

IN THE JETSTREAM



When Trials and Tribulation Come

January 2016

"I love the Lord; He heard my cries, and pitied every groan; long as I live, when troubles rise, I'll hasten to His throne."

In 1719 Isaac Watts wrote the lyrics to "I Love the Lord" based on Psalms 116:1-2, which Whitney Houston sang so passionately in "The Preacher's Wife". But long before that, the psalmist penned the verse out of his confidence that, in the midst of the greatest tribulation, God hears the groans of His children and moves on their behalf.

Trial and tribulation can come in such great amount and frequency (as the kind that Job experienced) that we may desire God to take our life. Job's servants, children, and herds were destroyed in a day. Soon after all of that, he was again attacked and became deathly ill, and even his wife was of no comfort. Few believers are likely to experience the likes of what Job did, but even when we face multiple problems, we can say, as Job did, "*Blessed be the name of the Lord.*" (Job 1:22)

There are times believers must travel across a wide valley. We may face things like the death of a close family member, the loss of a child, an unexpected job loss, a devastating fire, and even the satanic fiery darts of doubt, fear, and depression. Some or all of these may push a child of God to the very edge of spiritual insanity. But what a deep well of comfort we have in God! We must remember to whom we belong, and have His name on our lips in times of pleasure and abundance. If we are accustomed to calling on Him in the joys of life, how much more so will we be prepared to cry to Him in our sorrows?

The psalmist *did* cry out to God ... for God alone is capable of bringing back the peace that is removed so suddenly. Only God can restore the calm that is broken by calamity. Even as we try to fathom all the suffering and evil

that may touch us, we can know beyond the shadow of a doubt that God is capable of pouring oil of gladness down upon our ashes of mourning ... if we will just cry out to Him. We can proclaim with a loud voice, "I love the Lord," as the psalmist did, because He has not left us without comfort ... He brings us comfort during and following the trial. We must also remember that calling out to God is not just for seasons of sadness. As the psalmist sang, "I shall call upon Him as long as I live."

Be comforted, dear brother; take heed, sweet sister! Suffering will come, we must be sorrowful, and we must have a season of mourning ... but not to the point of exasperation. God would not have us go that far. God inclines His ear because He knows we do sorrow, and He knows we do mourn and we are hurting. Be comforted, because He hears your whisper in the dark, and He hears your lamentation from a broken heart, and He desires to comfort you and *will* comfort you. See how many tools are at His disposal! I believe the Lord might say, "Holy Spirit, proceed at once and make alive the dirge!" "Legion of angels, advance at all hazard to bring deep joy!" And with that you will continue on. Though your heart may weigh heavy now, He will begin to make light your burden. (TCF)

"I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live."

Psalm 116:1,2

(This article was written by Tim Files. Tim is an Aircraft Systems Analyst with Delta Air Lines and also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors. He and his wife, Carol, have traveled extensively to help us with training and encouragement among airline people throughout the world.)

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 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.



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