

Marilyn Poole  
March 9, 2018

I recently returned from a medical mission trip to Guatemala.

Prior to leaving the ground, each airline gives safety instructions on what to do in the event of an emergency. The flight attendant shows everyone how to buckle their seat belts, where the exit doors are located, how to properly put on life vest and oxygen mask. On most flights, people are not paying attention or following along in their instruction manual. Just as in today's readings, Psalm 81:8 says: "Listen to me, O My people, while I give you stern warnings. O Israel, if you would only listen to me!" God calls out to us to listen even in this chaotic world. I have found the best life-giving practices that can keep me safe and prepare me for each daily crisis are: small group studies with fellow believers, daily devotions, and studying God's word.

The common theme in Rick Warren's study, "What on earth am I here for?" is to grow a closer relationship with God. Spending 15 minutes a day reading God's word and then applying that word or phrase to situations throughout your day will give you life saving power to get you through each step of your day. This power and wisdom held between the Bible's covers will keep you prepared in the event of small and large emergencies.

Unlike the passengers on the plane, we need to listen, follow along, and be prepared by studying and living God's word.