

IN THE JETSTREAM



Filing Your Flight Plan

April 2014

Those of us who have spent many years in the airline industry know how essential it is for a departing flight crew to file a good flight plan, detailing each phase of the flight from beginning to the end and anticipating any en-route problems. But how many of us have made out a flight plan for how we will progress through our life on earth, dealing with problems that we may encounter? The unfortunate truth is that many have not thought that through. We wander through life, like most people in our world, depending on ourselves to resolve daily problems.

I personally tried to plan and run my life my way and wondered why so many things went wrong. Relationships deteriorated, and many things I did to find happiness seemed to end in failure. I was left feeling very empty inside, thirsting for something of substance but not being able to obtain it. A need for a change in the course of my life was apparent. By the grace of God, after many years of drifting in this confused world, I came to realize that when one encounters turbulence that becomes progressively severe, one should chart a new course.

I was blessed to have loving Christian parents and a sister who were wonderful models for me. I settled in a friendly church that was founded on sound biblical principles. I discovered that God loved me and had a wonderful plan for my life (Romans 5:8). As I studied the Bible (my operations manual) I found wonderful truths and promises and a way out of my dilemma. I read that man (and woman) is sinful and separated from God and that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin (Romans 3:23). I further read that each of us must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (1 Timothy 2:5). So I received him and turned my life over to Him, a decision not made on an emotional basis. No earth shattering changes came into my life right then and there, but spiritual growth began and changes in my life did follow. Each day brings new insights through the Word of God and growth continues. Sometimes I move forward and some days backward, but overall the progress is in a forward direction. I

look to God for solutions, drawing on His infinite wisdom as creator of all things. He provides the answers in His way and they are always correct.

What do you think the outcome would be if someone purchased a new aircraft, but because of personal pride and based on previous flight experience they refused to read and follow the manufacturer's operations manual? It is very likely that the aircraft would crash on the first takeoff and the lives of all occupants would be lost. Well, we have available to us an operations manual for our lives, given to us by our manufacturer. The manual I refer to is the Holy Bible, and our Creator is the author who inspired the writing. It was given to us that we might have an abundant life, God's way, not our way. If we refuse to follow His manual, we should not be surprised that our lives "crash and burn." God really does love each of us, and he does have a wonderful flight plan for our lives. We simply need to confess our need for Christ in our lives (Romans 10:9). Won't you file your flight plan with him today for a better life tomorrow and into eternity? You do have a choice for a new life or the old life. 1 John 5:12-13 tells us,

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

We live in a very troubled and confused world. Many in our midst have lost jobs that once were secure, and there is tendency to be concerned over what tragedy tomorrow will bring. Have you prepared your flight plan? What is your hope? I pray that you will make the right choice and adopt the principles found in the flawless operations manual given to us by our Creator.

(Written by Richard Kalman - Retired World Airways Manager in Education and Training and longtime participant in FCAP)

Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

www.fcap.org

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

History:

The ministry of FCAP began in 1971 and was incorporated in 1973 when 50 people from eight different airlines in the United States and Canada met to consider how God wanted them to serve Christ in and through the airline industry. Since that time, the ministry of FCAP has spread in over 90 areas of the world. We do not have a membership or dues; rather we are a fellowship among Christians in the airline industry worldwide that share a common commitment and focus.



Perspective & Focus:

Most people look at work primarily as a source of income. Some even view it as a curse imposed on them as punishment from God. *The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel* believes that God places a high value on work and is deeply interested in our work, our performance on the job and our relationships with our co-workers. We recognize that both our work and the way we relate to people in the workplace are of great importance to God. So it is our mission: *“To represent Christ in the airlines through meaningful relationships and quality work.”*

FCAP’s two-fold purpose encourages people *to know and experience God’s presence with them at work* and *to trust Him for the enabling strength in the responsibilities and challenges of work*. We see authentic ministry in the workplace as a result of our displaying this relationship to our Lord within the sphere of our influence at work, without being coercive or self-serving.

Values:

- We value doing our work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, knowing we represent Christ by the quality of our performance while on the job (Ephesians 6:6).
- We value intentionally engaging our faith in the workplace by expressing it in both deeds and words (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- We value influencing the people around us by creatively building relationship with them and looking out for their interest just as we do our own.
- We value connecting the church in the workplace by seeking out other Christians, to mutually show our love for one another and our care for the people God has placed around us (John 13:35).

Making Your Connection:

Like the airline industry is all about making connections, so FCAP is all about Christians making their connection in the workplace in three basic ways:

- Connecting God’s purposes in the details of your work.
- Connecting ministry to God working through you to influence the people and circumstances of work.
- Connecting the church in the workplace in unique and creative ways, in order to extend and strengthen its influence.

- WE OFFER:**
- Training that helps Christians integrate the Christian faith into the everyday details of our work and its challenges.
 - Free publications that offer encouragement, gives focus, and provides information.
 - Support and fellowship through local groups, prayer network, training sessions, special events and conferences.



The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

The ministry of FCAP is carried on by everyday ordinary people throughout the airline workplaces of the world who go to work with an extraordinary calling. The FCAP ministry does not focus on specialized people, nor are we a special interest group focusing on certain issues. We do not have a membership nor are we a club with dues. Rather, FCAP is a fellowship of Christians who identify with one another through a common focus and purpose. And we desire to demonstrate how our faith in Jesus Christ can influence the people and circumstances of our workplace. We are blessed to have both airline and non-airline people who encourage and support this ministry.

Your Next Step:

Check on the FCAP website to see if there is a group in your area, or seek out and connect with other Christians at your workplace. Contact us at the international office for further assistance or click on “Connect” on the website.



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

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OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD