

THE CARPENTER'S WORKSHOP

By

Bettie Corbin Tucker

Cast

Leader

Adam

Eve

Joseph

Mary

Baby Jesus

Mrs. Emma Closet (In a closet)

Mr. N. E. Means (Any means)

Mrs. Freda Serve (Free to Serve)

Mr. Barry Down (very down)

Mrs. Dee Manding (Demanding)

Mr. Terry Knot (Tarry not)

Four WorkersBig Ben

Props

World Clock

Carpenter's Workshop Sign

World Clock

World Clock Sign No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father

Time Clock

Desk

5 chairs

Small table

Bag of Groceries

Apple Pie

Paper plates

Forks

Spatula

Two Bibles

Christian Reference Books

Cassette Tapes

Shovel

Red Delicious Apple

Sign: Paradise

Sign: World

Pulpit: Light enough to be carried by one person

Setting: Big Ben is sitting at desk—"The Carpenter's Workshop" sign and the "World Clock," with the "World Clock" sign above it, are on the desk. The sign, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," is hung

Leader: (*Carrying Bible*) Welcome! We are about to present a skit entitled, "*The Carpenter's Workshop*." However, as a prelude to the opening scene, please allow me to share a reading with you from the Second Chapter of Genesis—verses fifteen through twenty-three.

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden as its gardener, to tend and care for it.

But the Lord God gave the man this warning: "You may eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the Tree of Conscience—for its fruit will open your eyes to make you aware of right and wrong, good and bad. If you eat its fruit, you will be doomed to die."

And the Lord God said, "It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs." So the Lord God from the soil every kind of animal and bird, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever he called them, that was their name. But still there was no proper helper for the man. Then the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the place from which he had removed it, and made the rib into a woman, and brought her to man. "This is it!" Adam exclaimed. "She is part of my own bone and flesh! Her name is 'Woman' because she was taken out of a man."

Leader: Now, sit back and enjoy *The Carpenter's Workshop*.

ACT ONE—AMAZING GRACE

Setting: Adam and Eve enter through door marked "Paradise" and walk toward door marked "World." Adam is carrying a shovel and Eve is carrying a partially eaten apple. They stop just outside the "World" door.

Adam: I can't believe we let this happen to us! All we had to do was obey Him and we had it made—no work—no sickness—no death!

Eve: (**Looks at Adam intently**) I know what you're thinking, so you might as well say it! You think it's all my fault, don't you?

Adam: Eve—don't put words in my mouth! (**Slight pause—smiling**) Speaking of mouths—you have to admit that you had no trouble putting that apple in yours!

Eve: (**Pleading**) Honey, try to understand. The serpent told me that if I ate it, it would make me like God! Besides, you have to admit that it was so red and delicious. (**Slight pause—smiling**) A red delicious apple!

Adam: (**Ignores her humor**) Of course it did! Temptation always comes in pretty packages! The devil knows that and uses it! I should have known that God was serious when He warned us.

Eve: But, He did warn us! Now, nothing will be the same . . . everything in our lives will be different.

Adam: (**Looks at hands and shovel**) Yeah! (**Slight pause**) A new lifestyle that's going to take some time getting used to. From now on there will be blisters on my hands and sweat on my face—that is, if we're going to eat.

Eve: Hey, what about me? I'm supposed to suffer great pain in childbirth.

Adam: (**Takes apple from Eve—angrily throws it through "World Door"**) Yes! Bring forth children who will die—just as we will—returning to dust! Because of what we did, sin, sickness and death have come into being! (**Slight pause**) Oh, Heavenly Father, forgive us and have mercy on mankind!

(Adam and Eve exit through "World" door)

(Leader enters carrying Bible—Reads Matthew 1:18-21)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 'Jesus,' because He will save His people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him 'Immanuel'—which means 'God with us.' "

(Mary carrying baby Jesus enters through "Paradise" door)

Mary: Oh, my precious little one—You are the glory of Israel—the nation's shining light! You will be the Savior of all mankind!

(Joseph enters through "World" door—takes baby Jesus from Mary)

Joseph: (**Softly**) God told us His name is to be Jesus!

(Leader enters carrying Bible—Reads Isaiah 53:2-3)

In God's eyes He was like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. But in our eyes there was no attractiveness at all, nothing to make us want Him. We despised Him and rejected Him—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised and we didn't care.

(Adult Jesus, in white robe and carrying a cross, enters through "World" door.
He leans cross against wall and exits through "Paradise" door)

(Leader continues reading—Isaiah 53:4-9)

Yet it was *our* grief He bore, our sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God for His *own* sins! But He was wounded and bruised for *our* sins. He was chastised that we might have peace; He was lashed—and we were healed! We are the ones who strayed away like sheep! We who left God's paths to follow our own. Yet God laid on *Him* the guilt and sins of every one of us!

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He never said a word. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He stood silent before the ones condemning Him. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people of that day realized it was their sins that He was dying for—that He was suffering their punishment? He was buried like a criminal in a rich man's grave; but He had done no wrong, and had never spoken an evil word. **(Slight pause)**

Leader: Please join with me in prayer. **(Slight pause)** Heavenly Father, we pray for the church asking that You guide us by Your Holy Spirit. We pray that we may more earnestly desire and seek the salvation for our fellow man. Help us to be servants of Your Gospel. Give us hearts of love and sincerity of speech so that—through the Holy Spirit—we can reach out to others to forsake sin and find salvation in Jesus! We know only a little of the terrible suffering that Jesus endured for us, and can't even begin to imagine how the weight

of the sins of all mankind—past, present, and future—being heaped upon Him must have felt. He was innocent—a lamb—yet, He willingly accepted this burden that separated Him from His Father and went to Hell so that we could be free. **(Slight pause)** So, in a very real way, if Jesus lives in us, we have already been to Hell. Because He paid the price—we don't have to go there a second time! **(Slight pause)** Father, instill in us a spirit of boldness and desire that we will go to others with this message of salvation and bring Your light where there is darkness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen! **(Slight pause—looks at audience)**

As Christians, Jesus lives in us and gives us a new purpose in life. What is that purpose? . . . to share with others the joy and peace we have found. You and I, each of us, as members of His body, are called to serve Him in this way. However, if we are to be effective in reaching others, we must first strive—every day and in every way—to be more like Jesus. Remember, more people are reached by example and seeing Jesus in us than by all the soap-box preaching and religion in the world. As act two commences we will see "born-again" Christians punching in with the timekeeper at *The Carpenter's Workshop* as they begin to harvest their days, months, and years. The "World Clock" shows us at what point in time they were "born-again."

ACT TWO—A PIECE OF THE PIE!

Setting: Big Ben is sitting at desk—"The Carpenter's Workshop" sign and the "World Clock," with the "World Clock" sign above it, are on the desk. The sign, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," is hung on a wall. Four chairs are scattered about the room and a bag of groceries are on the small table. Workers #1, 2, and 3 quietly talk as they take the groceries out of the bag and place them on the table—they then sit and either continue to talk quietly or read. As each person enters, they punch in at the "Time" clock. (If using mechanical props the "World Clock" is activated by someone offstage—if not using mechanical props, the person who enters moves the hands of the "World" clock to time indicated.

(Mrs. Emma Closet enters through "World" door carrying a Bible, reference books and cassette tapes)

Mrs. Emma Closet: Hi Ben! Isn't it a wonderful day! **(Punches in on "time" clock and moves "world" clock hands to number ten)** You know, lately all my days have been wonderful! My husband got a promotion, my son just graduated from college, and my aunt Bertha—you know, the one from Ohio—well, she's totally recovered from that illness I told you about.

Big Ben: **(Nodding head in agreement)** That is wonderful!

Mrs. Emma Closet: God has blessed me and my family in so many ways that I've decided that today I'm going to read at least two books of the Bible and go to both church services. Then, when I get home tonight, I'm going to work on my Bible study course and watch Christian programs on TV until I go to bed.

Big Ben: My goodness, Emma! You certainly do have a busy day planned!

Mrs. Emma Closet: **(Excited)** Yep! Sure do! I want to get filled and filled and filled with the Lord! I can't get enough of Him!

Big Ben: You certainly have changed since accepting Jesus as your Savior!

Mrs. Emma Closet: That's for sure! Today marks my anniversary—it's been exactly ten years since I asked Him into my life—and I'm celebrating! **(Slight pause)** That reminds me! Ben, wait a minute—I'll be right back! **(Exits through "World" door—returns with apple pie, knife, forks, and spatula)**

Big Ben: Well, well, well! What do we have here?

Mrs. Emma Closet: **(Placing things on table)** I baked this myself! It's part of my celebration. I love apple pie! Would you like a piece?

Big Ben: Of course I do! What a silly question! Remember, I've had your pies before!

(Workers #1, 2, & 3 eagerly pick up plates and forks)

Worker #1: Pie isn't on my diet, but . . . **(Slight pause and smile)** . . . after all . . . it is a special occasion—it's her anniversary!

Worker #2: **(Cuts pie)** Ben, didn't I see Adam and Eve here earlier? It's too bad they left. I'm sure if they had stuck around they would have enjoyed the party. **(Looks at Worker #1)** Who knows, the party might have helped ease their guilt and make them feel better.

Big Ben: They might have liked the party! However, after what happened in the garden, I doubt that this apple pie would tempt them!

Worker #2: **(Smiling)** You're right! They'd choke on it for sure!

Worker #3: Well, I'm not having any trouble swallowing it! Emma, this is mighty fine pie!

(Workers #1, 2, & 3, taking their plates of pie with them, return to chairs)

Big Ben: Emma, I have something to ask you.

Mrs. Emma Closet: **(Laughing)** Yes, Ben, you can have another piece of pie!

Big Ben: **(Laughing)** No, I'm tempted, but that isn't what I had in mind. **(Slight pause)** I want to know why you are so willing to share your pie with us? You didn't have to—you could have kept it for yourself.

Mrs. Emma Closet: Ben, now it's you who are asking silly questions! I mean, how could I possibly eat this in front of you without sharing it? Why, I'd feel so selfish! When you care about people and have something good, you just naturally want to share it!

Big Ben: Exactly! That's why I'm so puzzled!

Mrs. Emma Closet: I don't understand . . . puzzled?

Big Ben: Yes, puzzled! I know you read your Bible and faithfully attend church *but*, after ten years of being a Christian, you still don't

seem to want to share the joy and peace you've found in Jesus with others. *You* are filled; however many out there **(Points to "World" door)** are starving for what you've found. Didn't you just say, "When you care about people and have something good, you just naturally want to share it!" **(Slight pause)** Well, if you really meant that then it's your responsibility as a Christian to reach out to them for Jesus. If you don't, when the harvest time comes, you'll be faced with your selfishness.

Mrs. Emma Closet: **(Slight pause—thoughtful answer)**
Yes . . . yes . . . I did say that. And now my own words are convicting me! Ben . . . how could I have been so selfish and blind not to see it? You're right! People do need Jesus more than they need apple pie! **(Picks up Bible, reference books, and cassette tapes)**
From now on, I'm going to stop being like a sponge and just soaking things up—I'm going to start giving! Thanks to you Ben, my eyes have been opened—I'm going to start witnessing for Jesus!

Big Ben: **(Excited)** Now you're really cooking, Emma! Go and start serving!

(Mrs. Emma Closet exits through "World" door)

(Mr. N. E. Means enters through "World" door)

Mr. N. E. Means: Hi Ben! **(Punches in on "time" clock and moves "world" clock hands to number twenty-two)**
How are things ticking?

Big Ben: Right on schedule! How about you—ready to tackle the world?

Mr. N. E. Means: I sure am! My heart aches for lost souls! Many of my friends, neighbors and relatives are still lost in sin! Somehow, before it's too late, I've got to find a way to force them to see the light!

Big Ben: **(Looks at "world" clock)** I see that you've been a Christian for twenty-two years. How many have you . . . what was the word you used—"forced" to see the light?

Mr. N. E. Means: None! And, that's what I don't understand—I tell them the truth; yet, they don't seem to hear me! I've witnessed and witnessed but, as far as I know, none of them have accepted Jesus!

Big Ben: Maybe there's something wrong with your approach. Do you pray before speaking to them? It's important to talk to Jesus about a friend before you talk to a friend about Jesus!

Mr. N. E. Means: Always!

Big Ben: Good! You're starting off right, so that's not the problem! I have an idea—let's pretend that I'm the person who doesn't know Jesus. Go ahead—try and convince me that you have something I need!

Mr. N. E. Means: Sure! Why not? I've got nothing to lose! **(Slight pause—clears throat—self-righteous—voice slightly raised)** Ben, are you aware that you're headed straight for Hell?

Big Ben: Straight for Hell! . . . What are you talking about?

Mr. N. E. Means: **(Self-righteous—Voice still slightly raised)** I'll be glad to tell you . . . You're a no good sinner—rotten to the core—you lie and steal and you cheat on your wife! I sure wouldn't want to be in your shoes on judgment day! Why, if you ever went to church, the people there would die from shock just to see you there.

Big Ben: But . . . but I . . .

Mr. N. E. Means: **(Grabs Big Ben by the shoulders—shouts)** Quit interrupting me and listen! You have to repent—Jesus died a horrible death for your sins! **(Shakes Big Ben)** If you accept Jesus right now, you'll be saved—spared from the punishment you deserve! Surely you must realize what a sorry mess your life is!

Big Ben: **(Removes Mr. N. E. Means hands from his shoulders, pushes him away and steps back)** I . . . I've got to get going—I'm late for an appointment!

Mr. N. E. Means: **(Looks down—disappointed—normal voice)** Ben, you're doing it too! This is what happens every time I

try to talk to someone about Jesus! They act like they can't wait to get away from me.

Big Ben: Let me ask you something?

Mr. N. E. Means: Sure!

Big Ben: When you were saved—did the person who spoke to you "force" Jesus on you? Did they try to "scare" you into receiving salvation?

Mr. N. E. Means: **(Slight pause)** No, not really! I had just lost my job, my kids were sick, and we were about to lose our house because I couldn't pay the mortgage. Wayne, the man who spoke to me about Jesus, came to visit us. We had worked together. After praying for my family and our situation, he told me how much Jesus loved and cared for us and our problems. He even gave me the name of a person who offered me a job. He really cared—I could tell! There was something different about him . . . something that I wanted.

Big Ben: Do you know why he was different? **(Slight pause)** Because you saw Jesus in him! Jesus was the "something" you wanted! I remember how you once told me that he came back to visit you again and again and how he gave you a Bible! Remember how he shared John 3:16 with you: "*For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" Do you see how his approach was different?

Mr. N. E. Means: Not really! I'm saying the same things he did—just using a slightly different approach!

Big Ben: An approach that doesn't work! Remember how your friend reassured you that you were not alone as a sinner—that "all" have sinned and are short of the Glory of God? And how, even though you were a sinner, if you wanted a change in your life and were willing to accept Him as your Savior, Jesus would accept you just the way you were!

Mr. N. E. Means: **(Shaking head back and forth)** Man, have I ever been wrong! If Wayne had shamed, threatened, or shaken me as I just did you, I wouldn't have listened to him! When he spoke, it was with love—about a caring, loving Father who wanted only the best for me.

Big Ben: I know! That's because Jesus is love! It's easier to get someone to accept Jesus when they can see that you have something within you that they need and want! When you try to force someone to accept a gift, they become suspicious and afraid; however, if you offer them that same gift with love, they'll reach out and accept it.

Mr. N. E. Means: The only thing they ever reached out for was me—to push me away! Ben, from this moment on, I'm going to witness only with love—Jesus' love! And, you know, I honestly believe that they will listen to me now!

Big Ben: I know they will! Now get going—speak to them! Time is precious!

(Mrs. N. E. Means exits through "World" door)

(Mrs. Freda Serve enters through "World" door)

Mrs. Freda Serve: Hi! I'm Freda Serve. I hope I'm in the right place. Is this the Carpenters Workshop?

Big Ben: This is it! Welcome to our workshop, Freda. **(Slight pause)** I'm Ben . . . glad you're here—we can use all the workers we can get.

Freda Serve: **(Punches in on "time" clock and moves "world" clock hands close to but not on zero)** Ben, I'm a brand new Christian and feel so unworthy . . . so unqualified to work for the Lord! Before I accepted Jesus, I lived the kind of life I'd like to forget about!

Big Ben: Working for Him is exactly what you're supposed to do—it's what He wants! Remember, you're no longer the person you once were—Jesus has changed you and set you free!

Freda Serve: I know, but I still have trouble forgetting about the way I used to be! Why?

Big Ben: Freda, didn't you just buy the Pearson house over on James Street?

Freda Serve: Yes! It's been empty for years and the price was right! Why?

Big Ben: *(Ignores her question)* When you moved in, what did you do with all the old stuff they left behind? Did you fix the place up?

Freda Serve: It was mostly garbage—I threw a lot of it away. After washing the windows and cleaning, I painted all the rooms and had new carpeting installed. Why?

Big Ben: Because when you accepted Jesus, the same thing happened to you! Before the Holy Spirit could come live in you, He had to do some housecleaning. He looked through what was left behind by the old occupant and threw all the garbage He found away. Everything was washed clean in the Blood of Jesus. Freda, the garbage and clutter is gone—completely gone—and the only way it can come back is if you listen to Satan's lies. Always remember that Jesus defeated him in the housecleaning, so rejoice in your freedom and serve the Lord!

Freda Serve: Ben, I feel like God wants me to teach a Sunday School class to the children; however, I don't feel I'm qualified because I don't know very much about the Bible. I know that Jesus loves me, gives me joy, died for me, and gives me eternal life, but I don't . . .

Big Ben: *(Interrupts)* Don't worry about it! You're highly qualified. Remember . . . God never asks about our ability—only our availability. *(Slight pause)* As long as you are available and willing . . . He will do the rest!

Freda Serve: I'm going to do it! How do I begin?

Big Ben: Start reading your Bible and just step out in faith. Start with John!

Freda Serve: John? Is he a teacher?

Big Ben: One of the best! He even has a book by his name in the Bible—it's one of the four Gospels. When you read it, you'll learn more about Jesus and how you can make your life more like His. Your pastor can also help—tell him you would like to teach and he can give you some materials to study. Above all, pray every day—talk

to God! He'll be there with you in the classroom. You and the children will grow in knowledge together.

Big Ben: Thank you Ben . . . for your advice and time!

(Mrs. Freda Serve exits through "World" door)

ACT THREE—RESCUE THE PERISHING

Setting: Big Ben is sitting at desk—"The Carpenter's Workshop" sign and the "World Clock," with the "World Clock" sign above it, are on the desk. The sign, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," is hung on a wall. Four chairs are scattered about the room and a bag of groceries are on the small table. Workers #1, 2, and 3 are sitting in chairs quietly talking or reading. As each person enters they punch in at the "World Clock. (If using mechanical props the "World Clock" is activated by someone offstage—if not using mechanical props, the person who enters moves the hands of the clock to time indicated.

(Mr. Barry Down and Mrs. Dee Manding enter through "World" door)

Mr. Barry Down: Is this the Carpenter's Workshop?

Big Ben: Sure is! Can I help you?

Mr. Barry Down: I hope so! Someone told me that you're looking for some help. I sure could use a job! I'm desperate! I've been out of work for over eight months!

Mrs. Dee Manning: I'm looking for work, too! I'm a widow with lots of time on my hands.

Big Ben: Well, you've come to the right place—we need workers! Why don't you go ahead and punch in?

(Mr. Barry Down and Mrs. Dee Manning punches in on "time" clock)

**but do not move hands on "world" clock—
if using mechanical clock, do not move hands)**

Big Ben: Looks like we have a problem! If you want to work for our Boss you have to have a new birth date. This clock only registers those who have been "born again."

Mrs. Dee Manning: **(Indignant)** Why, that's religious discrimination! Don't think you're going to get away with this! I know my rights!

Mr. Barry Down: **(Looks at Mrs. Dee Manning knowingly)** I get it! This is an employment agency! We'll probably have to pay this guy a high fee to get work! **(Looks at Big Ben accusingly)** Right?

Big Ben: No! You're wrong! There's never a fee at the Carpenter's Workshop. Jesus paid your fee a long time ago; however, if you don't know Him, you can't serve Him! We do offer on-the-job training, but you can't even learn unless He lives in you!

Mrs. Dee Manning: I've been told before that I'm a sinner and that I need to be "born again," but the people who told me that were wrong . . . I'm a good person . . . I have high morals and have never broken the law! How dare you say I'm not qualified? Why, I even graduated from college with high honors! I demand a job!

Big Ben: **(Sadly)** Mrs. Manning . . . I'm sorry! There's nothing I can do for you unless you agree to accept Jesus into your heart as your personal Savior.

Mr. Barry Down: **(Looks at Mrs. Dee Manning)** Dee, forget about this creep! I've heard about another place that's hiring. We don't need this *high* "falutin" place—let's go *down* and apply there! I hear they're always looking for people!

Mrs. Dee Manning: I . . . I don't know, Barry! I've heard that the place is a real sweatshop and that the benefits are horrible! They say the boss is evil!

Mr. Barry Down: **(Points at Big Ben)** Probably a rumor started by this guy! There's a lot of competition between the two companies. I understand that the top executives of the companies are real adversaries! Look, I say that if we go down and apply that we'll be hired.

Big Ben: Yeah! And then *fired*—and I do mean *fired*! Please think it over! The "Boss" you want to work for has fallen before and . . . he'll fall again . . . you can count on it!

Mrs. Dee Manning: (**Looks at Big Ben—angry**) Why don't you admit it? . . . You just don't us working for your competition!

Big Ben: You're right! I don't! (**Slight pause**) For your work, he will lie, rob, cheat, and steal your very souls—my "Boss" offers you eternal life!

Mr. Barry Down: That's ridiculous! Come on Dee, lets catch the next down elevator!

(Mr. Barry Down and Mrs. Dee Manning try to leave through "Paradise" door, but door won't open)

Big Ben: Try the other door! You'll *never* get through that one!

(Mr. Barry Down and Mrs. Dee Manning exit through "World" door)

(Mr. Terry Knot, carrying a pulpit, enters through "World" door)

Big Ben: Hi, Terry! I see that you came prepared to practice some more! Why more practice—don't you think you've practiced enough? It's been five years since God called you to preach to the people. Isn't it time for you to leave the workshop and go out into the real world? What are you waiting for?

Mr. Terry Knot: I know it's time, Ben . . . I know! But I've been waiting for just the right church—I want the one on Eden street where I grew up. The people there are so Spirit-filled and on fire for God—it's every pastor's dream. I think Pastor Johnson might retire at the end of the year and the position will be available.

Big Ben: Didn't God already give you a church? The big red one over in Hades Town?

Mr. Terry Knot: Yes, but I think He overestimated my qualifications. That church is filled with sinners. The only reason they attend church is to give the pastor a rough time in the hope that he will resign. Then they can get the church building for their own evil purposes. Some, I understand, have even talked about starting Bingo games there. Ben, there's no way I would want to be pastor of that church and walk all alone into that mess.

Big Ben: But Terry, you wouldn't be alone—God will be with you every step of the way. With God at your side and the power of the Holy Spirit, you could bring about great changes! Whenever we encounter evil, God is offering us an opportunity to minister. Those lost souls in Hades Town are crying out for the truth—the real truth! Jesus is their only hope and it's up to you to show them the way and make them realize it. They have to know that He is alive—they need to know it now! Don't you see that Hades Town is where you are really needed—not the church on Eden Street?

(Worker #1 stands)

Worker #1: Ben, I think I know how he feels. There is a family in my neighborhood that I know God wants me to witness to. The problem is . . . I know the minute I mention Jesus' name, they'll throw me out. The funny thing is that they are such good people. In fact, one of their sons saved my daughter from drowning in Benson's pond. If he hadn't been there to pull her out . . . I owe him so much . . .

Big Ben: Not only him! You also owe the whole family the right to hear the truth about Jesus before it's too late! You've been waiting a long time to talk to them about salvation. **(Looks at clock)** Stop procrastinating! The time is now! Both of you—hurry up—take the word to the world! **(Points to "World" door)**

(Mr. Terry Knot, carrying pulpit, walks slowly toward "World" door but does not exit. Worker #4 enters through "World" door and punches in on "Time" clock)

Big Ben: **(Starts to speak to Worker #4)** Hello Mr. . . .

(If not using automated clock, Worker #4 moves hands on "World" clock to "Zero" and changes sign above it from "World" clock to "Jesus is Lord.")

If using automated clock and sign, it is done from offstage.
Big Ben, Mr. Knot, and workers #1, #2, #3, and #4 "Freeze"
in position—trapped in a motionless state)

Leader: This clearly demonstrates that we do not know the time allotted to us! **(Slight pause)** If, through death, your allotted time ran out today—could you say, "I'm ready!" If Jesus should return today—could you say to Him, "I'm ready!" **(Slight pause)**
(Pastor may now want to say a few words. If not, leader may dismiss congregation) Our skit is over and you are dismissed. I ask that, as you leave, you think about your preparation of others and yourself for eternity.

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