

FOR ALL WHO FLY, SOME HUMOR

In the week before Thanksgiving this past November, we published a couple of *Perspectives* dealing with humor and its important place in our professional and personal lives.

Recently, I read a column by Jim Davidson, motivational speaker and syndicated columnist who lives in Conway, Arkansas. It caught my attention because – for those of us who fly frequently – it contained some stories about airline humor. For example:

Two Texas preachers were talking about going to a seminar that was to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the preachers said to the other, “We can get on a plane in Houston and be up there in three hours.” The other one said, “If we’re going to fly, I’m not going.”



The first one replied, “You must not believe what the Good Book says.” To which, the second preacher responded, “Yes, I believe it, but I have read it very carefully. It says that *low* the Lord will be with you always. It doesn’t say that *high* He will be with you.”

Studies have shown that laughter is good for your health – relaxing the whole body, boosting the immune system, triggering the release of endorphins and protecting the heart by improving the function of blood vessels and increasing blood flow. It also dissolves distressing emotions, helps you relax and recharge and shifts perspective, allowing you to see situations in a more realistic, less threatening light.

But back to Davidson’s airline stories.



On a Southwest Airlines flight, as passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing where to sit, a flight attendant announced, “People, people: we’re not picking out furniture here; find a seat and get in it.”

Upon landing, the stewardess said, “Please take all of your belongings. If you are going to leave anything, please make sure it’s something we would like to have.”

A pilot on one flight addressed the passengers: Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we will try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember nobody loves you or your money more than Southwest Airlines.”

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After a landing in Las Vegas, this message came across the intercom: “Welcome to Las Vegas, Nevada. We’d like to thank you for flying Southwest Airlines, and on behalf of the flight deck, we’d also like to extend a very special and very happy 101st birthday to a gentleman seated near the front of the aircraft (followed by scattered applause). So if you happen to see the captain on the way out, mind his walker, shake his hand and wish him well with another 100 years working here at Southwest Airlines.”



The hope is that your day has started with a smile or two.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “the Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad (Psalm 126:2-3 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter