

God Reached into a Supermarket

Condoleezza Rice was national security advisor under President George W. Bush – the first woman to serve in that position –and later was appointed by him to be the 66th United States Secretary of State, the first African-American woman to hold that office.



Those offices were a far cry from what she was trained to be as a girl: a concert pianist and a competitive ice skater.

Undergirded by her Christian beliefs, Rice admits she was not always the faithful follower she should have been. She once told a Sunday school class at National Presbyterian Church in Washington what inspires her:

Although I never doubted the existence of God, I think like all people I've had some ups and downs in my faith. When I moved to California in 1981 to join the faculty at Stanford, there were a lot of years when I was not attending church regularly.

One Sunday, I was in the Lucky's Supermarket not very far from my house. I was among the spices, and an African-American man walked up to me and said he was buying some things for his church picnic. And he said, "Do you play the piano by any chance?"

I said, "Yes." They said they were looking for someone to play the piano at church. It was a little African-American church right in the center of Palo Alto. A Baptist church. So I started playing for that church. That got me regularly back into churchgoing.

My goodness. God has a long reach. I mean, in the Lucky's Supermarket on a Sunday morning.

Perhaps her story causes a little self-analysis. Have you lost your way? Stopped using your gifts? Whether through circumstances, sin or simple complacency, rest assured: God will come looking for you.

It is His will to restore you to a place of fellowship and service, fulfilling His purposes for your life.

I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands (Psalm 119:76 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter