LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE

Three Skits for Missions

By Michelle Van Loon

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DEDICATION

To my heroes; those that have given their lives for their faith.

About These Skits

This collection of skits offers your church a fresh look at the theme of missions. “Listen for Your Name” (page 3)demonstrates the nature of obedience in responding to God’s call in the midst of everyday situations.

“Beyond the Silent Borders” (page 7)offers a five-minute “snapshot” of what it is like to be a part of a church in a country where it is illegal to be a Christian.

“Polycarp” (page 10) is a reader’s theatre piece that re-tells the story of this early Christian martyr through the eyes of three witnesses.

This collection will challenge your congregation to both count the cost of following Jesus and to reach out with His love to the world beyond the walls of the church.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

Five “point of crisis” vignettes illustrate situations and emotions easily recognizable to the audience. After each one is presented, the action on stage freezes. A name is called out, and a “responder” planted in the audience will rise, move to the stage, and offer practical assistance, resolving the scene quickly. The first crisis point, featuring a young woman with a new baby, demonstrates stress. The second is a man struggling with his financial obligations. Next is a dialogue between a woman and her young teen daughter that portrays loneliness. An elderly man facing the onset of Alzheimer’s disease snapshots the aging process. Last, a middle-aged woman receiving some unwelcome news by phone, shows the audience grief. Each “responder” demonstrates the two-pronged nature of obedience: a willingness to listen to God and a willingness to act based on His call.

CHARACTERS

WOMAN 1: In her 20s
WOMAN 2: In her 60s
MAN 1: Around 30 or 40
MAN 2: Carrying a briefcase
TEEN GIRL: Around 12 to 14
MOM: In her late 30s
WOMAN 3: In her late 30s
OLDER MAN: In his 60s
TEEN BOY
WOMAN 4: In her 40s
WOMAN 5: Possibly younger
OFFSTAGE VOICE: A male

SETTING

The scenes are played at SL and CS. "Responders" are planted in the audience with easy access to stage. Music may play under as the responders move to stage.

PROPS

Overflowing laundry basket, doll wrapped in blanket, side table, small stack of envelopes, calculator or adding machine, briefcase, scissors, wallet with credit card tucked inside, several stacks of moving boxes, basket with large overflowing plant in it, chair, cordless phone, set of car keys.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

OFFSTAGE VOICE: Do you hear God calling you? Listen.... Can you hear His voice whispering? Do you hear Him in the whirlwind of your circumstances? Does your heart cry with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Here I am, Lord. Send me"? And when He does speak, do you respond? Do you hear God calling you?

(AT RISE: WOMAN 1 at SL is holding her baby, a burp diaper tossed across her shoulder and an overflowing laundry basket behind her. She begins pacing in front of the basket with the baby, fatigue obvious in her movements. She's talking to the baby as she walks.)

WOMAN 1: "Shhh, now...shhh...*(SHE paces a bit, then looks down at her child.)* Could you finally be asleep? You've fooled me before, little one. *(SHE starts pacing again.)* Gotta keep walking...I'm so tired, I think I could fall asleep standing up if I don't keep moving. I don't think I've ever been so wiped out...*(SHE paces in silence for a moment, then looks down at the baby).* You were up a lot last night, weren't you? What a coincidence! So was I! *(SHE chuckles to herself, shifting the baby over to her other shoulder.)* All night long, I kept wondering if I was doing the right thing for you. You cry so much. Are you hungry? Tired? In desperate need of a fresh diaper? *(SHE paces a bit more in silence, then walks over to the laundry basket. She looks down at her baby.)* Shhh....I wish I knew, little one. *(Begins pacing)* I wish I knew how to get this laundry done, how to stretch our money further, how to make a home for us...*(With uncertainty)* I wish I knew how to be a mom...

(LIGHTING change, and SHE freezes. OFFSTAGE VOICE calls the name of WOMAN 2. The older woman rises, goes up on stage, puts her arm around WOMAN 1 as if giving some encouragement. Woman 1 unfreezes to receive it gratefully.)

(WOMAN 2 picks up the laundry basket, and they exit SL together. The scene at CS now comes to life. MAN 1 is sitting at a small table with a stack of envelopes and a calculator or adding machine. He quickly flips through the envelopes, adding numbers on his calculator as he goes. He shakes his head after one trip through the stack and begins again. After a second time through, he rises and crosses DSR, carrying the stack of envelopes.)

MAN 1: *(With a bitter edge)* Yeah, I have it all. A big house, two decent cars, two great vacations every year, new computer, we all dress well...for pete's sakes, my kids wear shoes that cost more than the gross national product of some countries. Everyone is happy, right? *(HE lifts the stack of envelopes up to eye level, eyeing them.)* Well, I know you guys are. I keep the bunch of you fed and clothed, too. *(HE moves DS.)* I read the business pages and see the stats about the astronomical debt that the average guy carries. That's me, all right. Mr. Average. *(Crosses SR)* Most of the stuff I owe money on isn't about stuff we really need. It's chasing after stuff we want. Stuff that breaks or gets outgrown or...worst of all, goes out of fashion! *(HE returns to his chair, sits down heavily.)* I'm wearing shackles just as surely as if I was a slave. The shackles are made out of paper and they all come due once a month. I don't think I'll ever be free...

(LIGHTING change, OFFSTAGE VOICE calls MAN 2. He comes to the stage carrying a briefcase and a pair of scissors, and stands behind MAN 1. Man 2 picks up pile of bills, and sorts through them quickly as if offering counsel, the two men pantomiming a conversation. Man 1 pulls out his wallet and a credit card. Man 2 hands him the scissors, and he cuts the card in half. They pick up the envelopes and calculator, and exit SL. TEEN GIRL and MOM enter SR, each carrying a large stack of moving boxes. They set a few down on top of the table at CS, and stack the rest on the floor nearby.)

End of Freeview

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