



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

November 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I was in my local paper shop recently picking up my morning paper and as usual passing the time of day with the staff and enquiring where the boss was. As we chatted, his wife informed me that he was celebrating the Muslim festival of Eid and this has made me think of the festivals that are celebrated around this time of the year. Another one celebrated recently was Diwali, one of the biggest festivals of Hindus and celebrated for five days with great enthusiasm and happiness and the third day is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or 'Festival of Lights'.

Halloween was recently celebrated and is of Christian origin. The word comes from a Scottish term for All Hallows' Eve (the evening before All Hallows' Day which is now known as All Saints Day and celebrated across the world wide Christian community. This is day when Christians remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history.

On a recent visit to my airport I was chatting with one of the girls at the ticket desk of one of the major airlines that fly from Aberdeen. Among other things the topic of the weather came up and we were saying that we hoped there would be very little snow this winter.

This caused us to recall a few years ago when every day for about a fortnight very few flights were able to leave the airport. My friend went on to tell me about a passenger who was going to be able to get home for Christmas for the first time for about four years, she said every day he appeared only to discover that his flight had been cancelled, but being the person she is, she worked the oracle and put into place a plan that would ensure that he got home and be able to enjoy Christmas with his family. As I left her to carry on my wandering around the terminal I said to her 'you are a saint'.

There are many saints that we never hear about, doctors and nurses who care for sick, the terminally ill, people who are handicapped in many different ways, the old lady who looks after her friend who is a bit younger than her, the young person who cares for someone in her family who is ill and many others too numerous to name. There are also the people who touch our lives in so many ways. All of these folk are saints who will never get their name in lights or hit the headlines of local and national papers but go about their lives in quiet ways, not looking for any recognition.

It is the same for our airport families many of them do similar things like my friend a Aberdeen and never think anything of it as they say 'I am doing my job'.

In a similar way many of us as chaplains go about our daily round in our airports, visiting the offices, chatting with the staff and passengers without really thinking that what we do is maybe the work of saints. This was evident to me as I watched the chaplaincy team at Heathrow go about their daily work. So my friends I would say that when someone acknowledges you for who you are or what you have done for them accept it with humility as you may not be beatified but to them you are an unsung Saint.

Many Blessings on each of you
Lewis

Deacon Lewis Rose
Aberdeen Airport
Scotland
Email lewis_rose48@yahoo.co.uk

IACAC Membership

At the Annual Business Meeting in Atlanta last September it was decided to alter the Constitution to accept the proposal "That the present categories of membership are

continued but an associate category be added for people interested in supporting airport chaplaincy.”

The Constitution now outlines 4 categories of membership as listed here:

1. Active Members: that is those engaged in regular full-time or part-time duties as a Chaplain either individually or as part of a Team. Accreditation for the appointment shall accord with the requirements of paragraph 6.6 below.

2. Honorary Members: that is persons who have been elected as such by the Annual Business Meeting of the Association in recognition of their service to Civil Aviation Chaplaincy.

3 Retired Members: that is former members of the Association, now retired from Chaplaincy work, who wish to remain members of the Association and are received as such at an Annual Business Meeting.

4. Associate Members: that is for people interested in supporting airport chaplaincy. Associate members would have no voting rights and pay a reduced membership subscription. Application for associate membership would require a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring chaplain to accompany the appropriate membership application form.

As this recommendation was accepted the 2014 the membership subscription for associate members be \$30 with no voting rights for those who would like it.

Annual membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2014 and the financial year is from 1st January to the 31st December 2014. Payment of the membership subscription should be made through the IACAC website: www.iacac.info Application forms for those wishing to become Associate members will soon be available.

A REFLECTION- Third World Tourism: Who Wins, Who Loses

“Over many years there has been much discussion about the value of tourism to underdeveloped countries. When tourists visit an affluent country there seems to be a mutual benefit to both. There is often a similar cultural history, social values and mostly all the facilities normally demanded

by tourists. Poorer nations lack this infrastructure and often divert money from social projects to enhance the life of their own people to serve the needs of the foreign tourists. Mass commercialised tourism to underdeveloped countries can be quite destructive. Studies have isolated four specific problem areas found in varying degrees in all Third World tourist destinations

- 1. The economic benefit to poorer countries is not as high as promoters would like to suggest.*
- 2. Tourism threatens the survival of traditional culture which is often forced to change to adapt to suitable entertainment for visitors*
- 3. In tourism the poor are again being exploited, such as the growth of prostitution tourism.*
- 4. The political use of tourism by governments to project an image of “paradise” for visitors.*

But tourism is not going away. Tourism is now one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Cheap airfares have meant many people in the western world are now able to travel overseas for their annual holidays. Tourism is now seen as a socio-economic phenomenon capable of exercising a decisive influence on the world. But despite whatever criticisms can be levelled at tourism, it potentially has the ability to provide one of the richest life experiences for a visitor to another country. It is the opportunity to meet and learn about other people and their culture and enrich our understandings of communities different from our own.”

Précis of an article written by Tom O’Grady for ‘The Witness’

As airport chaplains we see so many people leaving for overseas holidays and from time to time the thought must enter our heads about the footprint these holidaymakers are leaving on their destination. Some years ago a code of ethics for tourists was developed by a group of church leaders at a conference in Asia and their list is well worth thinking about.

A Code Of Ethics For Tourists

- Travel in a spirit of humility and a genuine desire to learn more about the people of your host country
- Be sensitively aware of the feelings of other people, so preventing what might

- be offensive behaviour on your part. This particularly applies to photography.
- Cultivate the habit of listening and observing, rather than merely hearing and seeing.
 - Realise that often people in the country you visit and have concepts and thought patterns other than your own; that doesn't make them inferior, just different.
 - Instead of looking for that "beach paradise" discover the enrichment of seeing a different way of life, through other eyes.
 - Acquaint yourself with local customs-people will be happy to help you.
 - Instead of the western practice of 'knowing all the answers', cultivate the habit of listening.
 - Remember you are only one of thousands of tourists visiting this country and do not expect special privileges.
 - If you really want your experience to be 'a home away from home' it is foolish to spend money on travelling.
 - When you are shopping, remember that the 'bargain' you obtained was only possible because of the low wages paid to the maker.
 - Spend time reflecting on your daily experiences in an attempt to deepen your understandings

News From Our Chaplaincies

The new Chapel and Prayer Room at Indianapolis Airport has now been dedicated. If you are passing through Indianapolis make sure

you stop by the Chapel to see the beautiful stain glass window featuring the IACAC logo

Welcome to Canon Liz Hughes who has now officially taken over the role of Senior Chaplain at London Luton Airport. Rev Michael Banfield was given a wonderful farewell with a cake decorated with a Tiger Moth plane and many gifts acknowledging his great contribution to the growth and development of the Luton Chaplaincy. We wish Michael and Linda a long and happy retirement, although Michael has already started inquiries about chaplaincies at the smaller airports around where he is now living.

Melbourne Airport Chaplaincy continues to grow and develop. This month Major Helen McClimont, a retired Salvation Army officer, began work with the Melbourne team. Helen promises to be a great asset to the team and we welcome her to airport chaplaincy.

Many best wishes to all our colleagues in North America as they celebrate 'Thanksgiving Day' this week. May they enjoy this time with their families both at home and in the airport.

Please continue to hold the people of the Philippines in your prayers as the rescue and restoration work continues after the devastation of the deadly typhoon which swept through parts of their country.

Thought For The Month

If you would learn the secret of right relations, look only for the divine in people and things, and leave the rest to God.

J. Allen Boone. *Kinship With all Life*