



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

## IACAC NEWSLETTER

January 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year! (If January 1<sup>st</sup> is where you mark the beginning of a new year, of course). I could equally use the same greeting in February for Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year, in March for those celebrating the new Hindu year – Vikram samvat, those Balinese Hindus observing Nyepi, or those celebrating Nowruz, the Persian New Year (originating in Zoroastrianism, but widely celebrated by those of different faiths across Western and Central Asia, the Caucasus, Black Sea Basin, and the Balkans). Or, we could wait until April for Vaisakhi, the Sikh new year and Songkran the new year festival in Thailand, Laos, and some other parts of Southeast Asia. Or, if your resolution fails midsummer, you can celebrate the Muslim new year in August or observe Rosh Hashanah in September with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Of course, maybe you never converted from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian – in which case I shall wait until March 25...!

There are many more opportunities to celebrate a new year – and each may well have implications for the aviation industry. Chinese New Year is reckoned to be one of the largest annual human migrations, and travel and religious celebrations have always been intrinsically linked. We should be aware.

Whenever and however we celebrate the turning of the year, marking the transition is a reminder of the slow but inevitable progress of time, and an encouragement that we are always free from the shackles of the past, as we move towards a future that is as yet, unwritten. New Year is a time for grace – and a new start with God's mercy.

One of my favourite pieces of (secular) wisdom is: **'Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.'** (originally 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' - philosopher, essayist, poet and novelist, George Santayana, 1863–1952).

Having exercised ministry in churches which have always been blessed with at least one person whose main contribution to church meetings was always 'We tried that once, it didn't work.' I have both been frustrated by the paralysis such a mindset engenders while now, having entered my sixth decade of life, it turns out there's very little I haven't seen some version of before. I may soon become that person.

Nevertheless, if we are engaged in ministry in the aviation industry, we are surrounded by constant change, constant innovation, constant and deliberate disruption and re-shaping of every element of the industry. We may have an unchanging message and motive, but we will have to engage with the relentless change around us, or we will quickly lose the ability to engage and communicate effectively.

As ever, I decide I want to repeat a quotation (or cliché, if you prefer!), I then end up down an internet rabbit-hole trying to ensure that the quotation is correctly attributed (they're almost always attributed to Desmond Tutu, Marilyn Monroe, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein or Nelson Mandela.)

So here are some (researched) words of wisdom for us all as we enter a new year (sometime in the next 365 days):

**1) 'If you always do what you've always done, you always get what you've always gotten.'**

*Jessie Potter educator and relationships counselor, quoted in "The Milwaukee Sentinel" Wisconsin in 1981*  
Or, if you prefer:

**2) 'If you continue to think like you've always thought, you'll continue to get what you've always got...'**

*From an advertisement for a seminar on the "Secrets of Selling" led by Dayle K. Maloney August 1984*  
To put it another way, as Albert Einstein (so eloquently didn't, but is often quoted as having) said:

**3) 'Insanity is repeating the same mistakes and expecting different results.'**

*From a 1981 Narcotics Anonymous pamphlet*  
Or, as it developed:

**4) "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results."**

*From Rita Mae Brown's 1983 novel "Sudden Death"*

I find these sentiments helpful both personally, and as I observe the ways of the world with increasing concern!

In relation to our association, we want to progress and develop the work of our Association, and our ministry to the international Aviation Industry and those it serves: the travelling public.

Since an overwhelming mandate from the Association's Annual Business Meeting in Charlotte last September, the Executive Board were charged with pursuing the goal of organizing the 2020 Annual conference in Nairobi, Kenya, the Board has been preparing for our meeting in Nairobi next month, though, understandably, since the terrorist attack by

Somalia-based Islamist group al-Shabab in the Westlands district of Nairobi on January 15, there have been a range of responses (all of which I respect) – from ‘this changes nothing’ to ‘this changes everything’ and many gradations between.

The safety of all members of the Association is of paramount importance. That needs to be said (and heard) unequivocally.

But a recurring theme in our media age, when many are concerned about manipulation by the ‘mainstream media’, fake news, social media, as well as powerful ‘influencers’ – whether influential business leaders, popular instagrammers or populist politicians, it is now up to each one of us to take responsibility for discerning whether promises, benefits, risks or threats are as great as they are portrayed, or are used as a distraction from the reality of the situation.

Here is the current British Government advice about travel to another foreign country. Which country do you think it is referring to? It is **not** Kenya (but it is not dissimilar to the advice for Kenya). *Around [number] British nationals visit [the country] every year. Most visits are trouble free. Take out comprehensive travel and medical **insurance** before you travel. Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in [this country]. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. You should monitor media reports and remain vigilant at all times. See **Terrorism**. UK health authorities have classified [the country] as having a risk of Zika virus transmission in certain regions. See **Health**. You should be alert to the dangers of car and street crime. See **Crime**.*

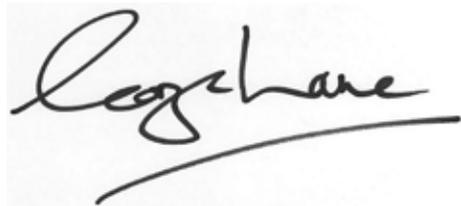
The IACAC membership has expressed a strong desire to grow, to become more professional and more diverse, and to reach new parts of the world, which don’t, as yet, have the benefits of airport chaplaincy.

We can’t do that if we only think what we’ve always thought, do what we’ve always done and go where we’ve always gone.

A final New Year encouragement from Samuel Beckett, author, playwright and Nobel Prize Laureate.

**‘Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.’**

*‘Worstward Ho’ 1983*



The Revd George Lane  
President,  
International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains  
tel 0161 489 2838 [president@iacac.info](mailto:president@iacac.info)

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER**

In 2009 I was elected Treasurer of this wonderful organization. It has been a great honor and privilege to get to know each and every one of you even better by being in this position on the board. I also have had the privilege to work with many different members of the Board and get to know and love them .

This is my last year on the Board as I will be retiring and looking forward to my next adventure in life. So, I am asking each and every one of you to give your support to a new Treasurer to help the organization continue to grow.

I am looking forward to building my fellowship in Melbourne in October this year and I cannot wait to hear more of your stories about your work. I have learned so much from airport chaplains from so many different countries, faiths and denominations. I pray that during the spiritual journey which we are all taking we continue to listen to one another even if we may disagree. We still can learn so much from each other. I am positive that we will each go home with a new rich legacy of memories and new friendships.

The Board would like to remind members that after one year’s grace, if we do not hear from you and you do not maintain your membership dues, your membership can be terminated. This is in accordance with clause 6.14.2 of the constitution. It is very important each and everyone’s dues are paid, not only because we want you as member , but because we do have expenses and to provide for support through the subsidy fund to chaplains as well.

Our dues help support the training, attendance at the openings of new chapels, visits by Board members to chaplaincies and so much more. Most of the board officers are subsidized either by their church or pay for themselves. It is estimated that if the Association was meeting these costs it could be up to an additional \$10000 USD yearly.

Some of the expenses that are paid by board officers themselves include:

- Office supplies
- Printing of Board materials
- Web-site expenses
- Media expenses
- Additional traveling to help, for example an existing Chapel needing IACAC’s Support
- Pre-travel/arrangements to prepare for the forthcoming IACAC conferences
- Support Board members and/or represent the Board, as an example, at the funeral of a member

In Addition, many times through the years members of the Board have returned their Board travel subsidy to help IACAC. build up its funds. Since I have been on the board I have realized that this has helped to keep the costs for the maintenance of the Association to a minimal amount.

Over the years our membership has fluctated and I would love to see other new members join IACAC. As I was looking at the members and where they are from it

seems to me that the London Airports and Paris are trying to compete with one another on how many members they have in our organization. Let's continue to support and encourage each other and bring new members to our association so that it may continue to expand and develop for another 50 years.

I have had the utmost privilege to have been to so many different countries and conferences since we held the conference in Indianapolis in 2001. I have made many wonderful friends and have lost a few through the years that I truly miss but I have been truly blessed by my membership of IACAC. May you be blessed in everything you do and say, especially as you meet people along the way and represent IACAC to the world.

Prayers and Blessings

Bev

### **IACAC Membership Fees**

During the Annual Business Meeting at the Charlotte Conference many members present emphasised the importance of paying membership fees promptly and supporting the work of the Association and the Board. If you are a financial member of IACAC and have not paid your 2019, or maybe even your 2018 and 2017 membership dues, now is the time to do so. 2019 Non financial members will cease to have access to the "Members Only" section of the website after the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Mrs Bev McNeely [treasurer@iacac.info](mailto:treasurer@iacac.info) if you are not sure if you have paid or not

### **\*YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!\***

Dear Airport Chaplains all around the world I am working on updating the directory of chaplaincies and chapels on the IACAC website.

May I ask all of you to have a look at our website, check the information about your chaplaincy and chapel provided in the directory and send me any updates as soon as possible to: [media@iacac.info](mailto:media@iacac.info) Thank you very much, I appreciate your help with keeping the directory up to date.

Many thanks,

Rev. Stephan Pfenninger Schait  
IACAC Media Officer

### **IACAC 2019 Annual Conference Melbourne 2019**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October



The conference program and costs will be finalised shortly. This information and booking details will be available on the IACAC website as well as being circulated to all on our mailing list

Conference Theme:

Diversity-Embracing Differences as a Gift

Conference Opening Ceremony- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
Annual Business Meeting - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Gala Dinner - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
Delegates Depart after Breakfast- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October



### **Post Conference Tour**

Five Days and four nights

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Touring the Great Ocean Road and Goldfields Area of Victoria

### **NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES**

Prayers have been asked for Fr Glenn O'Connor from Indianapolis. Fr Glenn has been a member of IACAC for a long time and we continue to pray for his quick return to good health. Thank you to all our members who have sent messages of support. It is much appreciated.

If you know of any members who are unwell, retiring the passing any chaplains it would be appreciated if you could let the Board know so we are able to send a message and offer prayers.

Rebecca DeQuina and Fr Steve Teston from Manila send greeting for the NewYear. Rebecca has not been well after being hurt in a car accident but is making a slow recovery. We send her our best wishes.

Dear Friends of IACAC,

I would ask you, if possible, to spread among the members of the Association, personally or via social media (twitter, facebook & co.) the information related to the next world seminar of Catholic Chaplains of civil aviation which will be held in Rome from 10 to June 13, 2019.

Working with the office of the Holy See we realized that there have been changes in some chaplaincies and that some e-mail / postal addresses are no longer valid.

I enclose with this note the notice "save the date" sent by the new dicastery for the integral human development with prayer of diffusion. [See Below]

For the answers the e-mail address [c.aviationchaplains@humandevlopment.va](mailto:c.aviationchaplains@humandevlopment.va) can be used or you can refer to my address [fabrizio.martello@voladadio.it](mailto:fabrizio.martello@voladadio.it).

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

With regard,

Fr. Fabrizio Martello

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Kind words are short but their echoes are endless



DICASTERIUM  
AD INTEGRAM HUMANAM  
PROGRESSIONEM  
FOVENDAM

## SAVE THE DATE

As you may know, with the *Motu Proprio Humanam Progressionem* the Holy Father Pope Francis instituted the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, into which the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People - responsible for the Pastoral Care of Civil Aviation- was also merged. It is therefore my pleasure to invite you to participate in the **World Seminar "Catholic Civil Aviation Chaplains and Pastoral Agents at the Service of Integral Human Development"**, which will take place in **Rome from 10 to 13 June 2019**. To this end, I would be very grateful if you could set the date on your calendar and send us proposals and suggestions in this regard, (at: [c.aviationchaplains@humandevelopment.va](mailto:c.aviationchaplains@humandevelopment.va)).

I take this opportunity to wish you, also on behalf of the Cardinal Prefect, a fruitful beginning of the New Year.

Msgr. Segundo Tejado

*Under-Secretary  
Section for Pastoral Care and Diakonia*