

## Pilot suggested passengers discuss Christianity during LA-to-New York flight

Saturday, February 7, 2004  
©2004 Associated Press

URL: [sfgate.com/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2004/02/07/state2118EST0136.DTL](http://sfgate.com/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2004/02/07/state2118EST0136.DTL)

(02-07) 18:18 PST NEW YORK (AP) --

An American Airlines pilot flying passengers from Los Angeles to New York asked Christians on board to identify themselves and then suggested that non-Christian passengers discuss the faith with them, the airline confirmed Saturday.

The pilot, whose identity was not released, had been making flight announcements before he asked that the Christians on board raise their hands, said American Airlines spokesman Tim Wagner.

Wagner said the pilot told airline officials he then suggested the other passengers use the flight time to talk to the Christians about their faith.

The pilot later told passengers he himself would be available at the end of the flight to talk about his first announcement.

Wagner said the airline was investigating the incident.

"It falls along the lines of a personal level of sharing that may not be appropriate for one of our employees to do while on the job," he said.

The pilot had just returned to work from a weeklong mission trip to Costa Rica, Wagner said.

©2004 Associated Press