

Overcoming Our Fear

September 2017

I once had a fear of flying that originated after a near disastrous takeoff in 1982. Even after spending four years in the military flying as a mechanic, still no cure! I had been in commercial aviation for nearly ten years before finally overcoming that fear. While visiting Chennai, India for an FCAP conference, I shared my thoughts on flying with Gary Kosak (former Eastern Air Lines and FCAP Board member). Gary proceeded to give me the biblical basis for the sovereignty of God, which for me was, "God knows where you are, how you are and why you are." It seemed at once that my fear of flying was gone, and to this day I have no apprehension when it comes to getting in an airplane.

Fear is defined as having unpleasant emotions caused by the threat of danger, threat or harm. So what causes our fear when it comes to Christian ministry?

There is a two-part question I sometimes pose to engage strangers: Have you received the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and if so, *how* are you involved in workplace ministry? I may hear of their activity at the local church, or how they travel the world doing missions. Seldom do I hear how they are being intentional in workplace ministry. A few reasons I have heard for not being part of that are, "I'm afraid I don't have the time," or "Getting involved with someone's messy life might be troubling," or "I'm fearful what others (or my company) might think of me." There are many more excuses of why *not* to be involved in ministry. So what appears to be the common thread? Fear. In the end, there is really no reason why it should overcome or even distract us from obedience. Is workplace ministry messy? Sometimes, yes. Is it difficult? Yes to that as well, but we are warned, "*That in the last days difficult times will come*" (2 Timothy 3:1). However, Jesus says, "*Do not fear*" (Matthew 10:31).

Consider some ways to overcome this fear of ministry. First, understand that God has called you as an ambassador of light to a dark world. Christians are placed in secular fields, which are spiritually dark. There may be moral people, or

even a number of Christians working there, but the workplace in itself is not saved, "*for people love darkness*" (John 3:19). This makes the workplace a natural place in which to minister. I believe each Christian has been divinely placed by God where He desires to use you in ministry to those around you.

Second, it is important to know your job description. Paul explains how we have been given the "*ministry of reconciliation*" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Would He have entrusted this to you without regard to your weakness? No, for His strength is made perfect in it (2 Corinthians 12:9)! This goes beyond performing work with quality and treating others with respect. Those actions describe professionalism, which is important, but there is even a greater goal Paul is speaking of. Like the demoniac whom Jesus sent back to his hometown, the ministry of reconciling people to God comes from an incredible urge to share with others "*how He has had mercy on you*" (Mark 5:19).

Finally, understand your obligation to prepare and to practice those "spiritual disciplines" by which we learn to effectively minister. Reading and studying the Word of God, listening to sound doctrine from our pastors, praying alone and with others, fasting, worshipping in spirit and in truth, and sharing and serving others are just some of the holy habits to "*discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness*" (1 Timothy 4:7).

If you have not yet engaged in ministry within your workplace, sign up for the Workplace Training FCAP offers; find others who are already involved; pray for direction; watch for results; and stand firm on the promise, "*Fear not, for I am with you*" (Isaiah 41:10). TCF

(This article was written by Tim Files. Tim is an Aircraft Systems Analyst with Delta Air Lines and also serves on our FCAP Board of Directors. He and his wife, Carol, have traveled extensively to help us with training and encouragement among airline people throughout the world.)



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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136 Providence Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-9320
office@fcap.org

www.FCAP.org

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