

IN THE JETSTREAM



Is It a Job...Or a Career?

February 2012

Most airline people who have worked in the industry for more than 10 years feel their career is disappearing. For many of them, when they started working for their airline, it was considered a secure career. People were standing in lines to get a job in the airline industry. They knew it meant a lifelong career, with security, benefits and a good retirement. But now the airlines, like many other industries, have fallen into financial hard times. Things have turned downward for the industry as a whole, and having an airline career is a memory of the past. Most people don't feel they have a career... but only "just a job."

A while back we had a FCAP Think-Tank meeting to discuss some of the challenges in the industry and consider how we will meet them in the future. We asked the group of 14 people, from different airline jobs and positions, how they would describe some of the current attitudes about the airline industry. The very first response was that people feel their employment in the airline is no longer a career to look forward to, but a job to endure. So how do you see it? Have the expectations of a secure airline career faded into a fog of a bleak future? Now that you feel your company looks at you as a mere number and no longer feel like part of the company family, has the value of your work been reduced to being dependent on the profit and loss statistics of the company books? Sadly, company management these days has, for the most part, forgotten or refused to see, that the greatest incentive a company can give their workers is not



money or benefits, but appreciation, respect and a healthy relationship between them.

But let us return to the question...Is it a career or a job? The answer is clear in God's Word ... IT IS NEITHER. Having a job focuses only on you performing your job description. Having a career focuses only on your company's responsibility to make you happy and secure. But for the Christian, work is a calling. The calling to work is not a human invention, nor will human incentives sustain it. It has to do more with who we are, not with what we do.

When we do our work, because we are the people of God, it brings a value and quality to our work that reflects the Lord and designer of work. It is in this way that we participate in God's work in the world. We are also told in God's Word that going to work in our airline or company is a service we render first and foremost to God, not the company. Do you see your work only profiting the company? If so, then your work is only a job, or at best a career. Or do you see your work as a calling from God? When you do, it will influence how and why you do you work, and then the creator and designer of work will become evident in your work. (PMC)

"...Do your work heartily as for the Lord, rather than for men...for it is Christ whom you serve." (Colossians 3:23-24)

For His Glory,
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.

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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