

Drama on a Plane

Several years ago, on a flight out of Orlando, Fla., the pilot recognized that something was amiss the minute the plane took off.

He quickly turned back to the Orlando airport and warned passengers to prepare for a crash landing; the hydraulic system had failed.

The passengers were stunned and visibly frightened. Many began to cry, and some even wailed or screamed. Almost everyone lost their composure in one way or another – except for one woman, who continued to talk in a calm, normal voice. She stared into the face of her 4-year-old daughter, who was listening to her intently.

The mother said, “I love you so much. Do you know I love you more than anything?”

“Yes, Mommy.”

The mother continued, “And remember, no matter what happens, that I love you always. And that you are a good girl. Sometimes things happen that are not your fault. You are still a good girl, and my love will always be with you.”

Then the mother laid over her daughter, strapped the seat belt over both of them, and prepared to crash. The mother’s love and character had given her courage.



Miraculously, the landing gear held. The plane landed safely.

Character is built layer upon layer, not in one big act. “Having what it takes” for tomorrow will be a direct result of “doing what is right” today.

That is true in one’s personal *and* professional lives. Character is not made in crisis, it is only exhibited.

– Beecher Hunter