

## God is There When We Slip

My family attended the women's soccer Gold Medal game in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. We were part of the crowd of 76,481 in Sanford Stadium for the first year soccer was an Olympic sport. It was the largest crowd ever for a women's sporting event. Going into the Olympic Games, the US women's national team was ranked #1 in the world so we took a chance they would make it to the final. Sure enough – the US women made it to the gold medal game. What even made it sweeter was that the US team was coached by a fellow college student from Springfield College. (Tony DiCicco).

One of the world's greatest women's soccer players, Mia Hamm, led the US attack. She assisted on the game's first goal in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute when Shannon MacMillan knocked in the rebound for a 1-0 lead over China. China tied it late in the first half. In the 68<sup>th</sup> minute (of a 90-minute game), Mia Hamm and Joy Fawcett teamed up on a give-and-go to advance the ball upfield. Hamm eventually centered the ball into the penalty box to a waiting Tiffeny Milbrett for the go-ahead goal. In celebration, the crowd chanted the familiar U-S-A! U-S-A!" Little did the crowd understand then, but Hamm had slipped on the turf right after sending the through-ball to Milbrett. Hamm was subbed out of the game and had to rely on teammates to finish the game. The team did just that: the USA was victorious, 2-1. As the game ended, she was carried back onto the field to join the post-game celebration.



When we slip up in life, God's love is there for us. We will slip up – that is being human. We are assured of His presence through prayer, meditation, and reading His Word. But, God has more for us. God sends Christian friends to support us when we need it, and they become “angels among us.” God empowers others to show His love here on earth. He will do this for you, and you may feel God's nudging you to help others in their time of need. You can be an answer to someone's prayer.

The singing group, Alabama, recorded a song entitled Angels Among Us. Some of the lyrics are:

*Oh I believe there are angels among us  
Sent down to us from somewhere up above  
They come to you and me in our darkest hours  
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give  
To guide us with the light of love  
They wear so many faces; show up in the strangest places  
To grace us with their mercy, in our time of need*

When you slip up, perhaps “angels” sent by God will minister and encourage you in your darkest hour.

Listen to the song and read the examples shown in the music video. The importance of the US soccer victory is a recognizable example but you may find more lifechanging ways to be an angel for someone in need:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y\\_4Xfj2LRSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_4Xfj2LRSA)

**The Bible Says:** *When I said, “My foot is slipping,” Your Love, O Lord, supported me (Psalm 94:18).*

**Question:** Name a time when someone stepped in to help you when you needed it. Name a time when *you* stepped in to help someone else.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for always being with us through your Word, prayer, choreographing events, and sending others to help us when we need it the most. Amen.

*Storyline and facts for this devotion comes from Devotions from the World of Sports, by John & Kathy Hillman*