

# **MESSAGES FROM THE HEART**

By Dewey Wilson Todd

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## **DEDICATION**

*First, I would like to dedicate this collection to my Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ. And, I want to thank Ruth Cook, a faithful friend and encourager; my parents, who were my best teachers; my children, Haley and Will, who are my inspiration; and, the love of my life, my wife and best friend, Annette.*

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Here is a collection of nine short plays (from 5 to 20 minutes in length) for special and general church services. Special services include Easter, Minister/Staff Appreciation, Foreign Missions Emphasis, Mother's Day and Father's Day. There are also general plays designed to enhance any service. Most of the plays also include Scripture narration and/or recommended hymns, with cast size ranging from two to fourteen (with role-combining possible on larger casts). Some of these plays will make your congregation laugh and some will bring a tear, but all will point to the importance of Christ and Christ-likeness to our churches and our lives.

**1. LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW**

Foreign Missions Emphasis (2 men, 1 flexible, narrator)

**2. THE PERFECT JOB**

Ministerial Staff Appreciation Service (2 men, 1 woman, narrator)

**3. FAMILY FEUD**

General, About Worship (2 men, 2 women, 2 boys, 2 girls, narrator)

**4. WHO DROVE THE NAILS?**

Crucifixion of Christ, Sin Atonement (1 man, 1 woman, narrator)

**5. ZACK**

Servanthood (2 men, narrator, extras)

**6. THE GIFT YOU BEAR**

Sanctity of Life Sunday (3 women, 1-3 boys, 1-3 girls)

**7. THE GREATEST OF THESE**

Mother's Day (12 women, 2 girls)

**8. A KING AMONG THIEVES**

Before Easter (7 men)

**9. JAKE'S WISDOM**

Father's Day (3 men, 1 woman)

## **LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW**

Foreign Missions Emphasis

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**BILLY:** Adult man, wearing a suit (tie should obviously not match the suit) and carrying a Bible.

**DON:** Another adult man, Sunday attire.

**AGENT:** Man or woman, black clothing with spy hat, dark glasses.

**NARRATOR:** Hidden male voice reading Scripture at the end.

**PROPS:** Bible, a newspaper with square cut out of center to see through.

**NOTE:** Consider having the congregation sing "People Need the Lord" immediately prior to the drama.

*(AT RISE: AGENT is standing CS, reading the newspaper [looking through the opening]. BILLY and DON enter USL, talking as they leave church.)*

BILLY: Boy, Don, that was a great sermon today, wasn't it?

DON: Yeah. I just love it when he does those application-type messages. There are so many folks in our church who "talk the talk," but don't "walk the walk." You know what I mean?

BILLY: I suppose. What do you think he meant when he said about "getting involved" in foreign missions? I didn't quite get all of that. I was sort off in left field, I guess.

DON: Oh, I don't think he really meant us. I mean, we have all those missionaries and all. Hey, I give my tenth. Don't you?

BILLY: Yeah. Even so, I felt like he was looking at me. Just paranoid, I guess.

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DON: Cut yourself some slack, Billy. You do a lot around here. Well, have a nice day.

BILLY: You too, Don.

*(DON exits DSL, while BILLY crosses CS, in front of the AGENT.)*

AGENT: *(Allows BILLY to pass, then speaks through the opening in the paper.)* Psssst!

*(BILLY stops for a moment, looking around. Then shrugs his shoulders at the audience and continues.)*

AGENT: *(Still speaking through the paper, louder.)* Psssst! Hey, you.

BILLY: *(Stops and turns toward the AGENT, and places HIS hand on his chest.)* Who? Me?

AGENT: *(With emphasis, important news.)* Seven billion people.

BILLY: *(Loudly.)* Do what?

AGENT: *(Angrily crumples down the paper, as though anxious.)* Shhhh! Not so loud, do you want the whole world to hear? I said, seven billion people.

BILLY: Seven million people?

AGENT: *(More irate.)* Shhh! Shhh! Shhhhh! I said, seven "buh" - billion, not "muh" - million. Aren't you listening?

BILLY: What about seven billion people?

AGENT: *(Condescending.)* That's how many people there will be in the world within the next decade.

BILLY: Who are you, anyway?

AGENT: Just call me Agent 77.

BILLY: Okay. So, how's old 007 doing these days?

AGENT: Very funny. I'm amused.

BILLY: Well, thanks for the tip. Have a nice day. *(Turns to leave.)*

AGENT: *(Raises the newspaper.)* So, what, exactly, are you doing, Billy?

BILLY: About what?

AGENT: About foreign missions.

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BILLY: Well, nothing I guess. I mean, I've never even been out of the United States.

AGENT: There's a lot you could do, you know.

BILLY: Yeah, right. Like what?

AGENT: Well, a good start would be giving generously to and praying specifically for foreign missions.

BILLY: I guess I could handle that much.

AGENT: *(Lowers the newspaper and nods toward BILLY.)*

You can't even mention Him in some foreign countries.

BILLY: Who?

AGENT: Him! *(Points toward the Bible BILLY is holding.)*

BILLY: *(Holds the Bible up, loudly states.)* You mean Jesus?

AGENT: Shhhhhhhh! *(Stage whisper.)* Do you want the whole world to hear?! You could be imprisoned, or even executed just for saying His name!

BILLY: *(Sarcastically.)* I think they stopped executing Christians here in \_\_\_\_\_ *(Your city name.)* at least a decade ago. *(Rolls HIS eyes.)*

AGENT: I'm not talking about \_\_\_\_\_. *(Your city name.)* I'm talking about some of the countries where our missionaries spend their lives, preaching and teaching. Many of them risk their lives every day!

BILLY: Wow! Why do they do that?

AGENT: It's the Great Commission. Jesus called them to spend their lives taking His Word to the ends of the earth.

BILLY: Yeah, but that's them. God apparently called me to be an accountant. Not much risk there, except for the occasional audit.

AGENT: You might think so, Billy, but Jesus gave the Great Commission to all of us.

BILLY: What could I possibly do? I mean, outside of giving money and praying.

AGENT: You could help make care packages to send to missionaries and their children. You could help provide school supplies for the schools they set up in the foreign countries. For a few bucks you could even provide several Bibles to people who don't have one, written in their own language. Where did you go on vacation last year, Billy?

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