

IN THE JETSTREAM



More Than a Simulated Experience...

September 2011

There is a lot in today's world of technology that fascinates us. We can participate in games and experience adventure that seem almost real, but we call them virtual reality. Just imagine you enter an airplane and find out the pilots have hundreds of hours of flight time, but only in a simulator, without ever flying in real life conditions. Probably uneasy feelings would come, then you question whether you are willing to entrust your life in their hands to fly you to your destination. Ok, if you gave them the benefit of the doubt, they may do fine on takeoff and landing, but their orientation and flying skill still would not have been tested in real life and therefore lack completeness. Becoming a pilot means you have learned the skills and they have been tested beyond the experience of a simulator. Not until then are you a full fledged pilot.



In a similar way, Christians face the same conditions. For some Christians exercising their faith in God and spiritual maturity is evaluated almost exclusively in a controlled simulated experience, which they go and practice on a regular basis. There they are instructed in essential beliefs and how to walk by faith; also they are trained in spiritual disciplines. They may even see these things acted out in a video or rehearse them in a skit. But then they go out into the real world where they face the real conditions of adversity and temptation. They try to either ignore it or react wrongly to it. What they know is not applied, their faith remains incomplete because it is only practiced in the simulator. It's not that the simulated experiences we learn in church or other meetings are not important...they are very important. However, if our faith in the Lord is not tested out in the world, then it is not

much more than a virtual reality.

God subjected the world to its present conditions for us to grow. When humanity decided they didn't want God (Genesis 3), He subjected the world to conditions that would work against it. For instance, we know that the world is wearing out and decaying, both energy and matter are depleting. Also on a personal level, without any help or assistance, we don't become better people, actually we become more selfish and debased. These adverse conditions were designed by God to remind us of our need for Him. But He also uses these conditions to train His people, by purifying and strengthening their faith in Him. It was James who

wrote, "*Count it all joy when you encounter all kinds of trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance, and let it have its full effect...that you may be complete lacking in nothing.*" (James 1:2-4)

Experienced pilots are people who have learned about the equipment and its abilities and how to operate and trust it. They know the importance of submitting to the guidance of a navigational system that is beyond their own perceptions. They allow all of this to be tested and tried regularly in real weather conditions. In a similar way, a mature Christian is one whose knowledge and faith in the Lord and His Word is being tested and tried out in the world regularly. It is there where the trials and adverse conditions of life allow them an opportunity to test and prove God's great power and ability in their life. Truly it is more than just a simulated experience! (PMC)

Relying on His abilities,
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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