



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

April Newsletter 2014

Dear Friends,
I wonder how many times we say or hear 'if only I did ', I am certain that it is has been many times. Opportunities are what we are thinking about or we could take when we say these words

I would say that we are living in the most exciting of times in many ways similar to our predecessors. I recall at one time talking with my late father who was born towards the end of the 19th century and, unlike many of his contemporaries who lost their lives in what was horrendous war, was able to enjoy new things and grasp the opportunities given to him. In his lifetime he told me, he had seen the advent of the motor car, the early flights, and of man going into space. Today life is even more advanced as we are on the verge of commercial space flights which some people already have taken the opportunity in which to participate. They won't say 'if only I did ' as they have done it. Something like that is away beyond the majority of us, and so what kind of opportunities do we get in our everyday living.

Working in our airports there are many opportunities alive to us, from working with the staff and flight crews that we come in daily contact with, taking time to listen to their stories and supporting them in whatever way that we are able to do. Working alongside them in the baggage hall or the departure lounge or maybe on the ramp, learning about their job and in doing so be more able to talk with them about it.

Another constituency that is important are the passengers who pass through our airports, and in a similar way we may be able to offer them the same support that we give to our airport colleagues. Their stories that they tell us may be different, but there are still the opportunities to be part of their life for that short time when we are in contact with them and also for them to be part of our lives.

Opportunities should always be something that we are aware of and look for at all times. Take sportsmen and women, for instance if they play soccer and are a striker they are always looking

for the main chance to score a goal, golfers are the same they are looking for that birdie chance and so in sport there is always the opportunity to improve and become a top class player.

Therefore in both our life and work we should be like a top class sportsman or woman always being aware of the opportunities that are given to us and grasp them with compassion and love. Unlike the young people who lost their lives in the recent ferry disaster in South Korea. We pray for their families and mourn their loss for they will never have the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions and hopes for their lives.

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A REFLECTION

In the State of Union Address he delivered to the 77th United States Congress on 6th January 1941, President Franklin D Roosevelt articulated **Four Freedoms**.

- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear

He believed these were the fundamental freedoms that all humans 'everywhere in the world' should enjoy. Since the end of the Second World War these concepts have become almost universally accepted in the Western World and are probably now deeply etched into the psyche of those fortunate enough to live in such societies that we often take them for granted. Perhaps it is a good time to reflect on what freedom actually means to each of us.

There is no doubt we would all agree with the premise of the Four Freedoms but each of us has their own definition of a personal freedom that

allows us to escape from the chains of our every day life. Perhaps it is a day at the football, or going fishing, reading a good book or getting immersed in an enthralling movie, maybe a day in the garden or just sitting, watching the clouds come up over the horizon and scatter across a blue sky. Whatever it may be, it is your choice and you are free to make it.

However for many people, such freedoms are nothing more than dreams in their hearts and heads. Human trafficking imposes one of the greatest losses of freedom on its victims. On the 10th April, Pope Francis in his Discourse to the Second International Conference 'Combating Human Trafficking and Slavery', described human trafficking as a open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge on the body of Christ --- a crime against humanity --- a tragic reality.

In 2009, at the Lusaka IACAC Annual Conference, Dr Francis Mutach Kapend from the Democratic Republic of the Congo spoke of his chaplaincy's work with victims of human trafficking. This is part of what he said "Church and the Chaplaincy have been important. The people are in silence, unable to speak about what is happening to them for fear of what will happen to their families. These people frequently move through the airports or live on the fringes of the airport. The chaplains are able to counsel them and show them where to get help. The churches are involved in this fight against the new forms of slavery, assisting victims of human trafficking by being present with them and giving help to escape, create safe places and integrate into welcoming countries or return to their own country.

Many Governments, Churches and NGOs worldwide are working to stop human trafficking in all its forms. As chaplains we work to support the churches and NGOs in their efforts. But we need to further explore the role of the chaplain in these new forms of slavery in the Twenty First century"

We pray for the opportunity to share with each other about the ministry of the Church in the more challenging and difficult situations of today's world within the airports.

IACAC ANNUAL 2014 CONFERENCE

This year our annual conference will be held in Amsterdam and our colleagues at Schiphol Airport will be our hosts. The conference program will explore the value added to the airport by the presence of the chaplaincy. Links such as human trafficking from previous conferences and the experiences of other airport chaplains will also be explored. The KLM Care Team have been invited

to construct a follow up program from the Atlanta presentation made by Delta Care Team. More detail of the conference program is on our website.

Conference registration and payment will again be made online through the website www.iacac.info This year the conference is in August, earlier than in past years so please make a note of the date and plan to join us.

Conference Date:

19th – 23rd August 2014 [5 nights]

Cost : Single- € 660

Double/Twin Share - € 460

Post Conference Tour:

24th - 27th August 2014 [4 nights]

Cost: Single- € 699

Double/Twin Share - € 530

The Post Conference Tour will be a series of day trips using the conference hotel as a base.

Accommodation for the Conference and Post Conference Tour will be at the iAm Hotel, situated close to Schiphol Airport and easily accessed by the airport shuttle bus.

Amsterdam is an old and beautiful city and our conference hosts are preparing a warm welcome around an interesting and stimulating program. We are looking forward to seeing you in Amsterdam.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES

We wish our President, Deacon Lewis Rose from Aberdeen Airport, a swift recovery after recent surgery on his face. He says he will be looking prettier when we see him again.

Prayers are still being offered for the victims and families of the Malaysian Flight MH370. The search for the plane continues and many family members have travelled to Perth to be closer to the search site.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give'.

Sir Winston Churchill