

Backed Into a Corner

July 2017

The young pilot flew his twin aircraft just above the trees to stay "clear" below a low cloud ceiling. His mind drifted as he visualized himself as a wartime pilot staying low to avoid enemy radar. He had just turned 19, and despite how responsible he perceived himself, he was still just a kid. Just a few years earlier, he was reading comic books and stories about heroes of aviation. Now he was piloting his own aircraft, flying fire patrol in the wilderness of the North Woods. Life was like a dream come true. Upon arriving at his destination, he would have an interview with a major airline, something he did not want to miss for the world!



As he studied the weather ahead, he realized it was more intense than anticipated. If he turned back, he would miss his airline interview. So the plan became to stay low and follow the road which would lead right to the airport. This would also prevent slamming into the side of some hill while in this semi-mountainous region. He had no idea what was ahead! As heavy rain of a thunderstorm was encountered, he began to lose visual reference of the road only about 200 feet below. Fear that he would crash into the high terrain consumed him. The only alternative was to climb into the storm high enough to miss the terrain and pop out of the weather on the other side. Heavy rain pelted on the windscreen. As he climbed into the cloud, he could almost feel the looming impact against some rocky cliff. A bit of hope then emerged but was short lived as an acrid odor was sensed. This intensified, followed by electrical smoke pouring into the cockpit. A choice had to be made to shut off electrical power or face a possible fire. The master switch was turned off, and the pilot just held on. He had reached the end of his rope ... his skills as a pilot were exhausted.

He called out, "God if you get me out of this, I promise I'll go to church every Sunday and won't make fun of Dave anymore." Within minutes, the smoke started to dissipate.

The rain eased and clouds began to break up. The airport was located, followed by a successful landing (and ground kissing ceremony).

Now aboard the commuter flight, he began thinking about what he just experienced and thought to himself, "Hey, I'm pretty good, I fly when other people don't, and no matter what the problem, I make it through". His time of need and calling out to God had been forgotten completely.

The interview was a success, and within a few months he exchanged the controls of a bush plane for the controls of a jet, flying for a major airline...living the dream, yet there seemed to be something still missing in his life. Conversations with a Christian pilot with whom he flew (who happened to be part of FCAP) usually turned to spiritual things. After attending different Christian events over a period of time, he realized that he wanted what these people had and prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. After this prayer, things somehow seemed more beautiful through the same set of eyes; something changed inside of him.

It isn't good enough to make deals with God while in dire straits. He wants a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ. You either have this relationship or you don't ... there is no middle ground. How about you? Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? He is just a sincere prayer of the heart away.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

(This article was written by Danny Servos. Danny retired as a pilot with Air Canada. He also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors and as part of our FCAP Ski Adventure planning team.)

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 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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