

Ill-Fated Flight

George O. Wood, general secretary of the Assemblies of God, writes that on October 31, 1983, Korean Airlines Flight 007 departed from Anchorage, Alaska, for a direct flight to Seoul, Korea. Unknown to the crew, however, the computer engaging the flight navigation system contained a 1.5-degree routing error.

At the point of departure, the mistake was unnoticeable. One hundred miles out, the deviation was still so small as to be undetectable. But as the giant 747 continued through the Aleutians and out over the Pacific, the plane strayed increasingly from its proper course. Eventually, it was flying over Soviet air space.

Soviet radar picked up the error, and fighter jets scrambled into the air to intercept. Over mainland Russia, the jets shot Flight 007 out of the sky, and all aboard lost their lives, including U.S. Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.).

This story has more than just aeronautical implications. As men and women, each of us must choose life's direction well. Although poor choices may hurt us in only minor ways for awhile, the longer we go, the more harm they bring. Course adjustments are always in order if disaster is to be averted.

--Beecher Hunter