in evangelistic outreach and church planting or social work.
10. The member organisations when requested for clarification on such comity issues shall render full co-operation and provide all the required information and abide by the decisions made.

IMA Annual Awards

IMA has instituted two sets of annual awards to recognize the lifetime contribution of individuals to missions in India and to recognize and encourage excellence among member missions in six different categories. The awards seek to encourage the ethos of mutual accountability and appreciation of each other among member missions. The awards were as follows:

1. Life Time Achievement Award for individuals

2. Mission of the Year Award for member missions in six areas of Excellence.

- a. Pioneering Ministry
- b. Creative Strategy
- c. Partnership
- d. Member Care for Missionaries
- e. Leadership Development
- f. Missionary Training

The awardees are selected after receiving nominations from the member missions of IMA. IMA senior staff scrutinizes the nominations and the IMA Executive Committee decides the awardees. The award for the 'Life Time Achievement' constitutes an IMA Logo engraved memento and a small cash award. The award for the "Mission of the Year" is a similar memento.

IMA Members Credibility: Any mission / Church Missions Board that seeks membership in IMA is required to fulfill certain pre-conditions before it is accepted as a member to maintain the corporate credibility. The membership application is then scrutinized and where necessary one of the IMA Senior staff makes a personal visit. After this process, the IMA Executive Committee accepts the new members. All members of IMA are issued a membership certificate that is valid for about three years.

IMA's Credibility: The corporate credibility of Indian Missions is reflected by IMA as an association of Indian Missions. IMA encourages all its members to maintain the best practices in ministry and management by creating awareness, offering consultancy, and training. IMA does not act as a police officer since accountability is voluntary. IMA encourages the ethos of mutual accountability among members and the institution of the annual awards is an example. Accountability is not just calling to account when somebody falls below our expectations but also appreciate and applaud when others excel and follow their good example to the glory of God.

Landmarks in the history of India Missions Association:

1977: All India Congress on Missions & Evangelism (AICOME) was held at Devlali, Maharashtra organised by the Evangelical Fellowship of India

1977: An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to follow up the recommendation of AICOME for the formation of a Missions Association. Original Steering Team – Ad-hoc Committee Members

1. Mr. John Richard, EFI - (Chairman)
2. Rev. Theodore Williams, Indian Evangelical Mission (General Secretary)
3. Mr. R. Stanley, Full Gospel Young Men's Association (Blessing Youth Mission) - (Treasurer)
4. Mr. N. Emil Jebasingh, Friends Missionary Prayer Band
5. Mr. D T Rajah, Fellowship of Evangelical Friends
6. Mr. Thomas Samuel, Quiet Corner India
7. Rev. Henry Joseph, Maranatha Full Gospel Association

India Missions Association was formed with five member missions

- 1978 - The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the first Annual Conference was held at Quiet Corner, Mavanahalla, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- 1979 - IMA was registered as a Society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act of with its registered office at 38, Langford Road, Bangalore.
- 1980 - IMA Membership grew to ten members
- 1980 - Indian Institute of Cross Cultural Communication – *The Bible Translation & Literacy Network* was formed by IMA in partnership with SIL / WBT
- 1982 - The First Mission Leadership Training was conducted
- 1983 - The Unreached People's Survey was initiated
- 1985 - Mr. Ebenezer Sunder Raj appointed as Associate General Secretary
- 1986 - IMA Office was opened at Chennai
- 1990 - The First Management Seminar
- 1990 - The First National Consultation on Evangelism
- 1990 - The IMA Membership grew to 44 members
- 1992 - The Missionary Training Network was formed
- 1993 - Missionary Healthcare Network formed
- 1994 - The Indian Institute of Missiology was founded on September 20, 1994
- 1994 - The Pin Code Survey of the presence of Christian workers was launched
- 1994 - IMA and The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) jointly hold a Partnership Consultation and issue a Joint Statement on Partnership in Nagpur.
- 1996 - Dr. K. Rajendran was appointed as Associate General Secretary.
- 1998 - IMA Delhi office opened with Mr. John Amalraj appointed as Coordinator
- 1998 - Indian Missions Alliance Among Neighbours' Network (IMAAAN) was formed
- 1998 -14 acres of Land Purchased for the development of IMA Centre at Hyderabad**
- 1999 - Christian Institute of Management (CIM) was formed**
- 1999 - Dr. K. Rajendran was appointed as the General Secretary**
- 1999 - IMA Membership grew beyond 100 members**
- 1999 -For the Annual and all IMA gatherings CEOs were welcomed to bring their spouses, their second line leaders and their children above 18 to start the exercise of building

second-line leadership and creating wider understanding of missions and leadership. It created a new organisational culture.

2000 - IMA Membership grew to 130 members.

2001 - IMA Guwahati office opened with Mr. Lalparlien Kumar appointed as coordinator

2002 - IMA Hyderabad Office opened with Mr. John Amalraj appointed as Team Leader 2002
- A part of the IMA Centre land was approved by the State Government for the purpose of institutional use

2002 - IMA Silver Jubilee Celebrations was inaugurated at Bangalore.

2002 - The First IMA Annual Awards were presented Life Time Achievement Award and Mission of the Year Awards in six categories

2002 - IMA Membership grew above the 150 mark.

2003 – Dr. K. Rajendran shifts the office from Chennai to Hyderabad.

2003 – IMA releases a booklet on missions' best practices after discussion by the member mission CEOs in the national conference.

2003 –Think-tanks on mission issues became regular parts of the IMA Activities.

2004 – National Youth Leaders conference was held at Hyderabad to reach Indian Youth.

2005 –Think-tanks on women in mission, emerging church planting and Younger CEOs became the benchmark for missions' movements.

2005 – IMA Membership crosses 200th mark.

2005 – First MK camp was conducted by IMA at Pune.

2006 –Historical IMA National conference for the first time was held in Aizawl, Mizoram, recognising the unique contribution of the Church and missions in North Eastern India who have the potential to reach East Asia to begin with.

Issues being dealt with the mission / members of India Missions Association:

- Understanding the big picture – Education of the big picture
- Missions are in abstraction with out the total picture of India / Asia
- Maturing Church in India
- Church Education on Missions
- Relationship of missions and churches
- Mobilising the church
- Leadership – capacity building - Continuous development
- Drafting Future Leadership
- Voluntary Submission to Scrutiny and Accountability
- Leaders' Personal Accountability
- Right kind of leadership teams and personnel
- Exploring newer Partnership
- Owning & promoting the vision

- Excellence and Spirituality
- Mission Accountability and Standards
- Encouraging short-term Missionaries
- Proper Cultural Adaptation of the Missionary
- Multi-Cultural Teams
- Balance between Prayer and Work
- The Methods and Means for Evangelism
- “Think-tank” on several issues to rethink new ways to present the Gospel.
- Mass Movement and Individual Conversion
- Integration of Converts and Christian Mind-set
- Follow-up of newer followers for effectiveness and to be rooted on Christ.
- Integration on New Converts into the Church
- Christianity and Contextualisation
- Divergent Opinions over Means
- Mission: Evangelism and Social Work
- Misunderstood concept of the “holistic” Gospel to the “needy”
- Missionary Integration and its Implications
- Partly and Fully paid Missionaries
- Full-time Evangelists, Tent-Makers and Laymen-evangelism,
- Short-term and Long-term Missionaries
- Missionaries and the Local Workers
- Indian Missionaries in Cross-cultural Evangelism and Domestic Missionaries
- Issues relating to the relationship between the cross-cultural missionaries and local missionaries.
- Respect Comity Agreements
- Standards in Missionary Welfare
- Missionary Care Issues for CEOs, missionaries, families, MKs and welfare.
[Handling the emotional and cultural baggage carried by the missionary; Discouragements; Faith Elements and Convictions carried over from others; Financial Pressure; Pastoral Care; Health Care and Medical Schemes; Children's Schooling; Pension and Retirement Benefits; Personal Housing and Death Relief Fund.]

Questions asked along the way as a re-think process:

- ? Cross- cultural & Cross Geographical – What is mission?
- ? Biblically, who is the needy – poor?
- ? Education, Uplifting and evangelisation is mixed – How do we go forward?
- ? Should we suppose to create parallel Government – Christian NGOs?
- ? Should there be the Specialists Syndrome of full-time and Tent-maker missionaries; called and uncalled for mission; Balancing of ACTS 1:8?
- ? Does mission belong to just a few elected?
- ? Should all customs in a society be looked upon as “unspiritual” and reject them?
- ? Should we continue to do sporadic evangelism or comprehensive to impact India?
- ? Should there be more innovation and relevance in the communication of the Gospel?
- ? Has the mission confused & mixed up with Education, Uplifting people as evangelisation?
- ? What gave us the idea of “unreached Peoples” instead of Gospel for all people?
- ? Do only the poor [people, nations] need the Gospel?

- ? What philosophies shaped the concept of “unreached peoples”?
- ? What philosophies shaped the most missions to going to the “unreached” peoples?
- ? Has the unreached people concept been the answer to effect the total India? Why or why not?
- ? Should Indian Christians consider mission outside of India?
- ? Should the missionaries be made pastors on the field? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this issue?
- ? When do the missionaries hand the churches over to the locals?
- ? Are the locals, working with the missionaries same as missionaries? [Some become better equipped than the missionaries! How do we treat them?]
- ? Are the missions just cross-geographical?
- ? Has globalisation affected the missions?
- ? Will the “faith missions” survive in the future? What is the crux of the faith missions?
- ? What do we mean by indigenisation of missions? Are the missions in India indigenous?
- ? What is the role of the church in the communities around them?
- ? How does Acts 1:8 applies to the church and not just to the missionaries?
- ? If so what is mission? If so who are missionaries?
- ? Where and when we accommodate tent making missionaries?
- ? What is the perception of missions in the local church?
- ? What is the correct perception of missions and does it tally with the normal church’s perception?
- ? How do we educate, train and foster the church in missions?
- ? Are there any ways where the churches and missions can change to accommodate the large increase of Christ followers from other communities into the fellowship?
- ? How do we accommodate large numbers of people turning to Christ in to the Christian movement?
- ? Can we change some of the carried over “Christian” practices to Indian practices and yet retain Christianity as Indians?
- ? How do we handle “churchless” followers of Christ?
- ? What are the actual contemporary challenges of missions in India and the world?
- ? What is the place of India Missions Association?
- ? What is the place of all the IMA Networks?
- ? What is the place of IMA think-tanks?

Continuous challenges in keeping the IMA to be effective:

- Ω Finding the right kind of leaders to lead all the new ways to guide missions.
- Ω Developing newer leaders to relate to the rest of the world
- Ω Leaders to relate to the rest of the world as equal partners and not presenting only the poor India.
- Ω Funding restrictions for all the innovative programmes and office expenses.
- Ω Irregular membership fees paid from the members.
- Ω Often, members weighing the benefit of being in IMA just on funding terms.
- Ω Expectations from some members for IMA to be their invisible promotional – fund raising office.
- Ω Educating the Church and mission organisations’ leadership on the new challenges of missions and innovative ways of impacting the nation for Christ. Change is hard!

- Ω Educating missions and churches to caring for their missionaries.
- Ω Boldness, Innovation, insight and change for the Future in missions.
- Ω More innovative thinkers, who will write, communicate and empower others.

Prayer and Vision in fresh thinking:

Matt 9: 37 & 38: “He said to his disciples, “The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields.”

Praise God:

For the vision of the founding leaders; For the pioneering cooperation of member missions; For the partnership in raising the credibility of Indian Missions and For the partnership of missions in research & training.

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