



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

Newsletter July 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We have all heard the saying "live in hope die in despair" but have you wondered where it comes from? It is to be found in *Dombey and Son* written by Charles Dickens, when the Major said "Tell Joseph, he must live in hope ma'am or he'll die in despair"

What would your choice be 'live in hope or die in despair? In today's world many people have abandoned hope and opted for despair and maybe with good reason.

Hope and despair share are two sides of the same coin and are the result of the choices that you have made. Dr Barbara L. Fredrickson argues that hope comes into its own when crisis looms, opening us to new creative possibilities. She goes on to say with great need comes an unusually wide range of ideas, as well as such positive emotions as happiness and joy, courage and empowerment, drawn from four different areas of one's self: from cognitive psychological, social, or physical perspective.

Hopeful people are "like the little engine that could, [because] they keep telling themselves "I think I can, I think I can". Such positive thinking bears fruit when based on a realistic sense of optimism, not on naive "false hope"

Hope appears in ancient Greek mythology with the story of Zeus and Prometheus. Prometheus stole fire from the God Zeus, which infuriated the supreme God. In turn, Zeus created a box that contained all manners of evil, unbeknownst to the receiver of the box.

Pandora opened the box after being warned not to, and those evils were released into the world; hope which lay at the bottom of the box, remained.

Hope is a key concept in most major world religions, often signifying the "hoper" believes an individual or collective group will reach a concept of heaven. In Christianity hope is one of the three theological virtues alongside faith and love. "Hope" in the Holy Bible means "a strong and confident expectation" of future reward. In modern terms, hope is akin to trust and a confident expectation"

In Hinduism Hope is the essence of human life. Life does not run along a straight line; rather it is a journey punctuated by ups and downs. The person who is able to accept the twists but maintains their equanimity, inspired by absolute faith, bound to rise on high.

This can be illustrated by the behaviour of two frogs, both of which fell into a vat containing milk. One gave up its efforts to save itself and hence perished. The other, undaunted by the expected calamity, was egged on by courage and so went round and round inside the vessel, frothing up butter and using it as launching pad, jumped out and escaped unscathed. The tendency of people today is to bemoan their fate. Often people may be heard to mutter, "I am tired of living" and small problems snowball in major crises. This outlook should be changed and hope is the essence of life and we should use it for good.

As I was writing this, news was breaking about flight MH17 and the tragedy that has affected many families and colleagues across the world. All of those who boarded the plane had many hopes, new starts, returning home after holidays and sadly for them and all who knew them, their hopes were dashed in the cruellest of ways. Let our hope be that justice will be found for them

Also on the 23rd July an Air Algeria flight AH 5017 crashed with the loss of life of all onboard, again their hopes and the hopes of their families and friends have been dashed. Each death is individually a tragedy. Each had the God given vitality and potential that made them who they were. Our sense of justice is offended by such losses and we hope and pray for comfort to be given to the bereaved.

Henry van Dyke wrote "Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice. But for those who love, time is eternity"

May the love felt within each family give them strength and help bring peace to their grief.

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IACAC AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE



Rev Wina Hordijk and her team are working hard preparing for our conference beginning the 19th August. If you plan to attend the Amsterdam conference and have not yet registered, it **is not too late**. Wina is looking forward to seeing as many of her chaplain colleagues as possible.

Please go online at www.iacac.info and fill in your forms and pay the conference fee immediately. As soon as your travel details are finalised please enter them online too, so Wina has an opportunity to arrange for you to be met on your arrival.

However the hotel is easy to find. The hotel iAm is located at the rear of Hotel Schiphol A4.

The address is: iAm Hotel
Rijksweg A4 3 2132 MA
Hoofddorp. NL

Tel: +31 252629222
Fax: +31 252629212

Email: info@iamhotelamsterdam.com

Transport to the Hotel: Every 40 minutes there is a shuttle bus to and from the hotel iAM to the airport. The shuttle bus leaves from Schiphol Airport to the hotel from Bus stops A9-A13 and is easily recognisable by the toucan painted on its side.

If you wish to book extra nights at the conference hotel before or after the conference please contact the iAM hotel using the Booking Code SCH-GF63056 to get the room at the conference rate.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Please think about who you would like to see lead our Association into the future. We need to fill the casual vacancy for Vice President and receive nominations for the positions of President, Vice President and Media Officer for election at the Annual Business meeting in 2015. Our President, Lewis Rose will not be seeking reelection. Nomination forms are available on our website at www.iacac.info and must be given to the Secretary before the start of the Amsterdam Annual Business Meeting on Saturday 23rd August 2014.

Nominations for Vice President will be received from the floor at the Amsterdam Business Meeting to fill the one year vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev Howie Adan. The Constitution states that at least twenty four hours must elapse between the receipt of nominations and any vote. So the Business Meeting will be convened on the afternoon of Thursday 21st August 2014 to receive any nominations to fill the position of Vice President until the next election in 2015. Any vote required will be taken during the Business Meeting on Saturday morning.

Proxy Voting- Excerpt from the Constitution

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.

If you are unable to attend the conference and have paid your 2014 membership subscription but wish to vote at the Annual Business Meeting, please apply to the treasurer, Mrs bev McNeely, <treasurer@iacac.info> for a proxy vote.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES

Rev Pierre de Maureuil from CDG Paris has asked that we continue to keep the families and friends of those lost aboard Air Algérie flight AH5017.

From Amsterdam Rev Wina Hordijk tells us of the work they have been doing following the downing of Malaysia Airlight MH17 She says *"It's such a busy time, working extra hours and extra days, taking care of each other, and of the volunteers, who are busy comforting people at the outside where all the flowers are, and the condolences books. So much grief and pain, tears and powerlessness, also so much overwhelming connectedness! This is my first day off, and it's filled with phone calls of newspapers and television stations that want an interview with us. I was on Dutch television last Thursday, in a program about 'consolation'. 2 more to come next week. So important"*

The chaplaincy team at Melbourne Airport have also been deeply involved in meeting family members of those lost on MH17 as well as meeting the crews and working with the staff of Malaysia Airlines.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

'The most wasted of days is one without laughter' – E.E.Cummings