

PREPARED FOR LANDING

March 2018

Whenever pilots prepare for landing, they have a conversation at cruise altitude to discuss various aspects of the airport and surrounding area, such as the length of the runway, nearby terrain, or contamination on the runway. This conversation is critical because it allows both pilots to form a mental game plan of what it will take to land the aircraft safely and ensures that they know what to expect from each other. One of the important aspects of this briefing is to discuss potential threats. Often the threats are obvious, such as a short runway contaminated with snow. However, other times the threat is less obvious because it may be an airport we fly into frequently and the weather couldn't be nicer. It is in these situations that the greatest threat is complacency.

It is the same with our Christian walk. Everything is going pretty well at work or home, so why not just keep a low profile and keep moving along the same path? The great tempter and deceiver would certainly like us to do this and softly speaks in our ear, "Hey, don't bring up your faith at work and rock the boat, just do your job and go home." Life would be easy that way, but many examples in the Bible point to the folks who were the disruptors. They rocked the boat and the world. Moses approached the Pharaoh of Egypt to free God's people from slavery. Esther risked death by approaching her king to stop the genocide of the Israelites. Jesus offended many and was crucified for preaching the Truth and a plan of redemption. Let us not be quick to say that those situations don't apply to us today. The same "electricity", the Holy Spirit, that convicted and energized these individuals is available to us. Electricity isn't helpful unless you turn on the light switch. It is the same with us as we rely on the Holy Spirit. We need to turn on our spiritual light switch by relying on the Holy Spirit to guide, direct, and empower us.

I recently attended a workshop that taught us how to pray the armor of God for our children (Ephesians 6:10-18). It was an excellent resource that taught how to specifically pray God's

protective attributes over them. Complacency would have me believe it is just for my children. However, God revealed to me weeks later I should be praying for God's armor going into work and returning home to prepare me for the threats of the day.



The belt held everything up for the Roman soldier just as it does for us today. God's belt of truth is what we should go to when the world says something and we need to find the truth in God's Word. The breastplate protected a soldier's heart from the enemy, and we need to remember the breastplate of righteousness is our

identity in Christ as believers and nothing can separate us from His love regardless of what our emotions, the enemy, or the world says. The soldiers of this time wore shoes that were pliable and soft. Let our words and actions be as these shoes that bring the Gospel of peace to others. Soldiers would soak their shields in water prior to battle to extinguish the fiery arrows shot against them. We should soak ourselves in God's presence and Word before we begin each day. We are God's children and have received His salvation. Let us put on the helmet of salvation so this knowledge fills our minds and makes us thankful for His grace. The sword of the Spirit is God's Holy Word and is the only weapon we need in life. Let us fill our lives with it daily by reading the Bible so we can renew our minds.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

Ephesians 6:10-11

(This article was written by Stephen Watts. Stephen is a First Officer with Delta Airlines based in Atlanta and serves on FCAP's Board of Directors. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children and also serve as foster parents for a one-year-old boy.)

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 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 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. 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