



IACAC NEWSLETTER

International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains

President's letter – November 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We all remember great events and where we were when they took place. Twenty- five years ago the Berlin wall came down and a country came together once again and yet after all this time I believe that Germany is still working things out.

Today we still see walls being built and similar barricades taking place in the Middle East. In Northern Ireland the Peace wall is still standing and in China the Great Wall is a tourist attraction. But are these walls to protect people or to keep people out?

Even in our airports we have walls, they are not called walls and don't look like walls, but they are something that people have to pass through to get airside or landside. We know them as security or central search or the border.

But thinking about walls makes us question what kind of walls do we build around ourselves and why? "Another Brick in the Wall" which is the title of three songs set to variations of the same basic theme, on Pink Floyd's 1979 Rock Opera, The Wall, the working titles were part 1 – Reminiscing, part 2 – Education and part 3 Drugs. Part 2 was released as a single and is a protest song against the rigid system of schooling in general and boarding schools in England. It was banned in South Africa in 1980 after it was adopted by the supporters of a nationwide school boycott protesting racial inequalities in education under the apartheid regime.

I would suggest that some of the following are the bricks that we put in our walls. Failure, unforgiveness, rejection, denial, rebellion, mistrust, criticism, pain, shame. There are many more that can be thought of.

When we lay the first brick we are inclined to blame another person or event and so the wall is started, the event or injury does not in itself build the wall, it is how we react to it.

From what follows is the sense of injury; no matter who is to blame something happens which allows anger, bitterness and unforgiveness to enter our heart. Attitudes that are destructive develop; more and more bricks are added to our wall. Wrong attitudes can never be justified. The fact is

that we will never live our lives without being hurt by other people (people hurt people). Insensitive and heartless words and actions are part of our daily living. The negative impact of words said without thinking or with criticism cannot be underestimated. Gossip also serves to entice to any listener who would join in such unkindness and is just as bad as spreading words of hurt.

When we go about and around our towns, cities and airports we may note that there are different kinds or colours of bricks in the walls that we see and meet. So there are also bricks of joy, happiness, forgiveness, peace, support, hope, love, encouragement, prayer. So in building our wall we should be looking to lay the bricks of hope, of forgiveness, of giving joy to someone with a kind word and encouraging those we work with and meet. These are the bricks that we should be laying with love and prayer, As the words of the refrain in "Another Brick in the wall" says - '*All in all you're just another brick in the wall*' Let us not just be another brick in the wall but be that special brick giving our fellow sisters and brothers of all faiths hope to create a world where all peoples can live in peace and harmony.

As Michel Quoist wrote – *The Bricklayer laid a brick on a bed of cement. Then with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer and without a by-your-leave, laid another brick.*

*The foundations grew visibly, the building rose, tall and strong, to shelter people.
I thought, Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the base of the big building.*

*No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task, and the other bricks need it.
Lord, what difference, whether I am on the rooftop or in the foundations of your building, as long as I stand faithfully at the right place.*

Lewis Rose

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

IACAC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2015

Annual membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2015 and the 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 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, either at the Amsterdam conference or through the website.

If you have any queries about the payment of your membership please contact our Treasurer, Mrs Bev Mc Neely, treasurer@iacac.info

THE ATTRIBUTES OF AIRPORT CHAPLAINCY

The role of the airport chaplain is not always easy to define. Each airport sets up and operates their chaplaincy according to the local circumstances. However there are common elements which can be ascribed to all chaplaincies and could be summarised in the following ways.

The Chaplain seeks:

To be visible - a friendly, well known face at the airport, through personal workplace visiting, meeting with managers, attending workplace meetings as invited, and through other contacts, to be proactive in discerning need.

To be available - to any member of the airport community at all times for work related or personal needs; to listen, and to offer independent, confidential support and encouragement, showing concern and interest towards all.

To walk - the terminal and other airport precinct buildings regularly, enabling a response to the needs of passengers and those who work there.

To communicate - with staff in the companies on site, and to enhance a sense of community at the airport.

To respond - through leading the Chaplaincy/local emergency response team in the event of an aircraft or airport incident and to share in the work of the Airport Emergency Planning Committee.

To encourage and support - employee faith groups which may meet on the airport for prayer, study and discussion, and to seek prayer support for the Airport chaplaincy ministry carried out on their behalf.

To learn from - and share in the wider work of Airport Chaplaincy.

Do take some time to reflect on your role and perhaps you may like to add some more points to this list.

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the Rev David Holmwood who recently passed away. David was a Baptist minister who was appointed in 1993 as the Free Church Chaplain at Heathrow Airport. He served with the chaplaincy for a number of years before his retirement.

Belfast City Airport is currently establishing a Multifaith Quiet room. Rev Colin Hall-Thompson is hopeful of having its official opening before Christmas or soon after.

Rev Michael Banfield is very excited to be returning to airport chaplaincy in a volunteer capacity. He is joining the current Lead Chaplain at Southampton Airport as soon as the ID pass process is complete. He has also been appointed the first Chaplain at Chichester/Goodwood Aerodrome. Michael says to negotiate this has been a great privilege, and gives us in IACAC another general aviation Chaplaincy amongst pilots, a flying school, some other aviation businesses, and the airfield visiting public. He is very excited about the possibilities at Goodwood and has been there settling in and meeting the Goodwood staff of about 30, plus pilots and others.

Please continue to keep our colleagues in West Africa in your prayers as their communities continue their battle with the Ebola epidemic.

Also please pray for all faith communities who are facing persecution and loss because of their beliefs.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Every problem is a character building opportunity, and the more difficult it is, the greater the potential for building spiritual muscle and moral fibre.

Rick Warren