

MESSAGES FROM THE HEART

By Dewey Wilson Todd

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Messages From the Heart

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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! Shhhhhh! 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?

End of Freeview

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