

IN THE JETSTREAM



Christmas in a Global World...

December 2012

It seems these days the world feels that the message of Christmas is too narrow and not relevant for today's global world. Christians are told they should keep their Christmas emblems and greetings away from the public life of the global community because it doesn't fit in. Christmas is looked upon as an ancient symbol in history from a remote part of the world that doesn't connect to this post modern world. The fact that Jesus lived on earth two millenniums ago makes many think the account is more of a myth than what it actually is... a fact of history.

When Jesus Christ entered the scene of human history at the time of His birth, the global world of that day was the Great Roman Empire. Acceptance into this global society was an exclusive privilege that few people enjoyed. To have Roman citizenship afforded you a luxury, and becoming one was no easy achievement. Either you were born into it, or you paid for it in some way. The affects of that global movement brought more division and prejudice than unity among people. Women of that day were considered second class citizens and property to be owned, and over half the population of that day was classified as slaves. When Christ was born into the global world of that day, interestingly His birth brought with it a message that was liberating, but viewed as a global threat. Initially, His birth was revealed and announced by angels, wise men and shepherds, three very different classes of individuals. However, all three recognized this was no ordinary birth or person. They acknowledged that this birth was God who came in person, to live among humanity. They also recognized that He would be a Savior to all people, and not just to Roman citizens, or the wealthy and educated. His kingdom, which is not of this world, touched people personally around the globe.

Today's global attitude prides itself on being tolerant and pluralistic. And yet, reactions to the so called

small and insignificant story about a baby born in Bethlehem two millenniums ago has many wondering why Christmas is treated as if it were a threat to society and hindrance to global unity. Its message does not embody a political position, nor does it advocate taking up weapons to advance its cause, and yet its impact on people is seen across the globe. There must be something more authoritative in its message, something more penetrating to its power that draws people from such diverse national and cultural backgrounds together as one. While human governments are finding it difficult these days to unite people without using coercion and manipulation, the gospel message of Jesus Christ is still conquering human hearts and uniting people around the globe. How? Not by force or threat, but by extending love and forgiveness, even to those who oppose it. There is no other political or religious group in history that has globally impacted the world in such a way. If Christmas were just another human story that touches our emotions, the impact of its message would be no more of a threat than Alice in Wonderland. However, its powerful life-changing affect on people frustrates and even threatens human movements because it is beyond their control.

The truth is, the message of Christmas has been and remains a global one. Not by declaration only, for human history itself bares out this fact. Its offer is personal and extends to all people. For all who would acknowledge Him, Jesus Christ as Savior, and who would humbly receive His forgiveness enter into a relationship with God Himself. His birth was said to bring *"the good news of great joy to all people, because a Savior was born... Christ the Lord."* We trust the global impact of this message will touch you personally this Christmas. (PMC)

From all of us in FCAP...**Merry Christmas!**

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.

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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