

One More Christmas Miracle

By Susan Evans

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One More Christmas Miracle

- 2 -

DEDICATION

To my husband for all his help with whatever I need, my children who have been in plays for me since they could talk, Mom, Dad (watching from Heaven), and my church family who work hard to make our productions happen.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The mission/soup kitchen is in financial trouble, and one of the biggest donors wants to find out what's really going on there. Wealthy Ms. Witherspoon decides to send her personal assistant in to investigate, discreetly of course. What she finds out is so shocking that Ms. Witherspoon herself must go in, disguised as a street person, to see if her past has entered the present. The shelter director and his faithful assistant, both of whom are deeply committed to Christ and the mission, are totally unaware of the unfolding events and are praying for a miracle on several fronts. Two lovable and naive residents and the mission's cook keep the daily routine lively. Add some mischievous teens who have to do community service, the regulars coming for the evening meal, and a young runaway looking for a place to hide, and the mission is in for a wild and hilarious evening. Can the story of Christ heal and help these hurting people? Does God have enough Christmas miracles to go around? Performance time: About 50 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The play was performed in December 2012 with the following cast:

Eleanor Witherspoon - Pastor Kenlyn Kerr

Sophia Reynolds - Christine Montgomery

Bruce Dunham - Pastor Rob Kerr

Mark Jennings - Chris Montgomery

Molly - Melissa Shank

Dwayne - Cody Bixler

Samuel - Samuel Bixler

Dylan - Dylan Shank

Hannah - Kaleigh Hyson

Norman - Shawn Hyson

Marina - Clarissa Miller

Cole - Cole Swanson

Mrs. Myra Walker - Amber Bixler

Tony - Broden Hyson

Special thanks to Doug Dudash and Janelle Hyson.

One More Christmas Miracle

- 3 -

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 5 w, 3 flexible, 2 children, extras)

ELEANOR WITHERSPOON: Owner of Witherspoon Industries, early 40s.

SOPHIA REYNOLDS: Personal assistant to Ms. Witherspoon; early 30s.

BRUCE DUNHAM: Director of the homeless shelter and food kitchen; early 40s.

MARK JENNINGS: Helps Bruce at the shelter, early 30s.

MOLLY: The cook for the mission.

NORMAN: Lives at the mission and helps out.

DWAYNE: Also lives at mission and helps out.

MARINA: Pre-teen girl living on the street.

DYLAN: Teen doing community service at the mission. Can be male or female.

COLE: Teen doing community service at the mission. Can be male or female.

SAMUEL: Teen doing community service at the mission. Can be male or female.

MYRA: Young mother eating at the mission.

TONY: Myra's young child. Can be boy or girl.

HANNAH: Myra's young child. Can be boy or girl.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS: Hungry people eating at the mission.

TIME

The present. Two days before Christmas and the day before Christmas.

SETTINGS

Witherspoon office: Extreme downstage right or left, or before curtain. Large executive office desk with computer, phone with intercom; large, comfortable chair.

Mission: A large room with two entrances, one SR to the outside and one SL to the kitchen and other rooms. Near the entrance is a small desk holding a Bible, pens, pad of paper, candy dish, and an older phone. Numerous bills, including a checkbook ledger, cover the desk while a battered chair or folding chair is behind it. In the main area are several long tables and chairs and benches for eating meals. Several well-used couches and occasional chairs ring the perimeter. An empty Christmas tree stand is upstage, as is a poster on the wall giving the time of the evening meal.

COSTUMES

Characters wear modern clothing. Ms. Witherspoon and Sophie wear expensive clothing at the office. Ms. Witherspoon and others wear old and somewhat tattered clothing as they come in the mission. Bruce and Mark wear jeans and casual shirts. Everyone except them will need some kind of winter coat or jacket.

PROPS: Please see end of script for a list of props.

One More Christmas Miracle
Scene 1

(AT RISE: MS. WITHERSPOON is sitting at her desk looking over the budget on her computer. She buzzes the intercom.)

WITHERSPOON: Ms. Reynolds, please come to my office.

(MS. SOPHIE REYNOLDS enters.)

SOPHIE: Yes, Ms. Witherspoon, can I help you?

WITHERSPOON: I've been looking over the financial records and wanted to ask you about LM Ministries. It seems there's a monthly check going to this organization. Do you know anything about it?

SOPHIE: Oh yes, that's Living Manna Ministries. It's a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. During those years you were travelling abroad, your late father set up the monthly contribution. It was a favorite charity of his. Your mother often volunteered in the soup kitchen.

WITHERSPOON: Well, that may be, but that was years ago. What is going on there now? From the looks of this they've received quite a bit of money from the company through the years. They may be taking our money and lining their own pockets. Things like that happen all the time. My friend Juanita Chambers was supporting orphans, or so she thought. Come to find out the so-called director had a second home in the Bahamas!

SOPHIE: Why, that's terrible, but I'm sure nothing like that is happening at Living Manna Ministries.

WITHERSPOON: I see here that a check is to go out today. I've decided to stop payment until I can look into this further.

SOPHIE: Are you sure you want to do that? It's almost Christmas and they may need the funds. It seems like this time of the year can be difficult for some. There could be families depending on the shelter--even children.

One More Christmas Miracle

- 6 -

WITHERSPOON: Families, children? I doubt that; besides they need to get a job. They can't expect someone else to take care of them. I want to know what's going on before I send any more money.

SOPHIE: How do you propose to do that?

WITHERSPOON: That's where you come in, my dear.

SOPHIE: Me? What do you think I can do?

WITHERSPOON: I'd like you to go to the mission and check it out. See who runs the place. Find out where they live. See if they really are feeding people. You're a bright young woman, I'm sure you'll think of something.

SOPHIE: Sure. OK. I can drop by later this morning while I'm out. I have several errands to run anyway. I'll see what I can find out. Discretely, of course. *(SHE turns to leave.)*

WITHERSPOON: Oh, Ms. Reynolds, don't forget to stop at the jewelers and pick up my bracelet. The clasp was loose and I had them tighten it. I don't want to lose it.

(SOPHIE exits. LIGHTS dim as scene ends.)

End of Freeview

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