

IN THE JETSTREAM



Weight & Balance of Life...

May 2013

There are many factors that lead to an efficient and safe operation of an airline flight. One of these vital parts is proper weight and balance of the aircraft. This is determined by how the additional weight is distributed from the aircraft's center of gravity. It is at this point that all the weight of the aircraft is considered to be concentrated. Aircraft manufacturers provide the center of gravity point. In simple terms, theoretically if you could balance an aircraft on a pole, you would do so by placing it at this point. This is initially determined without the aircraft having any extra weight. But as you know, there is a lot of extra weight that is added on an airline flight...fuel, crew, passengers and cargo. It is here that the importance of weight and balance comes into play. The added weight distribution is calculated and determined, and there is only so much weight that can be added and properly distributed. Any excess beyond what is allowable in any one direction or sudden shift in weight from one direction to another can be fatal, especially during takeoff.

There is a weight and balance factor to life as well. We can be cruising along through life and as we go we keep accumulating things. This can come in many ways. Maybe we are striving for more pleasure, more money, or more material things, which can cause us to get off balance. Or our bad choices can cause a shift in balance, that result in our feeling more guilty, more fearful, or maybe more angry. This can also happen when suddenly beyond our control there is a shift in our health or financial situation. We may get the startling news from the doctor that we have developed a life threatening condition, or read that our retirement funds have practically dissolved due to financial failures. Things of this sort tend to tilt our lives in one direction, where life becomes difficult and even the normal every day responsibilities seem overwhelming.



There is a correct weight and balance factor of life, but it is not found within us. It can only come through the One who designed and created us. Jesus once looked out among a crowd of people and saw men and women whose wearisome effects to achieve and gain life brought them more weight than they could handle. Some were burdened by the guilt of not measuring up, while others felt the weight of failure in their life. His words depict their load as those under a yoke...and a heavy one at that. His answer was simple but profound...as the Lord and Creator, He invited them to take His yoke upon them in order to find rest. In that day a yoke was shared by two oxen, often one was stronger and better trained while the other was younger and inexperienced. Christ's yoke is not something He gives us to do, instead He is asking us to surrender and allow Him to bear the yoke.

Our problem is that we continually try to load up our lives with things we believe will give us freedom and fulfillment. Some may even be good things, but not so if we have put them in God's place. The more they accumulate or dominate our lives, the more we are enslaved and burdened by them. We don't need to redistribute the weight of our baggage...we need someone to bare it for us. Christ came to redeem us from the weight of sin and guilt in order to give rest to our soul in the midst of life and all its responsibilities. (PMC)

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-29)

Yoked with Christ,
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 relationships with them and looking out for their interests 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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