

Live Feeding the Flock

By Andrew M. Frodahl

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to my aunt, Gail Crosby. Thanks for always being there despite the miles between us. Love, your favorite nephew.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The children of the Bucklesbury Bible Church have done a production of a Christmas nativity play for the last 80 years. It is the hottest ticket in town and a huge outreach for the church. When the “Mistletoe Flu,” a contagious virus, locks down the entire county, the Christmas program is in jeopardy. The committee of all church committees holds an online meeting to decide whether to cancel the program.

The pastor states the church must still fulfill its mission of spreading the gospel. The decision is made to live feed the program so everyone can tune in from the safety of their homes.

Time constraints force the play director to use the committee members as the cast for the play instead of the children.

Will the cast put their egos aside? Will the message get lost by the technology used to transmit the play? Will the pastor’s aunt ruin the whole thing with her antics?

Tune in to find out that we don’t have to distance ourselves from God. Nothing can separate us from His love, not even “The Mistletoe Flu”! God’s gift of forgiveness and everlasting life is the best gift of all and it’s free.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: The Meeting of the Committee of Church Committees

Scene 2: The Offline Rehearsal

Scene 3: The Live Feeding the Flock

SETTING

Pastor Kyle’s study – Bookshelves lined with various theological books.

Drosts’ kitchen – The background of a middle-class kitchen.

Drosts’ living room – Can just be a plain wall. The living room as been destroyed so you could show some of the destruction from the tree falling in the background.

Cordelia’s home – She can be located anywhere in her home. She has a cup full of pens and pencils near her computer.

Harold and Grace’s home – Harold and Grace sitting together on the sofa.

Gloria’s house – She can be located anywhere in her home.

Fred’s house – A home office setting. Has a flannel shirt and a sign that reads: Leviticus 11:7.

Tina’s house – Her craft room or anywhere in her home.

Car – A phone or dash cam while sitting behind the wheel of any car. The camera can be close up only giving the illusion that Nettie is driving and going through a drive-thru.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

9 characters (3 m, 6 w)

PASTOR KYLE DROST: (*male*) The lead Pastor of Bucklesbury Bible Church in Bucklesbury, Pennsylvania. He is mid 30s/40s. He never thought a virus called the Mistletoe Flu would distant him from his flock.

EMILY DROST: (*female*) Kyle's wife who isn't happy having Kyle's Aunt Nettie living with them. She is mid 30s/40s.

NETTIE LYNN PORTER: (*female*) Kyle's aunt who raised him after his mother died. She is rough around the edges and not the grandmotherly type. She probably carries brass knuckles in her purse next to a brick just in case. Mid 60s/70s.

CORDELIA CLEMONS: (*female*) The church secretary who is terrified of catching the Mistletoe Flu. She is cautious by nature. A by-the-book kinda lady.

HAROLD FERNSBY: (*male*) The oldest male member of the church. His sensor failed a long time ago. He is married to Grace. Mid 70s.

GRACE FERNSBY: (*female*) The oldest female member of the church. She is married to Harold who tries her patience daily. A sweet lady who has never missed a church function. Mid 70s.

GLORIA ADLEY: (*female*) The head of the hospitality committee. Gloria knows how to put on a spread. Mid 30s/40s.

FRED HUGHES: (*male*) The head of the Rapture Preparedness Committee. Some call him Rapture Ready Fred. Y2K never happened but he was ready for it. He has a practical joker spirit. Mid 40s.

TINA SHAW: (*female*) The director of the drama committee. She is overly dramatic and doesn't mind throwing caution to the wind. She is the polar opposite of Cordelia and the two butt heads.

COSTUMES / PROPS

PASTOR KYLE: Casual attire for Scene 1, then dressed as Joseph for Scene 2 and 3.

EMILY: Casual attire for Scene 1, then dressed as Mary (with baby Jesus) for Scenes 2 and 3.

NETTIE: Dressed in a robe and curlers for Scene 1 and dressed as a chicken for Scene 2&3. She has a bucket of fast food chicken, a soft drink cup, a chicken wing.

CORDELIA: Business formal for Scene 1. A donkey costume for Scenes 2 and 3.

HAROLD: Dressed in a vintage suit and he has a cane. A Wise man in Scene 3.

GRACE: Dressed in her Sunday best. It may be an online meeting but no sense looking bad. A shepherd in Scene 3.

GLORIA: A burgundy Christmas sweater with a reindeer on it for Scene 1. In Scene 2 she is just wearing a sheep head covering with ears. In Scene 3 she is wearing the full costume, but it's turned pink.

FRED: Dressed like he just got back from foraging for mushrooms in the woods for Scenes 1 and 2. Scene 3 he is wearing pig ears and a pig snout.

TINA: Dressed in a crazy Christmas sweater that lights up. Have fun with her attire for Scene 1. In Scenes 2 and 3 she is dressed as an angel.

*NOTE ON ANIMAL COSTUMES – these can be as complex or simple as you want to make them.

Scene 1 – The Meeting

(AT RISE: Camera on CORDELIA seated in her home. She calls PASTOR KYLE DROST. He sits in his study with bookshelves full of theology books behind him.)

CORDELIA: Hello, Pastor Kyle. Are you well?

KYLE: As you can see, I'm safe here in my study.

CORDELIA: Did you come in contact with anyone?

KYLE: I drove to the church in the car and no one is here but me.

CORDELIA: I stocked your office up with hand sanitizer yesterday.

KYLE: I see that.

CORDELIA: Did you sanitize when you arrived?

KYLE: I've sanitized my hands so many times I think my fingerprints have rubbed off.

CORDELIA: Fire does purify.

KYLE: My eyebrows are falling out from all the fumes. That can't be healthy either.

CORDELIA: Cleanliness is next to godliness.

KYLE: That isn't in the Bible, Cordelia.

CORDELIA: You think I'm overreacting?

KYLE: There is nothing wrong with being cautious, but we can't let it control us.

CORDELIA: The Mistletoe Flu is nothing to make light of Pastor Kyle. I'm only the church secretary and not that high on the totem pole, but it's my conviction that you need to close the church and all Christmas festivities. It's just too risky.

KYLE: Do you know how hard it is for a pastor to be distant from his flock?

CORDELIA: I know, but it is the new normal.

KYLE: The Bible says there is nothing new under the sun. We need to keep our focus on Him.

CORDELIA: Tina thinks the live nativity should go on. You need to take charge and tell her no!

KYLE: We do need to figure something out, but I think cancelling would be a mistake.

CORDELIA: Pastor, you can't be serious. We have to social distance or we will risk spreading the Mistletoe Flu!

KYLE: I'm aware of the circumstances, but I need to make sure that the gospel gets out. Otherwise, Christmas will just be about commercialism. The early church overcame severe persecution, imprisonment, and opposition in order to get the good news out there. I think we need to do what we can.

CORDELIA: I appreciate your passion, Pastor Kyle, but I think it would be irresponsible to move forward as if there is no risk.

KYLE: I appreciate you, Cordelia, and your concern. Can you set up a zoom meeting with all the church leaders?

CORDELIA: So, you can officially cancel the Christmas program?

KYLE: So, we can discuss what options we have concerning the Christmas program.

CORDELIA: I'll contact the church leaders and get a zoom call ready.

KYLE: Thank you.

(CAMERA off CORDELIA. KYLE rubs his eyes and sighs. CAMERA on EMILY who is in the kitchen using her laptop.)

KYLE: Oh, hey hon, are you making Christmas cookies?

EMILY: We need to talk about Nettie.

KYLE: Is she okay?

EMILY: When can she leave?

KYLE: What did she do now?

EMILY: I can't believe you invited a criminal into our home.

KYLE: She's my aunt. The woman raised me after my mom died. I owe her a lot.

EMILY: You would have been better off raised by wolves.

KYLE: She had nowhere else to go. We're the only family she's got, Em.

EMILY: She is on my last nerve. She acts like this is a hotel. She gave me a list of her dietary wishes.

KYLE: I know she can be a pill, but she is family. She only went to jail for some unpaid parking tickets.

EMILY: Kyle, you don't go to prison for five years for unpaid parking tickets.

KYLE: Sweetie, she doesn't know the Lord and I'm hoping we can be a witness to her.

EMILY: Then I'm afraid I've been a terrible example today.

KYLE: Until things go back to the way they were, it's best if she stays with us. Safer for her. What is she doing now?

EMILY: She is watching the *Grinch* for the third time today. She watched it 8 times yesterday.

KYLE: I think she feels she can relate to him.

EMILY: When are you coming home?

KYLE: After I have a meeting with the church leaders to discuss whether we should cancel the Christmas program.

EMILY: Good luck with that. *(SFX: Crashing sound.)* I gotta go! I think Nettie knocked over our tree!
(CAMERA off EMILY.)

KYLE: Oh no!

(CAMERA on CORDELIA.)

CORDELIA: Hi, Pastor. I've contacted everyone. They're all logging into the church zoom as we speak.

KYLE: Thank you.

(CAMERA on HAROLD and GRACE staring into the computer web cam.)

HAROLD: I thought you said we had a church meeting.

GRACE: We do. How's my hair?

HAROLD: Shouldn't we be getting a move on? Takes fifteen minutes when the traffic is good.

GRACE: The meeting is online.

HAROLD: What line?

KYLE: Hi, Harold. Hi, Grace.

GRACE: On the computer!

HAROLD: We're supposed to stand on the computer?

GRACE: No, we are going to be having the meeting with everyone else through the computer.

HAROLD: Grace, you are outta your gourd if you think we are fitting through there.

CORDELIA: Guys, you're online now.

GRACE: Shh! Someone is talking. It sounded like Cordelia.

HAROLD: Who is that?

GRACE: The church secretary.

HAROLD: Have I met her?

GRACE: I'm worried about you.

HAROLD: You're the one hearing voices through the computer.

KYLE: I don't think they see us.

CORDELIA: I think your right. Grace! Grace, it's Cordelia!

GRACE: Yes, I hear you.

HAROLD: Sorcery! Grace, I think your computer is possessed.

GRACE: Would you quit talking, Harold. I can hear you, Cordelia, but I can't see you.

KYLE: Make sure you check your settings. You might not have video sharing enabled.

HAROLD: Now there is another voice.

KYLE: Harold, it's Pastor Kyle.

HAROLD: Oh lawd, they got Pastor. Hold on, Pastor Kyle! I'll get you outta there! *(HAROLD stands up and grabs his cane.)*

GRACE: I found the settings.

End of Freeview

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