

Interfaith Insider

Welcome to the SAIT Interfaith Centre monthly newsletter. Subscribe [here](#) to meet our team and stay up to date on all that's happening!



OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED

The Interfaith Centre has moved into our new area. Come visit us in **Room MB 305**

Violence, Religion and Multi-Faith Relations

Rev. Tim Nethercott, p.2



Learner Services

Interfaith Centre

In Vietnam, Christmas is one of the four most celebrated festivals besides Vesak, Lunar New Year, and Mid-Autumn Festival (however, it is not an official public holiday).

Local people start decorating for Christmas in October and the festival of light will last until the end of January. Christmas trees and decorations are always on the "to-do list" of every household, even business. Streets are full of twinkling lights, candy canes, snowflakes, etc. Christmas Eve (December 24th) has attracted more attention from non-Christian people, as on that day, the Nativity Play (a play that tells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ) will be performed.

And I really love that occasion, where everyone is welcome to watch those plays in churches regardless of their religions. On Christmas Day (December 25th), we often gather with family members and friends to express our gratitude toward God and each other.

Recently, I have learned from a friend of mine - Mahnoor Ahsan - that Muslims also have a holiday with lots of sweets, gift-giving, and family gatherings called "Eid-ul-Fitr". It is not a fixed day but follow their luna calendar to mark the end of Ramadan and show gratitude toward God.

Although not celebrating Christmas, Mahnoor loves seeing the "Christmas Light Festival" and enjoys the joyful atmosphere of the Christmas holiday. Especially, with more days off, she can visit her family and relatives during this holiday in Canada.

By Yen Nguyen

Interfaith Centre LEADS Student

Adrian is a wonderful addition to our dynamic team of Student Leaders for the Interfaith Centre. He is a kind and caring person who invites a great sense of belonging and acceptance.

Adrian Oida



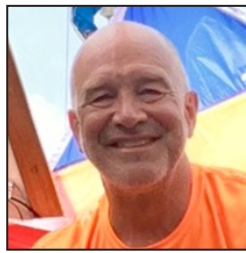
My name is Adrian Oida, I am a social butterfly, pursuing the business administration program at SAIT. I was born in the Philippines, lived in BC for a couple of years, then moved to Alberta. Since then, I have been raised in Canada as a believer in Roman Catholicism.

My hobbies include listening to music, stargazing, outdoor activities, and learning new things.

With the help of chaplains, I desire to develop wisdom and positive solution-based thinking as an interfaith student leader.

I strive to improve my cultural awareness, critical thinking, and applied knowledge to succeed in a diverse team. Learning about the cultures around me is exciting.

I feel that I can accomplish many goals when we embrace diversity to overcome the challenges we face today.



Chat with a Chaplain

Rev. Tim Nethercott,
United Church

On Violence, Religion and Multi-Faith Relations

Does religion cause violence? Not usually, although that seems to be a current pop culture idea.

I was once asked to join a CBC television panel on violence and religion. The producer asked me how I thought religion caused violence. I replied that I thought it has: there are examples of bloodshed over specifically religious issues. However violence on a large scale generally takes place between parties competing for resources. When those parties have different religions, the violence can take on a religious colour.

I could also have said: "And of course, religious communities will use their religions to justify violence." That might have won me a point or two, but I didn't say that and was disinvited from speaking on the panel.

As Interfaith Chaplains, we are very interested in Multi-Faith conversations. Conversations build our relationships and ultimately, our communities. And that makes conflict and violence a little less likely. But conversations between individuals of different religions will not stop the war because wars are not waged by individuals with different religions. They are waged by nation states with competing interests.

If our religions contribute to peace, they do it by individuals, perhaps empowered by those religions, engaging in politics as peacemakers. May those of us on the human journey as religious people bring peace where and when we can.



INTERFAITH INTERFACE EVERY FRIDAY

Interfaith Interface is a safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students from different spiritual backgrounds and diverse cultures come together to engage in thought-provoking dialogue.

[Click Here](#) to join us for an online dialogue on MS Teams on Fridays at 11:00 am.
