

# A Passionate Flight Attendant

Glenn Van Ekeren, writing in *Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work*, shares a story about being a passenger on an airplane flight that captured his attention.

“Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome aboard United Airlines Flight 548, direct from Palm Springs to Chicago,” said the voice over the intercom system.

“Wait a minute!” Ekeren thought. “My mind starts racing. I know it’s early in the morning, 6:50 a.m. to be exact, but I was sure this flight went to Denver.”



The voice continued, “Now that I got your attention, my name is Annamarie and I’ll be your first flight attendant today. Actually, we will be en route to Denver, so if you were not planning to go there, now would be a good time to get off the plane.”

Ekeren breathed a sigh of relief as Annamarie continued: “Safety is important to us, so please take out the safety card in front of you and acquaint yourself with it. Come on, everybody take out those brochures and wave them in the air!”

About 70 percent of the passengers chuckled and did as they were told, 20 percent weren’t awake yet, and the other 10 percent, Ekeren surmised, were sourpusses.

“In the event that we mistakenly land in a body of water, a decision must be made. You can either pray and swim like crazy, or use your seat as a flotation device.”

About half of the 20 percent started to emerge from their stupor.

“We will be serving breakfast in flight this morning. On the menu I have eggs Benedict and fruit crepes – not really, but they sound good to me. However, the flight attendants will be offering you a choice of an omelet or cold cereal.”

By now, even a few of the sourpusses were venturing a smile, Ekeren said.

He thanked Annamarie for an enjoyable flight. “And thank God for flight attendants who are passionate about their jobs!”

That story raises some obvious questions: Do we allow the daily routine of our jobs to appear mundane and lackluster? Do we seem robot-like and impersonal in the performance of our duties?

(more)

Where's the passion – the kind exhibited by Annamarie – in the work we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park?

Passion is described as a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something. It is detected in our voices, in our actions, and on our faces.

And it makes our interactions with our residents, their families, and fellow associates much more enjoyable.

Although this axiom is from an unknown source, it is true: *Do what you love and love what you're doing, and you'll never work another day in your life.*

– Beecher Hunter