

IN THE JETSTREAM



“This Must Be Stronger Than That”

by James Maasen



FCAP.org

In 1935, on the cusp of World War 2, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor and teacher in Germany, started an underground seminary. There he taught his students how to live a life of radical obedience to Jesus and His way of life. So radical, in fact, that a friend came to visit him one day, asking why he felt the need to go to such extremes.

So one morning, Bonhoeffer took his friend on a short journey away from the secret seminary to a clearing that overlooked another sort of training facility. This one was a Nazi military training camp. Bonhoeffer then said, “What we’re doing at the seminary has to be stronger than what Hitler’s doing in forming his army. This (Biblical training) has to be more powerful than that (military indoctrination).”

This quote and this idea are a constant challenge to me in my life for several reasons, and as I think about this quote and the time period in which it was said, I often think about the similarities between now and then.

The Echoes of Conflict

Many of the ideologies that the church fights today echo the evils of Bonhoeffer’s day. The belief that “might makes right,” the destructive “us versus them” mentality, the intense pressure to compromise core beliefs, and the church’s temptation to capitulate to ruling political powers—are all present. All of these are antithetical to the radical, self-sacrificing Way of Jesus.

Now, just like in 1935 and many other times in history, we as the church are in a time of intense pressure. Everywhere we look, the world is seeking to entice us away from the Way of Jesus. We are at war.

Identifying the Enemy and Training the Army

The Bible is clear. We have an enemy. We are at war, and we must identify who the real enemy is and prepare for the battle. Paul in Ephesians 6:12 says that, **“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against**

the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

However, identifying who the enemy is can never be enough to win. We have to gather the army and train. Paul, in 1 Timothy 4, says that we are called to **“train yourself for godliness.”** We are called to be faithful to the call that God has on our lives, following His way even when it is hard! Paul later tells Timothy to **“persevere”** in his way of life and doctrine so that he may grow in maturity.

The Power of Unity

We are called to a mature life with God, but this cannot happen alone. While Paul challenges the individual to **“train yourself for godliness,”** he makes it clear elsewhere, in Ephesians, that individual effort will not suffice to bring us to full maturity. The true goal—maturity in Christ Jesus—is only achieved through the unity of the body, coming together for mutual equipping.

In short, to stand up before the spiritual enemy of our day, we have to both identify where our true fight is and then stand firm in the faith with other believers! We must seek out ways to build each other up, equipping each other for “every good work.” Otherwise, we will fall.

Just like in Bonhoeffer’s day, standing alone and unprepared will not bring us through the day. This can be especially true for those working in the often isolating world of the airline industry. Only when we stand together, relentlessly training in godliness, will we, as the body of Christ, not just survive the present age, but prevail over the enemy. As Jesus said, **“I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it.”**

This article was written by James Maasen. James serves on staff with FCAP as Ministry Manager.



FCAP-NAIROBI CONNECTS WITH AIM AIR

Not only is FCAP-Nairobi currently busy preparing to host our 2026 International FCAP Conference, but they are also connecting with other ministries in their area. Vicky Nuru (one of our Leaders in FCAP-Nairobi) reports, "On September 19 I was at Wilson Airport (Nairobi, Kenya) to meet Capt. Jim Streit, a missionary working for AIM Air, and his colleagues. I was able to share with them the vision of FCAP. It was a wonderful time, and I am praying that we shall have a new FCAP group established there."

As a side note... prior to this, our FCAP Executive Director, Jake Joseph, has met several times with Africa Inland Mission staff located here in the U.S. They have an office in Peachtree City, which is not far at all from our FCAP International headquarters.

We are excited to make such connections with ministries who share our heart and vision for reaching the lost and encouraging believers throughout the world working in an aviation environment, whether it be in the airline industry itself or on a foreign mission field.



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FELLOWSHIP & PRAYER

- Oct 7: Men's and Women's Breakouts
- Oct 14: Engaging in Prayer (everyone included)
- Oct 21: Men's and Women's Breakouts
- Oct 28: Engaging in Prayer (everyone included)

Zoom Link

SIGN IN ON ZOOM

LINK for using computer for video
Meeting ID: 7704619320
Password: fcap1234

For audio only by phone, dial into
+1 646 876 9923 US
Meeting ID: 7704619320
Password: 358149




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In addition, here is a [Spotify link](#) that features a podcast interview with FCAP General Director, Jake Joseph.



FCAP International

APR 7-11

Bearing Fruit

2026 FCAP INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NAIROBI, KENYA

As we live in expectation of Christ, we are called to BEAR FRUIT. Will you?
Registration coming soon.

