

Let's Roll!

Lisa Beamer, a decade ago, was a happy wife, a mother of two, and a woman living the dream life. She had a terrific husband and even another child on the way. Her life seemed just about perfect and complete. However, Lisa Beamer didn't know how flipped her life would be in the months to come in that 2001 year. Lisa Beamer's husband, Todd Beamer, was the hero of the 9-11 plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, the plane that saved the lives of thousands. In Lisa Beamer's book, "Let's Roll!", Lisa reveals the life she had with Todd and the events that led to that dreadful September day.

According to Lisa Beamer, Todd's early life was that of an active child living in Flushing, Michigan. He had an older sister named Melissa and a younger sister named Michele. The Beamer family was very spiritual and brought God into every part of their lives. Todd Beamer also grew up learning that hard work pays off and helps you succeed. In her book, Lisa explains that Todd was extremely good at sports and that he was always a quick thinker, able to make hard decisions in moments. "Making things happen came naturally to Todd" (Beamer, p 13), Lisa recalls of her husband. Not only was Todd Beamer a people person and team player, but Todd was also a good student in school. He grew up paying attention in class and going to Wheaton College for a business major. It was in college that he met his wife, Lisa Brosious.

Lisa and Todd were married on May 14, 1994 at a Church in Peekskill, New York. The couple decided to move to New Jersey when Todd got a job at a huge business company, Oracle Corporation. Lisa Beamer remembers her husband excelling at his career and moving up the ladder of success. However, she also remembers some strain on their relationship when they had their first son, David, on January 5, 1998. Todd Beamer had trouble balancing his family and his

career. However, at some point in his life, Todd realized that nothing was more important to him than his family. He found the key to separating his work life and his family life. This made the whole family more comfortable with their lives. According to Lisa, Todd was a great father to his son. He did everything with David and taught him how to play sports. When the couple had their second son, Andrew, two years later, the Beamer family seemed complete. Over the next few months, life at the Beamers began to get into a routine. They bought a bigger house, went on many vacations, and got involved with their church. It was June, 2001 when Lisa discovered that she was going to have another baby. The whole family was thrilled. “Todd is such a great father”, Lisa remembers of her husband (Beamer 143). The week of September 1, Todd and Lisa went to Rome on vacation and they wouldn’t be back until September 10.

The day of September 11, 2001 started like any other day, Lisa says. They were a little groggy from their Rome vacation, but Todd got up to go to work that morning. He had a meeting on the other side of the country so he needed to catch an early flight in an airplane. When Lisa heard that a United Airline flight bound to San Francisco crashed in Pennsylvania on the television early that morning, Lisa’s life fell apart. “Without a shred of hard evidence, (she) knew intuitively that Todd was on that flight” (Beamer 10). To bystanders who came to support Lisa through this tragic time, Lisa seemed surprisingly calm. Later, Lisa recalled having an incredible sense of peace which she knew came from God. But still, Lisa’s heart ached and grieved for the loss of her Husband, the father of her two children. News later came that Todd had made a phone call before the plane crashed. He called a GTE Distress Call line and told the operator everything. He told her that terrorists were on board the plane and that he and a few other people were going to try to overpower the terrorists. The last words the operator heard

Todd Beamer say were “Let’s roll”.

Evidently, Todd Beamer’s plan succeeded and the passengers on board the plane had successfully stopped the terrorist attack. Many lives were lost on board United Airlines Flight 93 that terrible day. But if it weren’t for those brave souls who sacrificed their lives to save a nation, the United States might have never regained hope. Lisa Beamer misses her husband, especially since the birth of their daughter. However, like many of those who had lost love ones on that plane, Lisa knows her husband died a hero. No one will ever forget the events that had took place on September 11, 2001.