

Rediscovering Fellowship

October 2017

Imagine for a moment you have just traveled to a city far from home, and due to unexpected circumstances your work project there is extended for several weeks. Feeling somewhat stranded with no family nearby nor knowing anyone in the area, you start looking for a church. You find one not far from your hotel and decide to visit it. Arriving at the door you are warmly welcomed. The service starts and you sing familiar songs, and the pastor shares an encouraging message. Afterwards a few people invite you to lunch where you share with each other about God's work in your lives. As you leave, you think to yourself, "It seems like I've been with my family." God designed *fellowship* for this very purpose.



Is fellowship something short lived or something that develops over time? The word "fellowship" carries with it the idea of *sharing something in common*... people partnering together and participating in each other's lives. Fellowship cannot be enjoyed simply as a spectator, for it requires participation. One does not have to become best friends in order to enjoy fellowship, it is enjoyed simply by identifying with those who have received the blessing of God's great salvation and who acknowledge His continued work in their lives. Because of this we can enjoy fellowship regardless of whether we've known a person for 30 years or 30 minutes. As our fellowship with God is not optional, neither is our fellowship with one another.

Have we lost the meaning of "fellowship" because life has become so busy? Or have we replaced it to simply mean our being present without personal participation with others? For centuries authentic fellowship has been characterized by the awesome connection the people of God have (Acts 2:42). There is a passage in the book of Hebrews (10:32-33) where it tells of how some Christians

in the first century were being persecuted, even having their property confiscated. The depiction of fellowship here is astounding. Other Christians came and stood with the persecuted and became "*sharers*" with them in the ordeal. In the original language the word which is translated "sharer" is the same word that is translated fellowship. We can experience true fellowship around a cup of coffee, but we can also experience it as we share our deepest hurts and difficulties.

What about our workplace... is it void of fellowship because there is no time? This could be true for some, but we often hear how Christians dedicate their break times to meet and share with each other what they have in common at work. They gather for "fellowship" for a few minutes to encourage one another with God's Word and pray for one another and for the needs of their coworkers, as well as for their company. Their fellowship is rich and provides support and encouragement. The workplace can be an opportune place for Christians to become *sharers* in each other's troubles and difficulties.

Our shared connection through Christ exceeds our company's identity and job positions. It allows us to be *sharers* in the simplest and yet most profound ways. However, fellowship is intentional and inviting, and we must become approachable and take steps to engage with others. In doing so, we will discover God's design for having fellowship with Him and with one another. Become *sharers* at the workplace and have *fellowship!* (PMC)

"What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

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. 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