

IN THE JETSTREAM



The Good Life or The Better Life?

November 2012

So much of today's world is filling our minds with promises and dreams about life that are not the way real life often turns out. We see it on television and in movies with happy endings: A couple finally meets and falls in love, or a person goes from hardship to landing a fortune. Even the get-rich-quick schemes are telling us that the result of what they offer will mean a better life for you. But we rarely hear how the rest of the story goes once they reach these dreams. We don't know if the couple that so romantically fell in love is still in love after facing the realities of life. And it could be the person landing a fortune now has more problems and heartaches than before, and their life is more consumed with the responsibilities that come with it.

Even among Christians, there are movements telling us that God wants to give us a successful life, suggesting that it will take away our problems. People are drawn to such meetings or churches because of their attraction to the success it may bring them. But sadly, when it doesn't deliver to many people, they become disillusioned with church and even doubt God's character.

Why is it that God has not made life full of pleasures and ease? Is He not interested in that for me? Doesn't He realize that if I did not have all these problems in my airline or life, everything would be better? All this points to the fact that there is a vast difference between what the world tells us is the good life and God's idea of a better life. It's precisely at this point we can have our greatest struggles. We are expecting God to fulfill our dreams, thinking it will give us a quality life. When it does not happen, we wonder why our view of goodness and God's view of it is so different.

But how is it we fault God for failing to accomplish what we think is good when He has a plan for something

better? For example, it may sound good that if everything in my life went perfect, then I would have no problems or frustrations. However, God knows the way I am and thinks it is better for me living in this world to learn patience, diligence, and contentment. So He gives me trials to learn them (*James 1:3*). Certainly God delights in giving us good things to enjoy and that are pleasing to us (*1 Timothy 6:18*). But He also has woven trials and adversities in life in order for us to gain something in life that good things alone cannot provide (*1 Peter 1:6-7*).

The truth is...God has a much higher goal for our lives, and it often conflicts with our view of gaining security, comfort and pleasure. It's not that God wants to give us a life of misery and sadness. He does not! But He allows this mix in life, joy and sorrow, comfort and adversity, to develop in us qualities that lead us to experience a better life in the long run.

God promises us that the end results of our trials will far outweigh the present temporary hardship of them (*2 Corinthians 5:16-18*). His plan involves a process of transforming us, not an immediate transformation, but a definite one. Interestingly, we are told that our difficulties are His way of establishing and strengthening us (*1 Peter 5:10*). No airline or job could deliver this promise to you. No salary or bonus could give you this kind of quality in life. Simply put, the better life is a gift from the hand of God. It is being formed in us as we learn to trust and obey God in the midst of life's challenges. (PMC)

There is nothing better for a person than that he should...find enjoyment in his labor. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from Him...who can find enjoyment. (Ecclesiastes 2:24,25)

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.



**FELLOWSHIP OF
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