



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

## IACAC NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The month of December has been a time of celebration for people of a number of different faiths.

Earlier in the month on December the 8<sup>th</sup> those of the Buddhist faith celebrated Bodhi day. Some Buddhists celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment on this day under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya. North India. So Peace and Greetings to all our Buddhist Chaplains.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December our Muslim Colleagues celebrated Milad un Nabi. This is the celebration of the birth day of the Prophet and is a time of prayer, the exchange of gifts and donating to the poor. So 'Asallah Mulaikim' to all our Muslim Chaplains.

The Jewish Feast of Chanukah or Hanukah, the eight-day festival of light, beginning on the 24<sup>th</sup> December through to the 1<sup>st</sup> January which commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple [the second Temple] in Jerusalem. This is also a time for prayer, family gathering and gifts. So Happy Hanukkah to all our Jewish Chaplains

This year Hanukkah and Christmas coincide and this brings us to the festival of the Twelve Days of Christmas which began on the 25<sup>th</sup> December through to Epiphany on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. At this time Christians celebrate the birth of Christ with services of praise and thanksgiving, the giving of gifts and sharing of food. To all a blessed and holy Christmas observance.

As the end of the year approaches, the Board would like to take this opportunity thank you all for the work you and your team do in your chaplaincies.

Your presence in and around the airport helps to give comfort and support to airport workers and travellers alike. Travel for many, especially at this time of the year, can be very stressful as families rush across the world to be together for the festive season. Sadly some of those travellers are in need of compassion and support.

Please keep in your prayers the families of the 91 passengers and crew killed aboard the Russian Military plane which crashed on Christmas Day.

As I write, there are reports of security alerts in many other cities; and several airports. The aviation industry, holidaymakers (and visitors who want to expand their horizons through international travel) will inevitably be targets for those of ill will.

Why?

Because those who refuse to stay behind locked doors,  
Who refuse to live in fear,  
Who refuse to be afraid of those who are different from them, but who would prefer to celebrate and enjoy new and unfamiliar cultures;  
They; We represent the most profound challenge to the sole method of influence and control that such men of violence have at their disposal; that is, fear.

I strongly believe that civil aviation, bringing together, as it does, people from different countries and cultures, is a great force for good

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
Love is stronger than hate;  
Light is stronger than darkness;  
Life is stronger than death;  
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.

It is the prayer of the Board that 2017 will be a year full of hope and new opportunities for us to make a difference in the world of Airport Chaplaincy internationally, and amongst IACAC members.

May The Lord bless and keep you all at this  
Christmas time

Rev George Lane  
President  
IACAC  
Manchester Airport

## **IACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2017**

Preparation and planning are well under way for our 2017 conference in Stockholm. This conference will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IACAC and is from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September and the post conference tour is the 15<sup>th</sup> September to the 19<sup>th</sup> September. Make sure you put the dates in your diary for next year and join us in Stockholm.

IACAC conferences always remind us how much Airport chaplaincy is appreciated by host airports, their managers and colleagues. Next year we will be celebrating 50 years of airport chaplains meeting together to support one another. The theme of the conference will be "Facing The Future", and, despite an apparent resurgence of isolationism and return of nationalism, our global interconnectedness can only continue to increase, and the role of airports and of airport chaplaincy become more important and significant than ever. Visit <http://iacac.info/index.php/news/iacac-news/693-2017-iacac-annual-conference-stockholm> for more information - and book early!

### **Annual Membership Fees**

Each year members are encouraged to pay their annual dues and keep their membership up to date. The membership financial year is from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> December. Payments made at the annual conference should be for the next year and should be made in American Dollars. If you are currently behind in the payment of your membership, please go to our website [www.iacac.info](http://www.iacac.info) and follow the links to make your payment. Members are asked to make every effort to pay their annual subscriptions by the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Reminders will be sent to members early in 2017.

### **News From Our Chaplaincies**

Christmas Greetings to all from Janet and John Thompson former LHR Chaplains 2000-2008. May your year to come provide much in blessing and ministry to the Glory of God.

Please share our Christmas greetings & blessings with all IACAC members. We wish you all a

restful Holiday . . . and, a peaceful & prosperous New Year! -- Adrien & Debbie in Atlanta

Thank you for your message and Merry Christmas to you and the team! Jean-Michel Hua, Groupe ADP Paris

Thank you for the Christmas Card and Message. On behalf of the Chaplaincy at the Winnipeg International Airport, We trust you and the many Chapels you serve, will have the continued privilege to serve God in each Airport they represent, during all of 2017. May you have a blessed New Year. On behalf of our Chaplains. Malcolm Stanley Board Chairman, AIM Winnipeg.

May I send you our blessings from Our Lord for your ever caring work. May you have the best of holidays keeping in mind that Mary fulfilled her promise to God to have this son free of sins and full of love and care. Thank him for all the gifts he has given us. Merry Christmas & have a beautiful new year. Dr. Pellosie, Deacon, Orlando USA

Pray for me as I prepare to move house, prepare for Christmas and move on 12th January. My mobile and e-mail addresses remain unchanged. Much love and prayer - the sciatica has left me after 10 months. Pray it may never return! I am dancing for joy again! Sister Margaret, RC Chaplain LHR. It was a joy to meet again in Paris!

### **A Reflection for December**

It is important to make a difference in the world. It is important to help people, but we have to start with ourselves. If you are looking outside yourself to find out where you fit in or how you can create an impact, stop and look inside yourself instead. It's that time of the year when we review things and so let us review ourselves, our current lifestyle, what makes us feel alive. Then nurture these and make positive adjustments until we can no longer contain them, enabling us to move and grow beyond our current circumstances.

As someone said: ***Don't limit yourself, many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, you can achieve.***