

## Be Prepared

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney  
Wednesday, 13 June 2012 12:32

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I have spent the fair share of my life flying on airplanes. Many people are afraid of them, but not me.

I will admit that I don't get overly excited about flying on planes, especially for long periods of times. The reason is that unless you are flying first-class, the ride can be uncomfortable. I mean, you are often confined to a space on the plane, sometimes shared between two to three people and God forbid you have the seat that's in the middle. Ughhhh!!!!!!

For me, the only joy of flying on a plane is the moment those tires hit the ground, giving me the freedom of mind to know that I have reached my destination and I wouldn't have to be confined to that space much longer.

I will say that I do prefer flying over all over modes of transportation when traveling long distances. I enjoy knowing that I can get to New York or Los Angeles in less than 5 hours, as opposed to a full day or so to get there by car.

Man, what a relief that is.

I recently took a trip by airplane to Los Angeles.

As I was sitting there waiting for the doors to close and get ready to take off, I couldn't help but notice this annoying lady sitting directly in front of me talking and talking and talking.

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She was talking about her career, talking about her boyfriend, talking about her experience living and working in Germany, talking about her dog.....I mean she was just talking and talking and talking for real about everything under the sun.

As much as I tried to ignore her, the louder she got.

Then all of a sudden, something happened that caught my attention. The flight attendant leaned over to the lady and asked her to be quiet until the flight instructions were finished. The lady became quiet for a brief moment and then began to talk again, which prompted the flight attendant to repeat her request that the lady remain quiet.

Something donned on me as I witnessed that act. How many times did I sit on an airplane and have the flight attendants or the video concerning flight safety be presented and I completely ignored it.

Better yet, how many times did I hear it play and see it presented and failed to memorize the key aspects of what would happen if the flight crashed or lost cabin pressure.

There was important information on how to use the floatation device if we landed in water; how to use the oxygen mask if there was a loss of cabin pressure; what to do in the event of an emergency landing; where the exit doors were and the responsibility and importance of someone sitting in an exit row.

There was so much important information being disseminated and there I was once again, not fully paying attention.

While that lady was annoying me, her talkativeness became the catalyst behind my attention to something that plagues many of us; ignoring the routine things that can help us out every day.

It isn't our hope to have a crash on an airplane, but how grateful would we be if we were better

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prepared for it because we listened and knew what to do in the midst of the crisis?

Isn't that how life is?

We are presented with critical information daily and have access to countless resources via the Internet, yet when we are faced with a crisis we don't know what to do.

It's not that the information wasn't available to us, it's just that we didn't think it was as important to retain until the very moment we needed it.

Many of us don't go to the doctor until we experience a health issue. Many of us don't retain a lawyer until we are in some sort of trouble. Many of us don't educate themselves to learn a new skill or trade, until the trade or skill that we had is no longer needed and we find ourselves looking for a new job or need to start a new career.

We must be prepared for what life throws at us and not ignore the information that we are privy to.

They say the best way to hide something from most people is to put it in a book.

Don't let the critical information that we have access to in this life be hidden from you.

Don't remain in the dark, be prepared my people.

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