

WHEN GOD “BEFRIENDED” US...

December 2017

Social Media is a big part of our lives these days. It even has given Christmas a different dimension. You can send Christmas digital greetings and cards to the personal phones/devices of other people. You buy Christmas gifts right from your phone, and even do audio/video calls to converse with family and friends in other parts of the world. It seems that Social Media gives Christmas more hype. We feel in touch with people right from our finger tips. You might think, "How did a person in the past make any significant connection with others without the convenience of Social Media?"



Typically the Christmas season is a time when Christians celebrate the incredible true story that is foundational to their faith... that God entered human history by being born as a child and then growing up as a man and dying a designated death to accomplish His Divine purpose. But this story started in seeming obscurity with just a few people and God. However, it is full of numerous connections with exact timing between people that made this magnificent story come to pass. Just think now, two millenniums later, there are millions upon millions of people who are sharing this story. It all speaks to us that God is the ultimate connection point behind people and events in history. With this in mind, let's consider the Nativity story!

First, God connects people from the past to reassure people in the present. This was not some coincidence or afterthought. The Lord let us know ahead of time about His coming through prophets of old. One in particular was Isaiah (7:14; 9:6), who foretold some 700 years in advance that a child would be born through a virgin, and they would call His name, Immanuel, meaning **God with us**.

Then there is the connection God made between the two main characters, Mary and Joseph. The circumstances surrounding their relationship seemed an unlikely connection. An honorable young man became engaged to a young virgin who ended up becoming pregnant in an extraordinary way. Probably the news of this in their local town caused people to “unfriend” them.

But to encourage this young lady, who was bewildered at this announcement, an angel of the Lord told her the news that even her cousin Elizabeth, who was old and barren, was now also pregnant with child. Mary traveled to connect with her, with the hope of finding Elizabeth pregnant in order to be reassured in her own situation. Isn't it interesting how God connects people going through similar difficulties at the right time to bring each other hope and support?

We cannot forget how God linked some rough and lonely shepherds to the main characters in the story. It happened when Mary gave birth to this special child, an angel of the Lord came to the shepherds and announced the good news that hope and salvation would come through this child for all people. These men, who often were withdrawn from society, heard this news and went straight to Bethlehem to see the child. Upon witnessing this event, they went out and made connections with people by letting them know what had happened.

Though there are many others we could mention, let me address one more...the wise men. They probably were not your typical religious persons of the day. They searched and studied the stars and manuscripts to find answers. God connected them to Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus, through a star in heaven that pointed to this special event. This took them on a journey which brought them to meet the Christ child face to face, give Him gifts and worship Him. We do not know how much, but I would not be surprised that this particular connection created hundreds, if not thousands, of connections with people.

Today we continue to share in this connection through the work of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit in us, the Word of God and prayer. May the Lord use us this season to share this wonder relationship with others.

"...I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

*From the FCAP Staff ... **Have a Blessed Christmas!***

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