

IN THE JETSTREAM



Light Penetrates Darkness

July 2015

The workplace is becoming a very challenging environment in which to live as a Christian. Recently, one evening while on a camping trip with my son, I learned a very valuable lesson that will help in these times. In Philippians 2:14-15 we read, *"Do all things without complaining or arguing so that we will look very different than the world, a crooked and depraved generation; then we will shine like stars in the night sky."*

Our camp site was far away from any small town or large city so there were no artificial lights to be seen. As we were walking back to our tent after the evening campfire, I happened to look up and noticed how bright the stars looked that night. It was a sky like I had never seen before; there were thousands of very bright stars. As I thought about this, I was reminded that the stars are always there, even in the daytime. The reason we cannot see them in the daytime is because the SUN's light is much brighter. The darker it is, the more stars we see and the brighter they are.

The illustration Paul is giving us in Philippians 2:14-15 is that the darker the world becomes, the more Christians should stand out. When Christians are in the company of other Christians, there is not much difference. But when God sends us into the workplace, there should be noticeable difference. As the world continues to move at a rapid pace away from God's way, we will feel more and more like second-class citizens. Do not despair though because God is not caught off guard by this. As a matter of fact, He told us it will happen.

Philippians 2:14-15 says that if we do all things without complaining and arguing, we will stand out like those stars in that dark sky I saw that night. Why does Paul put so much weight on complaining and arguing?

Arguing and complaining as a Christian is an oxymoron in action. The Christian community is an ambassador for God. In other words, people will see who God is by the way we live our lives. Complaining says God is not fair,

I deserve better, and that my needs are more important than others. Complaining also says we disagree with His plan. Arguing with our Christian brothers and sisters shows division (see John 17 and John 13:35). Arguing with the world shows a lack of trust in God's sovereignty, although we can (and will) disagree and should speak up for what is right. However,

we are to do that with grace and love (see James 1:19-20).

I know it can be difficult at times, but we should not get discouraged. We should look at this time as the greatest opportunity in our lives thus far through which we can minister to a lost and dying world. So if you want to stand out like those stars, a good start would be to stop arguing and complaining. When we do that, God will do great things in our lives and in the lives of those He has put around us. Just as those stars caught my attention, so will the Christian in the workplace catch the attention of those around them.

The next time you think about how dark the world is, also think about this ... As you live for Jesus, how much brighter your life will look to others. When the SON returns, no one will see us because His light will be much brighter and our time to shine will be no more. But for right now, it is our time to stand out like the stars I witnessed that night. (GSB)

This article was written by Scott Bowman. Scott is a Delta Air Lines mechanic and also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors.

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.

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



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