

# IN THE JETSTREAM



## When Life Loses Its Cabin Pressure

June 2011

Imagine for moment that you are sitting in a comfortable airline seat, flying at 35,000 feet, and everything seems normal ... until you encounter a loss in cabin pressure. Quickly the conditions around you change; they become adverse and threatening. Without any help, you would start losing consciousness and pass out within 45 seconds. Thankfully, commercial airlines have emergency oxygen systems. Oxygen masks drop down from a compartment above, providing the needed oxygen while the airplane descends to a safe altitude. God made us humans to live at an altitude closer to sea level, where there is plenty of oxygen in the air to sustain us. However, we humans have invented machines which work best at high altitudes, where the air is very thin and smooth. However, the only way we can enjoy these machines, called airplanes, is to create a pressurized environment or cabin that provides the right conditions for us to exist and enjoy life up there.

All of us, at one time or another, have been cruising along in our job and through life, when suddenly the unexpected happened. Maybe it was an announcement of future job layoffs or pay/benefit reductions, or maybe you were faced with a new co-worker who didn't like you and wanted to make life difficult for you. Or perhaps, it was a passenger that was rude and harsh with you. Like an airplane losing its cabin pressure, you felt that whatever joy, peace and kindness inside you was being sucked out of you, and you were becoming spiritually depressurized. When this happens, we become vulnerable to the conditions around us. They tend to pull out any and all of life's vitality. Some people immediately react to such situations by filling their life with fear or anger. Then there are others who try to ignore it over time, "holding their breath," acting like there is no problem or looking for solutions in other ways.



There was a writer in the Old Testament named Jeremiah who addressed a group of people who had experienced God's care, guidance, and provision. However, over time they began filling their lives with all kinds of things, except God. He likened their lives to broken cisterns, which could no longer hold water. Because water in those days could be scarce, yet necessary to sustain life, having a container for water was crucial. He likened their lives to a container that could no longer hold the most vital element that sustains life. Then he says, "*You have forsaken God, who is the fountain of living waters*" (Jeremiah 2:13). We humans try so hard to fill our lives with so many other things to sustain us, sadly only to find out that after we gain them, we soon lose our enjoyment of them. When we build our lives around the pursuit of things, instead of God, it will result in us becoming like a cracked and leaky

container, feeling like we never have enough and are always needing more. What little or immediate enjoyment things can give us eventually, and sometimes quickly, leaks out, and we come up empty again.

God created this world and created us to enjoy Him and the things He has created. However, when we ignore Him in order to pursue other things to fill our life, we are actually removing ourselves from the *source of life*. But when we let God fill our lives with His presence and power, only then are we given as a gift from God the ability to enjoy all the other things. Is your life being depressurized and emptied in such a way? Then let God fill it, and *pressurize it with His presence*. (PMC)

*"... that you may be filled up with the fullness of God ..."*  
(Ephesians 3:16-21)

With His presence,  
The FCAP Staff

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Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

[www.fcap.org](http://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.

**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 “Your Next Step” on the website.



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