



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

July 2013

President's letter

The month July has been, for all our Muslim Chaplains, 'Ramadan', which incidentally predates Islam and was originally pagan festival. Muhammad used to spend many days and nights on Mount 'Hira' praying to God, (interestingly just like Jesus used to pray on mountain tops), and on the 27th night, of the ninth month. 'Ramadan', the Arch Angel Gabriel appeared, and the first revelation of the Qur'an began

During the month of Ramadan, our Muslim colleagues celebrate the 27th night, or the 'night of power' remembering what happened to the prophet, and believing that Allah predestines the following year's events. Sura 2:183-185 "O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn self-restraint for a fixed number of days. Ramadan is the month which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind"

How very similar to the 40 days of Lent. I have such profound respect for all Muslims who manage this fast and this year in the UK it has been during the longest daylight hours. I'm not sure I could manage it, even a 12-hour fast for a blood test I find difficult!

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, and deemed by many as the most important one. It is a time for personal daily reflection through fasting, from dawn to dusk, fasting also includes, no food, drinking, sexual intercourse and smoking, as well as other vices. However there are exceptions to the fast, pregnant women and nursing mothers, the ill, menstruating women and travellers may abstain from the fast to facilitate their journey and make up the lost days after Ramadan. Children tend to start fasting slowly and build up their resistance over a period of years.

The Literal meaning of Ramadan fasting is: no eating, drinking or sex.

The Moral meaning; while fasting the believer avoids sins such as lying slander and anger, which can annul the meaning of the days fast, and require the addition of another day's fasting. Through fasting, Muslims experience the deprivations that the poor suffer throughout the year, making the individuals and society more responsive to their plight.

The Spiritual meaning; by cutting themselves off from distractions during the fast, Muslims become attuned to God as the only Ultimate reality. Muslims sense a closeness to God during Ramadan that is more intense than at any other time of the year.

Now on the 8th August this year at the end of the fast our Muslim colleagues will celebrate 'Eid-ul-Fitr' literally, the breaking of the fast, and three days of festivities take place, as well as giving extra 'Zakat' or charity to the poor, another similarity to Lent. I am so impressed and humbled by this dedication and their commitment to God during the fasting time that I know they truly deserve their Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

And now I wish every Chaplain this month: Asatri Akall. A Sallam Alaikoum! Peace be with you, Namaste, Shalom, God's Blessings
From Jonathan your President.

Rev. Fr Jonathan Baldwin.
The Chaplaincy, London Gatwick Airport,
West Sussex RH6ONP. UK
Phone +44 [0] 1293 503 857.
Mob. + 44 7799 478788.
Email: jonathan.baldwin@gatwickairport.co

IACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE- ATLANTA

It is only a matter of weeks until our annual conference begins in Atlanta on the 17th September. All bookings should be made by now and payments made by the 20th August unless you have made other arrangements with the Atlanta team.

The conference begins with an opening service on the 17th September and the bus will leave the hotel at 3pm for the cathedral. Our hosts suggest arriving no later than lunchtime on that day to allow for time to check into the hotel and freshen up before the service.

Make sure you send your travel arrangements for your arrival in Atlanta to Chester as soon as possible.
We are looking forward to seeing as many chaplains as possible in Atlanta.

IACAC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual business meeting will be held on the 18th September during which elections will be held for the positions of President and Vice President. Proxy voting is available for 2013 financial members who are unable to attend the meeting.

Nominations have been received for

President

Rev Howie Adan, Nanaimo, Canada
Deacon Lewis Rose, Aberdeen UK

Vice President –

Rev Howie Adan, Naimao, Canada,
Deacon Lewis Rose [Aberdeen UK]
Rev Chester Cook [Atlanta, USA]

PROXY VOTING- Excerpt from the Constitution

- 6.3 *Voting in relation to matters concerning Association business, . elections, and venues for*

forthcoming Annual Conferences is limited to Active and Honorary Members only.

- 6.4 *Any member unable to attend the Annual Business Meeting in the year of elections may assign a proxy vote to another member who must be present at the Annual Business Meeting in order to exercise that proxy vote*
- 6.5 *No member may hold or exercise proxies to vote from more than two other members of the Association.*
- 6.6 *The member assigning the proxy vote must advise the Treasurer in writing before the commencement of the Annual Conference the name of the member to whom the voting rights have been assigned and the Treasurer will then issue the appropriate voting papers to the member so nominated.*
- 6.7 *Members will lose their voting rights if there are outstanding subscriptions (dues) at the time the vote is to be taken.*

If you have paid your 2013 membership subscriptions and will not be at the conference but wish to vote on matters to be decided, please contact the Treasurer, Mrs Bev McNeely, <bevmc4555@sbcglobal.net> for a proxy vote application form.

Nominations for the position of secretary will also be received at the Annual Business Meeting.

Elections for the position of secretary will be held at the 2014 conference.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

If you want to be a picture of health, you have to be in a happy state of mind