

“GODSEND” MOMENTS

May 2018

How are we a “Godsend” to others? As airline employees, we understand how confusing airports can be. Frequently we struggle to make it to our destination for work duty and do not see ourselves as being able to assist as we could or should.

The focus of this article draws on scripture verses that are found in Acts 8:26-40. Philip, a follower of Jesus the Messiah, was told by an angel of the Lord to go south on a road from Jerusalem. He went. Philip saw an Ethiopian eunuch in a chariot reading very intently and with questions about the content. The Spirit told Philip to go and stay near the chariot. Alongside the chariot Philip heard the Ethiopian eunuch reading words from the prophet Isaiah with great question. *“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter ... For His life was taken from the earth.”* What did this mean? Philip asked the man if he needed assistance with the words. The man responded, *“Yes, I won’t know unless someone explains it to me.”* The timing of Philip to assist with this process was a “Godsend” moment for the man.

In the airport terminal, as you make your way to flights or your work stations, you may observe persons in need. You might be standing in line for food or for a cup of hot coffee. Then you notice, for example, the young mother holding a crying infant and keeping her son at her side. She is trying to find the departure gate as she frantically glances at the clutched pieces of paper in her hand. Because of her emotional distress the boarding passes are crunched where her fingers hang tightly. She cannot understand what the words mean. Her three-year-old son runs around and periodically glances back to his mother. She glances around for him and upon seeing her excited young one, scolds him sharply. He begins to cry.

A nudge in your spirit tugs at you and the words enter your mind, “Go near to her ... see if she needs assistance.” Leaving the coffee line, you walk over and ask the young traveler, “Do you need assistance?”

You can see the tears welling up in her eyes as she sheepishly nods her head forward, “Yes please ... I do. I don’t know where I am, or where to go. I don’t know how to read this piece of paper and what anything means.” She hands you her boarding pass.

As you glance over the paper, everything is clearly visible to you ...

the airline logo, the gate at where the flight departs, the time of departure, the boarding time, and seat assignments. You assure her that she still has sufficient time to get to the gate before boarding. Gently, you show her what each section of information, the words and numbers, stands for and point in the direction of her gate. Depending on time, you walk with her and the children accompanying her to the boarding area.

The young mother looks at you now with tears of joy. You have been a “Godsend” for her. We all thank the Lord in our hearts for these moments and continue on our way.

Opportunities abound for each of us, whether among passengers or co-workers, to be the eyes, heart and feet of Jesus here on earth. Are you intently watching for those moments as you go about your work day? (EK)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (I Peter 4:10 NIV)

(This article was written by Eugene Kraybill. Eugene serves on our FCAP Board of Directors and as Senior Chaplain at the Washington Dulles International Airport. He also serves as regional Chief Pilot for Mesa Airlines at IAD.)



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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