



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

Newsletter May 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
News today is instant; we can watch it as it takes place across the world.

At the moment TV screens are full with pictures and reports of refugees and asylum seekers being conveyed across the Mediterranean Sea between North Africa, and southern Europe, to the countries of Italy and Malta.

Having sailed in there on a pretty large ship it can be a very pleasant experience the majority of time, although at other times it can be very rough and it was not the first time that I have had to rise in the middle of the night to close the porthole of my cabin as the sea was coming through it and these folk are in vessels that should not be allowed to sail.

What is really happening here, why are people desperate to get out of their own countries and attempting to get to Europe?

From these news reports it is clear that these migrants are leaving their homelands to seek a better life and give their families greater opportunities to live a full and successful life.

This is what the main tenet of society should be about giving people opportunities to better themselves; we should always aim to leave society in a better state than what we received. But in today's world this appears not to be the case, in this situation moving the migrants; money seems to be the ultimate aim for the smugglers/ people traffickers.

Many of these people will have a faith, whatever that may be and we as people of faith who operate on the front lines of our countries as chaplains in many of our airports we may have to become involved in the future supporting them in what for them will be difficult situations.

Throughout our holy books there are many accounts of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. In both the Bible and Koran the story of Jesus and his parents is told of their flight into Egypt to a place call Beni Suef where they were welcomed by the local community staying for a number of years.

All of those who are arriving in Italy and Malta along with other countries in southern Europe are arriving with nothing, only the clothes that they stand up in. They are the fortunate ones as they have been rescued and cared for in the first instance where as others have lost their lives drowning in the Mediterranean.

It is easy to sit on the sidelines speaking a good game but not doing anything, when we look at the majority of citizens of our countries across the world we discover that we are related to ancestors who were migrants or were people who had to leave their country where they were persecuted.

As Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Nigerian is quoted on immigration:

“Alexa and the other guests, and perhaps even Georgina, all understood the fleeing from war, from the kind of poverty that crushed human souls, but they would not understand the need to escape from the oppressive lethargy of choicelessness. They would not understand why people like him who were raised well fed and watered but mired in dissatisfaction, conditioned from birth to look towards somewhere else, were now resolved to do dangerous things, illegal things, so as to leave, none of them starving, or raped, or from burned villages, but merely hungry for choice and certainty.

Yes there are some of the migrants like Chimamanda but there are many others who are crossing the Mediterranean Sea fleeing from war, poverty and other inhuman acts.

And so let us remember all who seek a new life, new start in our prayers.

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IACAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NEW YORK

Have you noted the date for our annual conference in your diary and plan to join us in New York on 6th-10th October 2015? Registrations for the Conference are now open and are to be made through our website www.iacac.info Your conference invitation, a draft of the conference program, an information sheet and the Post Conference Tour itinerary will be emailed to you at the same time as this Newsletter..

Conference Date:

6th -10th October 2015 [5 nights]

Cost : Single- \$US1000

Double/Twin Share - \$US800

Post Conference Tour:

11th - 15th October 2015 [4 nights]

Cost: Single- \$US1200

Double/Twin Share - \$US1000

Special international air fare rates have been negotiated for the conference. This is only available for international flights. Delegates can fly Delta, KLM, Air France or Alitalia to JFK, Laguardia or Newark Airports. Travel must be between the 25th September and 25th October 2015. Reservations and ticketing can be made at www.delta.com. When booking, select Meeting Event Code and enter NMJKN in the box provided on the Search Flight page. Please consider using Delta when choosing an airline to come to the conference.

The Conference program promises to be very interesting and will have as its purpose the following four points

- To explore the issue of diversity and multiculturalism at the workplace.
- To become familiar with the nonverbal communication aspect of our service
- To provide opportunities for training and drawing on our mutual experiences
- To allow time for fellowship and the rekindling of friendships

Please refer to the your invitation and program plans for more information. Please send any inquiries you have to our Host chaplain Rev Romeo Dabee
Email romeadabee@ccny.net

IACAC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2015

Annual membership subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2015. Our financial year is from 1st January to the 31st December 2015.

Payment of the membership subscription should be made through the IACAC website: www.iacac.info
Annual membership subscription for active members is US\$60.

The membership subscription for Associate members is \$30 with no voting rights for those who would like it.

Please continue to support your Association by paying your annual subscription as soon as you are able.

Thank you to those members who have already paid. If you have any queries about the payment of your membership please contact our Treasurer, Mrs Bev Mc Neely, treasurer@iacac.info

BOARD ELECTIONS 2015

Nominations were accepted from the following people for the election to positions on the Board during the New York Conference in 2015.

President – Rev Chester Cook, Atlanta, USA
Rev Pierre de Mareuil, CDG Paris,
Rev George Lane, Manchester. UK

Vice President -

Rev George Lane, Manchester, UK
Rev Pierre de Mareuil, CDG Paris,
Lord Devraj Singh Saberwal, London
Heathrow

Media Officer – Fr. Chris Piasta, JFK, USA

Nominations for the position of Treasurer for election at the 2016 Annual Business Meeting will be also be received at the New York Business Meeting.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES

At the recent meeting of the British Isles and Ireland Network of Civil Aviation Chaplains hosted at Manchester Airport on the 28th April, Johnathan Baldwin was elected as Coordinator to succeed Charlotte Osborn.

As it was also International Workers' Memorial Day, a service of thanksgiving was held to remember the lives and contribution of two former colleagues, The Rev Cannon Michael Vincer and the Rev Arthur Grimshaw who was the founding Chaplain at Manchester. Their names were placed in the Memorial Book and Plaques were dedicated recognition of their service to Manchester Airport. Mike's wife, Bette, and members of her family were present.

We wish Major Peter Hawkins from London Gatwick a speedy return to good health after his recent illness. He is now home from hospital for rest and recuperation.

Our colleague, Gabriele Pace from Munich has written to say that she is leaving the airport to begin a new ministry. Gabriele was farewelled from Munich Airport at a Prayer Service on the 30th April.

Major Keith Hampton from Sydney Airport recently featured in the Sydney East and Illawarra Division Salvation Army Newsletter promoting the work of airport chaplains, particularly his team at Sydney Airport.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness.
Euripides