

HAS THE TRUMPET SOUNDED?

By Stuart B. MacMillan

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**PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY
95church.com**

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's a routine Sunday morning biblical radio discussion on the second coming of Christ ... until the radio audience confuses the broadcast with the real second coming! Soon, huge crowds of listeners overreact by flocking to the cemetery to be ready to wave at their love ones as the dead in Christ arise to go to heaven.

The Mayor, who has declared a citywide emergency to deal with the crisis, joins the radio broadcast to help bring order out of chaos. After listening to the panel discuss the issue, the Mayor is converted on the air. She now realizes that most of the crowd gathered at the cemetery do not know Christ and would not go to heaven if Christ did return.

The play is a humorous and lighthearted look at biblical events that will precede the second coming of Christ, with a strong message to always be prepared to enter God's kingdom.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS (3 m, 3 w)

BABE ALEXANDER: Outspoken janitor and flunky at the radio station.

DR. SEYMOUR GARDNER: Erudite college professor type.

REV. PAULA JOHNSON: Personable, poised, articulate and socially conscious minister.

BENTLEY F. RANDOLPH, PDQ: Radio announcer, overly concerned with his own self-importance.

REV. GREG STANTON: Fundamental, self-educated type minister who doesn't pull any punches.

MAYOR IDA WELLS: Very outspoken.

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TIME: Present. A Sunday morning.

PLACE: The interior of a small radio station.

GENERAL PROPS:

Two tables, one captain's chair, five chairs, two microphones, coffee maker, coffee pot, coffee cups, two telephones, and miscellaneous equipment to look like a radio station. Sign on wall which reads: Radio Station KZKW.

PERSONAL PROPS:

BABE ALEXANDER: Trumpet or bugle, or related sound effect; written notes; feather duster; signs to hold up as follows: "Commercial," "On the Air," "National News," and "Off the Air."

GREG STANTON: Bible.

SOUND EFFECTS:

Ringling telephone.

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(AT RISE: BABE, the janitor and part-time announcer, is dusting and cleaning.)

BABE: *(Turns to audience.)* It's Sunday morning and all's quiet. That will soon change when we go into live programming. *(SFX: Ringing phone. SHE answers.)* Good morning. Oh, hi, Bentley. Are you up yet? *(Aside to audience.)* This is our moderator and he sounds like he's had one of his usual Saturday nights, if you know what I mean. *(Back on phone.)* Now get up, get dressed and get over here fast. I'll have the coffee ready. *(Hangs up telephone.)* I'm tired of covering for him, and I'm sick of hearing about his Saturday nights.

(SEYMOUR ENTERS.)

SEYMOUR: I'm Dr. Seymour Gardner, Professor of Religious Studies at the university. Are you Bentley F. Randolph, PDQ?

BABE: No, I'm the janitor and chief flunky, Babe Alexander, KEC. The KEC stands for keep 'em clean, and that's what I'm doing now.

SEYMOUR: *(Looking at watch.)* I'm surprised he's not here. We go on in a few minutes, and where are the others?

BABE: I'm sure they will all make it. Otherwise, it will just be you and me.

SEYMOUR: Let's hope they make it.

BABE: Today's discussion is on the rapture and second coming of Christ. Do you teach that in your classes?

SEYMOUR: That's much too controversial for us. We're more into history than prophecy. We let the churches handle the second coming.

(PAULA ENTERS.)

PAULA: I'm the Rev. Paula Johnson of the Wayside Community Church. Where is everyone?

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SEYMOUR: I'm assured by my janitor friend here not to worry, as she will fill in if they don't show.

PAULA: Then I rushed all over the place for nothing?

BABE: Our topic is the second coming of Christ. I suppose your church really pushes that.

PAULA: You're behind the times. People demand a more relevant religion that will satisfy today's needs. I was surprised that was the topic.

BABE: So were a lot of others. But since the Bible hasn't changed, how can you change? The Bible says that things are the same, yesterday, now and forever.

PAULA: (*Indignant.*) Well, we'll save that for the panel. I'm not discussing religion with a janitor.

(BENTLEY and GREG ENTER.)

BENTLEY: Good morning, everybody. Sorry I'm late. I found the Rev. Stanton wandering around the parking lot lost in a fog, like most ministers. (*To BABE.*) I hope you know what the subject is, 'cause I sure don't know.

BABE: The second coming. Here are your notes. (*Hands HIM notes.*)

BENTLEY: Who's coming back?

BABE: Jesus, that's who.

BENTLEY: I wonder who picks these strange subjects.

BABE: (*With a guilty expression.*) Somebody must.

PAULA: You have the janitor prepare your notes?

BENTLEY: Why not? We're equal opportunity. (*Rubbing head.*) Why do we have programs like this so early on a Sunday morning? God would never schedule the second coming knowing that I had a hangover. (*Makes motion with HIS hand for coffee, and BABE brings him a cup.*) The excelsior of life. Nature's remedy for Sunday mornings. (*Rubbing head.*) I must remind the panel – no loud noises or banging of furniture.

GREG: A good title for today's program would be, "Has the Trumpet Sounded?"

BENTLEY: Sounds good. I think there's a song out with the same name, but I can't recall who recorded it.

End of Freeview

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