

# IN THE JETSTREAM



## Disorientation...

April 2013

On July 16, 1999 JFK Jr., son of former President J.F. Kennedy, took off from Fairfield NJ Airport in his single engine Piper airplane. He had been delayed later than expected and visual conditions were poor. Pilots along the route he would take reported worsening conditions with no visible horizon. The flight turned fatal when JFK Jr. flew into conditions beyond his ability. The NTSB report concluded "the pilot's failure to maintain control of his airplane during a descent over water at night, which was a result of *spatial disorientation*." Spatial disorientation is the inability to correctly interpret aircraft position, altitude or airspeed, in relation to the earth or point of reference. It is a condition in which a pilot's perception of direction does not agree with reality.



JFK Jr. had very little experience in flying at night and did not know how to use or trust completely something other than his own senses and ability. Also, he chose to fly his last 30 miles on the shortest route instead of following the shoreline where there were lights. When the haze came in that night, with no lights below and no horizon, he lost all points of reference. He became disoriented by the conditions around him, which tragically cost him, his wife and her sister life.

Knowing your position is essential to flying, disorientation can be fatal. There are conditions and forces in flying that will completely disorient you, and require you to use resources other than your own senses to guide you. Properly trained commercial pilots have learned to trust and submit completely to aircraft instruments and a central navigation system to guide them through conditions that could easily disorient them.

There is a spiritual disorientation that can greatly affect you in many ways and affect your work. You may

work around people with turbulent hearts that are full of anger or fear, and their condition seems to disorient you. Or maybe the pressures of the work environment have affected you so that you feel spiritually numb. Then there are the company's decisions that come directly to you and affect your work. You cannot see the reasoning of it, and it makes you feel like you're lost in the dark.

When situations are beyond our abilities and comprehension, there are signs that spiritual disorientation could be occurring. I become spiritually disoriented when I take my focus off God, giving my full attention to the problem or being overcome by it. I become spiritually disoriented when I start believing that God doesn't have my best interest in mind and doesn't care for me. I also become disoriented when I ignore God's clear instructions found in His Word or am unwilling to obey them. Eventually I am in a state of spiritual disorientation when my senses and feelings solely are what dictate and direct my life.

God has promised to lead us and provide for us through life's situations. Also His Word, the Bible, is like a navigational instrument that gives us the right point of reference for thinking and responding when difficulties come. It also prevents us from being overcome by our own senses, which ultimately misguide us. What seems the simplest thing to do...trusting what is reliable...is often the most difficult. Do you find yourself disoriented in a situation right now? Make sure that God is your reference point in all of life. (PMC)

On His radar,  
The FCAP Staff

*"Teach me your way, Oh Lord, and lead me in a level path."*  
Psalm 27:11

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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