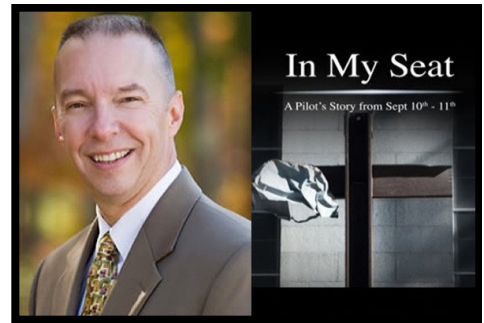


Real Life Stories In My Seat

Pastor and American Airlines Pilot Steve Scheibner says God saved him on 9/11

An American Airlines copilot who was bumped last minute from flying one of the hijacked American Airlines planes on 9/11 believes he's living on the borrowed time given by God. Steve Scheibner was a pastor in 2001, filling his time between his ministry and flying for American Airlines.

On Sept. 10th, 2001, Steve Scheibner volunteered to fly the next day's American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles, but a more senior pilot bumped him from one of the flights that wound up being hijacked and the first plane to crash into the World Trade Center in New York.



Steve firmly believes God spared his life, but can't say why the other pilot died instead.

As a Christian, Steve believes Jesus took his place by dying on the cross for his sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). He said, "I know what it's like to have somebody die in my place — not once, but twice."

"On an emotional level it didn't really sink in at first. When I logged in to the flight screen where my name had been, it said, 'Sequence Failed Continuity' which is the code name for, 'the trip never made it to its destination'. At that point it just hit me like a ton of bricks, I should have been on that flight, I was overwhelmed. My wife came around the corner at that point and said what are you doing? I said, remember I was supposed to go to Los Angeles today? She said, yes, they never called. I said, that's the flight that got hijacked".

Eleven years later, the father of eight says there are still no words to describe the way he felt in that moment. "Once you get over the initial shock, then you feel a whole range of emotions. You feel sad you feel angry, a little bit of guilt is mixed in with that." He said what happened on 9/11 forever changed the way he lives his life.

"Eighteen years prior to 9/11 I wrote a life objective which says:

"To seek, trust, and glorify God through humble service and continual prayer. To raise up qualified disciples as quickly as possible so that one day I might hear God say, '*Well Done My good and faithful servant!*'" The events of September 11th took that life objective that I already had and it intensified it for me, the fire just keeps getting hotter as I get older, but some day I want to stand in the Lord's presence and I want Him to say '*Well Done!*'.

I saw where I should have died, but I didn't. I've been given the privilege of knowing that I live on borrowed time. I've seen my smoking hole and it was on national TV, and you can't just walk away from that. There is an obligation that comes from knowing you get a second chance."

Now he is traveling around the nation, spreading his message and helping others to make the most of their lives. Steve's wife wrote a book about the experience, it's called "*In My Seat.*"

... Gleaned from World Religion News