



Moments

Beside You, Around You: *In the Mainstream Moments*

By Linda Reiser

A late night flight of several hours would prove the perfect time to get some needed rest — or so I had thought! Sitting next to me was a woman who had been traveling all day because of flight delays and was exhausted from travel as well as a difficult family reunion she had attended. I had expected she would want to sleep, but instead, she began a conversation with me. As she shared her story of hurts and broken family relationships, all I could do was pray that the Holy Spirit would give me the words to say. This woman said she knew God but was not active in a church, nor had she turned to God with her needs. We prayed together on that flight and although both of us were tired when we arrived at our destination, I believe my heavenly Father used those hours for His glory.

Opportunities are always around us! Sometimes I would rather sit quietly than talk about my faith with others, but the Lord allows us to meet people in our faith walk who need us to share a message of Jesus' love and hope with them, the same message we have been blessed to receive.

It happened again months later on a two-hour flight on a Friday night. A woman sitting beside me was returning from teaching robotic plastic surgery to residents at a prominent teaching hospital. As we visited

and she asked why I was traveling, I had the opportunity to talk about missionaries and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. She was interested in hearing more, and soon she shared that she had not attended church since she was a child. We talked more and before we parted ways at our destination, she thanked me for our visit as she said most people on a plane won't talk and especially not about Jesus!

Christ met unbelievers where they were; He realized what many of us today ignore. According to one count, the Gospels record 132 contacts that Jesus had with people. Six were in the temple, four in the synagogues, and 122 were in the mainstream of life. Today this could mean that we take time to get to know our neighbors or recognize the service given to us at the stores where we shop. How easy would it be for us to lift the spirits of a sales clerk with a gracious "God bless your day" or "Thank you for your help."

What mainstream moments does God give you every day?

God can do amazing things when we are led to respond to the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. Allow God to use you to share His love with others and be *Ablaze!* for His Kingdom!

Linda Reiser served as LWML President from 2003–2007.

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