

IN THE JETSTREAM



Who Is My Neighbor, Really?

July 2014

The function of “ministry” where it takes place in today’s world can be misunderstood and even taught in a warped way. Not understanding it clearly can also hinder us from identifying our neighbor, whom we are told to love.

There is a well-known story Jesus told in the New Testament about a Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). The story goes that a local man who had been robbed and beaten to unconsciousness was down on the side of a road. His seemingly lifeless body was noticed by two men who were passing by. First came a religious teacher and after him a leader from a well-known local congregation. They were fellow citizens of this beaten man and maybe had seen him at one of the local church meetings. Who knows, they could have been headed to a religious meeting of some sort when they saw this guy beaten up, wounded, and helpless. The religious teacher figured that this man probably was in this situation because he got what he deserved and walked passed him. The religious leader contemplated, “If I help this messy, beat up guy it could very well hinder me from attending a more important spiritual matter at the religious event I am heading to.” So he too chose to pass by this needy man. Finally, a third man (a Samaritan), who was not well-liked by the locals, saw the man and helped him. He cared for and dressed his wounds and took him to a hotel where he paid the owner to take care of him until he was well again.

In no uncertain terms Jesus uses this story to correct any misguided view of ministry. First, he points out the gross inconsistency of how we can claim to be spiritual or Spirit led, while missing identifying our neighbors and the opportunity to show them God’s love. Like these two religious men, we could neglect to see how an unexpected

circumstance of an injured man could be God’s agenda for ministry. Are we aware of and recognize the people around us, who are beaten up by sin and darkness, and that we are called to minister in such a way? Could we become so



focused on church functions and mission activities, like the two who passed by, that we become blinded from seeing God’s appointments for ministry right around us in our workplace? Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we somehow think that ministry takes place only in special places outside of our regular activities, like our work, it falls short from God’s idea of it.

Ministry in the workplace occurs when Christians see the broken and messy lives of people as ministry opportunities “in disguise”. Like the Good Samaritan, we are called to show our concern for their condition and, when appropriate, get involved with helping in their recovery. Of course, only God can forgive and restore people. However, He wants to use us as His instruments in the process.

Once, when Jesus was walking with His disciples, He observed a crowd of people. He was greatly moved by this crowd and told His disciples that these people are like wandering sheep without a shepherd to guide them. What about you? Do the people at your workplace, with all their problems and troubles, move you to have compassion on them, or do you choose to ignore them and be indifferent to their needs? These people, who God has placed around us, are our neighbors, and we are instructed to love them as ourselves.

In God’s service,
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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