

IN THE JETSTREAM



In The Airline Culture

June 2014

The airline industry is a unique culture of its own. It is an international connection of people, a traveling workforce community that speaks a common language with terms and practices that are distinctively airline. Every culture has its own unique beliefs, ways it communicates, and traditions that are practiced on a regular basis. The word “culture” has its root meaning from the idea of cultivating; like a vegetable garden that takes time to cultivate and grow, so are the cultures in which we live and work. Each of our cultures have sown and cultivated customs, practices, and even beliefs, both good and bad, into their social structure. Each of us is a product of the culture in which we were raised. Within our culture we can build strong bonds and even defend it by giving our loyalty to it. Actually, it can become a big part of our identity.

Cultures are not bad or wrong, actually it was God who divided the human race into cultures. We read in the book of Genesis how humanity was attempting to unite people in order to show its power and unity in the world. God knew that a united humanity could also be used to strengthen and unify the evil imagination and intents of the human hearts, so He divided the human race (Genesis 11:1-9). The current movement to merge cultures into a global culture is not a good thing. Why? Because it will as well unite the evil intent of people’s hearts under the slogan of world peace. Humanity being divided into cultures was also designed by God to point us back to our one and only Creator, and our need to be united through Him (Acts 17:24-26). When we leave God out of our cultures, they create negative traits, like prejudice, superiority, special

rights, and many other attributes that end up making strong divisions among people.

God has created a distinct family on earth, known as the people of God, who are given a citizenship not of this world. This people, called the family of God, encompass people from all cultures and nationalities, all of whom have entered into God’s family in the same way...through faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:13-14, 19). As God’s people we now are called to go back into our own cultures with a new identity...as God’s ambassador, representing His

interest and priorities (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). We are given a new reference in life, centered on God, His ways and His will. We now bring into our cultures a new set of values, beliefs and practices that can uniquely influence and shape them. However, please know that this will conflict with some of the beliefs and practices of our earthly cultures (1 Peter 2: 20; 3:14-18; 4:12-16).

Our unique airline culture needs Christians who understand that though they wear a particular uniform or ID, they ultimately represent someone much greater than their company management or leadership. As God’s ambassadors, they represent a different way of life at work, one that demonstrates the love and mercy of Christ to the people and circumstances of work. God has given you this company job in order to show Himself through you, in order to shape and influence the culture in which He has placed you. (PMC)

Under His Kingdom,
The FCAP Staff

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.

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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OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD