

## *Precarious Conditions*

August 2016

**K**nowing your position in flying is crucial to reaching your destination in a safe and timely way. Because there are no signs posted or traffic signals at 35,000 feet up, those who fly aircraft know that without accurate instruments and communication with air traffic controllers, you cannot establish your position. This makes navigating virtually impossible, especially under bad weather conditions. When weather conditions worsen, knowing your position is crucial to assess the situation and take decisive correct actions, something you cannot do based solely on your senses.

Using this analogy... Christians are finding it more and more difficult these days in knowing their position... how they should and can fit in to their cultures, including the work culture. In a growing number of cultures Christian beliefs are being viewed more as a threat to progress and the cultural life-style. As conditions in society deteriorate, the Christian faith is being challenged more by public scrutiny and political policy, which puts Christians in the center of controversy and suspension. Some companies have even made policies that force Christians to comply with matters that violate their conscience. Yet these policies have little or no bearing on personal work performance and employee collaboration, but rather personal preference.

Christians in general are feeling more intimidated at the workplace, which causes them to become more silent about their faith and hesitant to express it in any way. Does this mean that God's purpose for His people is somehow failing or maybe just doesn't work or shouldn't be displayed at the workplace? I don't think so, because the Christian faith does not need a comfortable work environment or an agreeable political system in order to be influential. God has put His presence in His people in order to do that (2 Corinthians 4:6-7). When we know our position before the Lord, we understand that we are complete and secure in Christ. Regardless how the conditions around us may change, for better or worse, we can be assured that God and His Word

do not change. As we walk with God, we learn how His word applies to life. Growing in His wisdom guides us to make the right adjustments and put us on the right course (James 3:13-18).

Present changes are pressing upon Christians the need to better understand how and when to engage in sharing their beliefs (which the world considers offensive), without using offensive tactics. If we are not careful, our frustrations about being treated unjustly could be transmitted in our responses toward our coworkers. But also our genuine concern and care for people may at times require us to be cautious in our responses. Our Lord gave us some good instructions about how to



engage our faith in a credible yet in a careful manner. Knowing that His disciples would be His witnesses within a hostile Roman culture, Jesus instructed them, "*Be wise as serpents and gentle as doves*" (Matthew 10:16). Snakes are known for avoiding danger and not exerting their energy or venom before the right occasion. The point here is that we need to be wise and not flaunt our Christian views at times, especially knowing some people won't understand them, and that it could create problems and controversy. Doves are known for being gentle, not forceful. When we engage with people, we must be noticeably gentle and not pushy. Boldness is not measured by how strongly and enthusiastically I can express what I believe. Rather it is how clear and convincing my faith in God is to those around me. My life should be a bold statement, not just loud words.

Remember, you are not lost in this world, but rather the world is lost in its ways...and your life represents God's answer.

*"I (Christ) have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

Positioned in Him,  
The FCAP Staff

# 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 and weekly thoughts 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.

**OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD**

## 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 With Us”](#) on the website.



### FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

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