

SOON AND VERY SOON

By Bill Hamilton

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Five skits make up this humorous collection that every church will enjoy performing, as well as watching.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Kyle does not want to have a "Change of Plans," but when his vacation reservations are cancelled, his date threatens him with bodily harm, his car is repossessed, and some crazy relatives want to visit, he thinks maybe God wants him to go on that mission trip after all!

A DAD'S ADVICE

Jenni, like any typical teen, is not always willing to take "A Dad's Advice" but finds advantages when she does. Dad is speechless...in more ways than one!

FISH OR CUT BAIT

Hal, a new Christian, teaches Carl, a church deacon, how to "Fish or Cut Bait" if he's going to land any fish...or followers..

THE GIFT

John, as a new Christian, is overwhelmed with "The Gift." It's huge, magnificent, and can't be returned! Is there a way to talk to the Maker for some reassurance?

SOON AND VERY SOON

Angel, with cell phone and trumpet, takes center stage when he interrupts a worship service. He can't wait to announce that Jesus is coming "Soon and Very Soon."

CHANGE OF PLANS

Kyle is offered a chance to go on a mission trip, but since he's already made plans for his vacation, he declines. When that plan changes, he still does not consider the mission trip an option. After several changes of plans, it appears God has scheduled something different for Kyle.

Director's Notes: If you've ever wanted to do an old-fashioned radio show, this script is for you. Kyle is on stage during the entire drama. The others are only voices through his answering machine. While the audience will get the impression of messages being heard off the recorder, they will actually be read by actors back stage with the microphone being passed from one actor to another. The voice of the actual machine needs to be very mechanical.

Props - Telephone, answering machine, table, sofa or chair (optional), suitcases, small address book, watch, keys, pen and paper on the table.

Sound effects - Beeping of an answering machine, telephone ringing and pounding on the door. Also a recording of eerie music.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 3 w, 3 flex)

KYLE: Young man in his 20s.

***MR. REYNOLDS:** Kyle's boss, late 40s to 60s.

***MR./MRS. LEWIS:** Employee for an airline.

***MINDY:** Friend #1 is in her 20s.

***KAREN:** Friend #2 also in her 20s.

***COLLECTOR:** Either gender, any age will do.

***MAN:** Male, in 30s or 40s. Gruff sounding.

***AUNT MILDRED:** Female, 40s. Very loud, irritating voice.

***TELE:** Either gender, but needs to sound like the generic voice used on machines to announce the time of the call.

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(AT RISE: KYLE is unlocking the door to his apartment. He enters wearing a shirt and tie, carrying his briefcase and a handful of mail. The telephone is RINGING. Note: Tele: indicates that the answering machine is "speaking.")

KYLE: *(Calling out to the phone.)* I'm coming...I'm coming... hold on...*(Bursts in, drops briefcase on floor, tosses jacket over couch and runs to answer phone. It stops ringing and you can hear the answering machine pick-up.)*

TELE: *(KYLE'S recorded voice is obviously excited and giddy.)* Hi, this is Kyle. Sorry I missed your call...well actually, I'm not really all that sorry because as of 6 p.m. today I'll be outta here on a two-week vacation to Aruba with the hottest babe in the world. Yes, siree, me and Mindy will be hittin' the sandy beaches of Aruba for 14 days of glorious sun and fun...well, you get the idea...so whatever message you leave will be sitting on this machine until we get back. If you must, leave a message after the beep... *(SOUND of a beep. KYLE does not answer the phone, but lets caller leave a message.)*

MR. REYNOLDS: Hello, Kyle, this is Mr. Reynolds at the office. I think your machine already answered my question, I'll take the chance you might hear this message. My daughter just called a few minutes ago and told me that there was an opening on our church's singles' trip to West Virginia. It's a 12-day trip to help with some disadvantaged families in a small town in the mountains. Anyway, one of the guys had to cancel. He's already paid for the trip and said if anyone could go on this short notice, they could take his place, no charge. Anyway, I thought about you, but I can see that you have other plans. Well, have a great vacation, see you at work in a couple weeks...oh yeah, I almost forgot, if you want any more information about the trip, call our church before 7:00 tonight. The number is 743-3040. It's the one on the corner of Grant and 8th. They're leaving at 8:00 tonight. Bye. *(KYLE writes telephone number down as MR. REYNOLDS talks.)*

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KYLE: Let me think! Do I want to go with a beautiful babe and spend two weeks kicking up sand and surf on the beaches of Aruba, or do I want to go with my boss' daughter and her nerdy church friends to some podunk town helping the poor and disadvantaged. (*Moves hands up and down to simulate weighing options on an imaginary scale.*) Yeah, right! I spend 50 weeks looking at Reynolds' ugly mug and he wants me to spend the other two with his daughter helping a bunch of losers. I'll bet his daughter is a real looker too. She needs Daddy to fix her up with a date...let's pretend I never heard this. (*HE crumples paper and tosses it toward front of stage.*) What? (*HE looks at the answering machine.*) Four more messages? What is this? I'm in a hurry. Aruba awaits! (*HE starts machine to listen to the messages and then proceeds to get his packed suitcases from behind the couch.*)

TELE: (*Mechanical sound.*) Message number one received at 11:38 a.m. today.

MR. LEWIS: Hello. This is Mr. Lewis, vice-president of Eagle Airlines. I am calling to inform you that all reservations made through your travel agent, Fly-By-Night Services, have been canceled due to non-payment. We have tried to contact your travel agent, but all attempts have been unsuccessful. Law enforcement authorities have advised us that they skipped town. (*Chuckles*) Probably at night. I am sorry to inform you that all money paid directly to Fly-By-Night is non-refundable. Hope you have a backup plan! Good-bye.

KYLE: Just wonderful!! A thousand dollars down the drain. What will I ever tell Mindy? She can't afford to lose a thousand dollars either. I better try to get our resort money back. We can at least drive somewhere nice in my Porsche.

TELE: Message number two received at 11:58 a.m. today.

MINDY: (*Irate.*) Hey, Mister "I-can-save-us-a-bundle," this is Mindy, you remember, your ex-girlfriend. You are the dumbest, most idiotic person I know.

MINDY: *(Continued.)* I just got a call from a Mr. Lewis with Eagle Airlines and he tells me that I am out the thousand dollars you had me pay to a scam artist. That's not all, moron. I called Aruba and they told me that the fifteen-hundred bucks I paid them is only refundable with a two-week cancellation notice. If you can add, that totals \$2,500 you owe me. My brothers, Bubba and Vern, will be over first thing in the morning to collect.

KYLE: Boy, she sounds mad. I know! I'll call Karen. She's crazy about me. We can go on a quick trip to the Keys. I know her family's got that condo in Key West she's always trying to get me to go to. Wait a sec...I told her I was on a business trip for two weeks. No problem. I'll just tell her it was canceled and she was the first person I wanted to talk to...yeah, that'll work. *(HE pulls out a small address book to locate telephone number.)*

TELE: Message number three received at 2:34 p.m. today.

KAREN: Kyle, this is Karen. Interesting greeting on your answering machine. So, who's Mindy? And what about that business trip you were going on? I was calling to tell you I'll miss you and have a nice trip. Instead, good riddance!

KYLE: I'm sensing a trend here. Maybe now is a good time to go on that drive through the mountains I've always wanted to take. I'll call Susan. Yeah, she'll remember me. She'll remember the Porsche anyway.

TELE: Message number four received at 4 p.m. today.

COLLECTOR: Hello, Kyle Young, this is National Auto Financing Corp. We have not received your payment as promised according to the terms of your contract, so our representative will stop by your home tonight around 6:00 to pick up the Porsche. Thank you and have a nice day.

(Immediately there is a loud KNOCKING at the door. KYLE looks at his watch, deadpans the audience, shakes his head, picks up his keys from table and walks to the door and opens it.)

MAN: Kyle Young?

End of Freeview

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