



Destination Mission Field

May 2015

Several years ago when I was a regional chief pilot for my company, a Christian brother entered my office frustrated. He commented, "I wish I could do something productive with my life as a Christian ... I wish I had gone into mission aviation." I looked at him and responded, "What an opportunity you have here!" He replied, "This is not the place for Christians to be ... there is too much negativity here...." My response was that this is exactly why we need Christians within the airline workplace. Yes, there is sometimes discouragement, frustration, anger, bitterness and the like. But all the more reason shining lights amidst the darkness are needed there. It is a location for ministry ... it could be considered a form of mission aviation.



We need to ask ourselves these questions: "Where is God allowing us to do missions for His glory?" and "Could my airline/airport work area be my ministry location?"

The Apostle Paul was a man who was transformed by an incredible life-changing experience because of Jesus. (Acts 9 provides an account of his conversion experience.) What he did with his life from that point forward serves as a daily reminder and challenge for all of us. Paul carried on ministry everywhere God placed him, and he faithfully did so even when those places were dark and discouraging. How was he able to do that? Why was he compelled to do so?

Paul wrote these words to a group of people at Colossi, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4 NRSV). Paul's identity was in Christ, and accordingly his eyes were on the Lord ... not on

life's circumstances. Just as Paul did, we need to pray ... and give thanks to God and praise Him, even when things do not go well (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We need to consider that these challenges are opportunities to build character into our lives.

Within the airline environment, opportunities abound to minister. It may not always be feasible to verbally share our faith, but we can always live it. And when we think about it, our greatest expression of "missions" may be through the example we live before others.

Here is a story to ponder ... An airline pilot was walking around and inspecting the aircraft when two passengers approached him and asked if he was a Christian. The pilot responded that he strives to be, but rather than answering for himself, it might be better if they were to ask other crew members, employees working on the ramp, or customer service agents. It would be those people who would be able to confirm whether or not the airline pilot was a reflection of Christ in his actions and words in his daily life.

How we live, even in the most challenging circumstances, can set the tone within our work environment. Be reminded that every action or word that is seen or heard makes an impression. As God's people within the airline workplace, we can be enabled by the Holy Spirit so that we reflect Christ's character in how we respond, speak, or act. We should always be ready to share, both verbally and in actions, who we are in Christ Jesus. And consider this: Even though our ultimate goal in doing our work within the airlines is for the Lord (Colossians 3:22-24), we will also be serving our earthly employers who will benefit from this as well.

This article was written by Eugene Kraybill. Eugene serves on our FCAP Board of Director and is Senior Chaplain of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Interfaith Chapels Inc. He ministers at the Washington Dulles International Airport, where he is also regional Chief Pilot for Mesa Airlines.

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 and weekly thoughts 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.

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 [“Connect With Us”](#) on the website.



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OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD