

TO THE RESCUE
A Christian Musical

Book, Music, and Lyrics by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

TO THE RESCUE

Pearl is a 20 - 45 year old woman. She is jovial, but with a healthy portion of sarcastic wit and sass. She appears to be homeless.

Harry is a male, 20 - 40 years old. He is polite and funny. He is a blues guitar-playing street performer.

Carol is a 40 - 45 year old woman. She is a married stay-at-home mother of teenage daughter. She is rich and somewhat of a self-centered snob.

Beth is a 13 - 16 year old girl. She is sweet, but a bit spoiled.

Frank is a 25 - 45 year old male. He is reserved and somewhat downtrodden.

David is a 20 year old male. He is energetic and works as a bike messenger when not attending classes as a college student.

Richard is a 50 - 70 year old male. He has a grumpy, irritated demeanor.

PJ / Businessman 1 - PJ is the angel of worship; actor plays a businessman in the first scene

Grace / Tourist - Grace is the angel of forgiveness and fellowship; actor plays a tourist in the first scene

Sal / Vendor - Sal is the angel of salvation; actor plays a vendor in the first scene

Karen / Businesswoman 1 - Karen is the angel of ministry and service; actor plays a businesswoman in the first scene

Sharon / Businesswoman 2 - Sharon is the angel of spreading the gospel; actor plays a businesswoman in the first scene

SETTING AND TIME**TO THE RESCUE**Time

The entire show takes place on a single weekday morning in the recent past.

Setting

Scene 1 takes place outside of a large office building in New York City.

Scene 2 takes place inside a large office building in New York City, specifically in the elevator corridor and inside an elevator.

Scene 3 takes place in an open green area in Central Park, New York City.

Scene 1

(The show opens outside of a large office building in 21st century New York City. Outside of the building entrance is a homeless lady (Pearl) handing out words of wisdom from her shopping cart, and a guitar playing street performer wearing an Angels baseball cap (Harry), who strums some blues chords. A Vendor (Vendor) is selling soda cans, bagels, donuts, and croissants out of a small cart. A businesswoman (Businesswoman 1) enters. The sounds of traffic and morning city noise are heard.)

(Music cue for start of "**MORNING IN THE CITY**", which includes underscoring during dialogue sections)

VENDOR:

CABS GO BY, SUBWAYS ROLL
THE CITY COMES ALIVE

(Acknowledging the people on the street.)

THEY FILL THE STREET
THEN TRY TO BEAT
THE DAILY NINE TO FIVE

THE START OF THE MORNING
PUTS MONEY IN THE TIN
THEY GRAB A BITE
AND THEN TAKE FLIGHT
BEFORE THEIR JOBS BEGIN

BUSINESSWOMAN 1:

THAT'S HOW I START MY DAY
RUSHING AND RACING, RUNNING LATE
DECKED OUT IN CORPORATE GRAY
BARELY AWAKE, BUT LOOKING GREAT

(To Vendor) Let me have a bagel with cream cheese please.

HARRY:

Morning, Pearl!

PEARL:

Good morning, Harry. Looks like we have a busy day ahead of us.

(Businesswoman 1 hands Vendor money, Vendor gives Businesswoman 1 her order)

(Businessman 1 and Businesswoman 2 enter separately dressed in business attire.)

HARRY:

Yup. At least we have a beautiful, clear sky today.

PEARL:

Enjoy it while it lasts, I say.

(Pearl hands a note card to Businesswoman 2 as she passes by. The businesswoman stops to read Pearl's sign before reading the card.)

BUSINESSWOMAN 2:

What's this?

PEARL:

I'm Pearl, and that's one of my Pearls of Wisdom.

BUSINESSWOMAN 2:

(Reading) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God". (Pause) What 60s hippie said that?

PEARL:

Actually, Jesus said it.

BUSINESSWOMAN 2:

Oh!

(Businesswoman 2 walks away a bit annoyed.)

BUSINESSMAN 2:

(To Harry) Don't you think you'd be more popular if you wore a Yankees or Mets cap?

HARRY:

What can I say, I've always been an Angels fan.

BUSINESSMAN 2:

Do you know "Stairway to Heaven"?

HARRY:

Sure do, like the back of my hand.

(The volume of the piano accompaniment lowers to barely audible, while Harry plays a line of Amazing Grace on his guitar and sings along.)

BUSINESSMAN 2:

That's not "Stairway to Heaven".

HARRY:

Is in my book.

(Businessman 2 waves off Harry in frustration. Businessman 2 and Businesswoman 2 silently greet each other and exit through the revolving door.)

(Carol and Beth enter, marveling at the skyscrapers. Beth is taking photos.)

CAROL:

Come on Beth, we have a lot planned for today.

(Beth takes a photo of Pearl.)

BETH:

Which building does Uncle Max work in?

(Carol points to the main building.)

CAROL:

I'm pretty sure it's this one.

(Beth pauses again to take a picture of the building her mother pointed to.)

TOURIST:

(To Carol) Do you know where I can catch the subway to Times Square?

BETH:

No, sorry. We're from Ohio.

(Tourist stops by Vendor to silently ask directions, then exits the stage.)

CAROL:

HURRY UP, DON'T DELAY
THE TIME IS RUSHING BY
WE'VE THINGS TO SEE

BETH:

JUST WAIT FOR ME
THE BUILDINGS TOUCH THE SKY

(Beth takes photos of the tall buildings.)

BETH:

THE THRILL OF THE MORNING
WITH SO MUCH TO TAKE IN
UNLIKE MY SCHOOL
IT'S ALL SO COOL
SO LET THE DAY BEGIN

CAROL/BETH:

THAT'S HOW WE START OUR DAY
RUSHING AND RACING, RUNNING LATE
WE'RE HERE FOR FUN AND PLAY
MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FILL OUR PLATE

(Richard enters with a large coffee cup, moving rather gingerly. David enters on his messenger bike, narrowly missing Richard, who moves to avoid getting run over and then gives David a nasty stare.)

RICHARD:

(To David) Hey, watch where you're going!!

(David parks his bike close to Pearl and takes a package out of his backpack).

DAVID:

My bad, man.

RICHARD:

(Under his breath) Stupid kid.

(Frank enters holding a newspaper and looking tired.)

DAVID:

(To Pearl) May I leave this here for a few minutes while I run inside?

PEARL:

I'll be glad to watch it for you, honey.

DAVID:

Thanks. You're an angel.

FRANK:

OFF THE TRAIN, OFF TO WORK
THE SLEEPING CITY WAKES

DAVID:

MY JOB'S A RACE
I MUST KEEP PACE
WHATEVER TOLL IT TAKES

RICHARD:

THE RUSH OF THE MORNING
TAKES COFFEE ON THE RUN
IT STIRS THE MIND

FRANK:

AND THEN YOU FIND

DAVID:

THE CHAOS HAS BEGUN

THAT'S HOW I START MY DAY
RUSHING AND RACING, RUNNING LATE

FRANK:

WORK HARD TO EARN MY PAY

RICHARD:

EV'RYTHING ELSE WILL HAVE TO WAIT

(Everyone except for Pearl and Harry freezes.)

PEARL:

BUT DON'T THEY SEE THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO LIVE

PEARL/HARRY:

THEY HAVE SO MANY GIFTS THAT THEY HAVE YET TO GIVE

PEARL:

IF THEY WOULD JUST SLOW DOWN AND LET THEIR TALENTS SHOW

PEARL/HARRY:

THEN THEY WOULD LEARN THINGS THAT THEY NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D
KNOW

(Everyone unfreezes. Vendor pushes his cart off-stage.)

(Frank stops when he notices Pearl and Harry.)

FRANK:

Morning to you both. I haven't seen you here before.

HARRY:

First day in this spot.

FRANK:

Not asking for tips?

HARRY:

Nope, just hoping to inspire people.

PEARL:

Here you go?

(Pearl hands Frank a note card.)

FRANK:

"In Christ, you are redeemed, forgiven, and freed".
(To Pearl) Thanks. (To himself) If only I could believe
that.

CAROL/BETH:

THAT'S HOW WE START OUR DAY

RICHARD:

RUSHING AND RACING, RUNNING LATE
I'M OFF

FRANK/DAVID:

TO WORK

CAROL/BETH:

TO PLAY

FRANK/DAVID/RICHARD/CAROL/BETH:

TRYING TO KEEP MY HEAD ON STRAIGHT

THAT'S HOW I START MY DAY
RUSHING AND RACING, RUNNING LATE
ONCE MORE INTO THE FRAY
EV'RYTHING ELSE WILL HAVE TO WAIT

(Carol, Beth, David, Richard, and Frank all enter the front door of an office building. Pearl exits with her cart and David's bike. Harry exits with his guitar.)

(End of Song - "Morning in the City")

Scene 2

(The setting switches to inside the building. The five wait for an elevator. David pushes the UP button.)

FRANK:

These elevators seem to take forever when you're running behind.

BETH:

What floor do we want, Mom?

CAROL:

The 42nd, dear.

(The elevator door opens, they enter, push their buttons, and the door closes. The scene is staged so that you can still see the five occupants.)

DAVID:

Can someone hit thirteen for me please?

(The others glare at him.)

Just kidding.

(Suddenly, a loud "crunch" noise is heard and the elevator stops.)

RICHARD:

For God's sake, what now?

DAVID:

Aw, man, I'm already running behind.

BETH:

What happened?

CAROL:

It's probably just a temporary glitch. I'm sure we'll be on our way soon.

FRANK:

I just started this job and can't afford to be late.

RICHARD:

We all have places to be. I've got an appointment to keep.

(There are about 10 seconds of uncomfortable silence. David moves to the front and tries unsuccessfully to pry open the door.)

DAVID:

Well..., it looks like we might be stuck here for a little while.

BETH:

Now we're going to be late for our tour at 11:00!

CAROL:

It'll be okay, Beth. Just be patient.

RICHARD:

Tourists!

CAROL:

Hey, we tourists spend a lot of money in this city. What would this place be like without visitors willing to shell out money?

RICHARD:

More tolerable for those of us who live here. Why are you in this elevator anyway? Shouldn't you be in school? Surely classes must have started already.

BETH:

They have, but I go to a private school, and they didn't have a problem with me taking time off for a family vacation. My uncle works in the building. It's my first time in New York City. We got here yesterday morning. We went shopping on Fifth Avenue for hours. I can't wait to see all the sights. We're going to the Statue of Liberty tomorrow, and a couple of Broadway shows during the week. We might even try to get on the Today show! And, we're going to drop off some headshots and my demo CD to a few talents agencies too.

RICHARD:

Oh, how gloriously wonderful!

CAROL:

Well, excuse us!

RICHARD:

I wish I could!

DAVID:

Cut them some slack, man.

RICHARD:

And you! You almost ran me over on your bike.

DAVID:

Sorry about that. I've got a morning's worth of deliveries to make, and, as usual, I'm in a rush.

FRANK:

Hey, David! Have anything for us?

DAVID:

Hi Frank! Nope, not this time.

FRANK:

(to the others) I work in one of the mail rooms.

RICHARD:

(looking down in Frank's hand) What's a mail clerk doing reading the Wall Street Journal?

FRANK:

Well, I don't plan on being in the mail room for long. I was once a manager in an office, but...I'm sort of starting over right now.

RICHARD:

Okay, whatever. Why don't we just all agree to leave the chit-chat for later, and calmly and quietly wait for this thing to start moving.

(After a more few seconds of uncomfortable silence, the lights go out in the elevator - Blackout.)

BETH:

(in a quick, high-pitched scream of surprise) Ahhh!

RICHARD:

Oh, great!

FRANK:

Well, at least now you can pretend to be alone.

BETH:

Mom, what's happening?

CAROL:

I'm not sure, honey, but I'm certain everything will be okay.

PEARL:

Yes, it will be.

DAVID:

Who said that?

(The lights come back on. Pearl and Harry, now dressed in white, are in the elevator.)

PEARL/HARRY:

We did!

RICHARD:

Who are you, and how did you get in here?

HARRY:

We're here to rescue you.

BETH:

Are we in danger?

PEARL:

Well, that depends on what you mean.

RICHARD:

You don't look like you're from the fire department, or building maintenance.

HARRY:

We didn't say we were.

CAROL:

Then who are you?

HARRY:

We were sent here by God to talk to you.

RICHARD:

(Sarcastically) Oh great! Just what we need - missionaries!!

PEARL:

Well, not the type you're thinking of. You may find this hard to believe, but we're angels!

RICHARD:

Oh, and I'm the Queen of England.

(David sarcastically bows in Richard's direction.)

FRANK:

You two were sitting outside the building just a few minutes ago.

HARRY:

Yes sir!

FRANK:

Well, how on earth did you get in here?

PEARL:

Well, like we said before, we're messengers from God.

RICHARD:

No really, who are you?

PEARL:

Okay, you got us. I'm actually Siegfried.

HARRY:

And I'm Roy. We're practicing our latest illusion. How do you like it?

BETH:

Mom, are they really angels?

CAROL:

I have no idea, honey.

PEARL:

You know, it's a little tight in here. Let's all go somewhere a bit more comfortable where we can relax and talk?

HARRY:

Sounds good to me.

(Blackout) Heavenly voices singing are heard during the blackout.)

(Music cue for start of "**HALLELUJAH**")

CHORUS ANGELS (PJ, Karen, Sharon, Grace, Sal):

HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH
HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME

HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH
HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME

PRAISE HIS GOODNESS, PRAISE THE KING
LIFT YOUR VOICES, LET THEM RING
PRAISE HIS MERCY, PRAISE THE LORD
LIFT YOUR VOICE IN ONE ACCORD

HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH
HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME
PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME

(End of Song - "Hallelujah")

Scene 3

(The lights come up to reveal the seven characters now on a flat, grassy meadow with a few trees, a few benches, two trunks, and a picnic basket. The five angels (in addition to Pearl and Harry) enter as the scene begins and sit down on the trunks. They are also dressed in white.)

BETH:

Oh my God, it's amazing!

CAROL:

Well, how about that. Thanks to Jesus. (pause)(To Pearl)
You guys do work for Jesus, right?

PEARL:

Sure do!

CAROL:

That's a relief. With so many other religions out there,
you sometimes wonder if the one you believe is right.

PEARL:

Jesus is our Lord, the only Son of God. There's no doubt
about it.

BETH:

Is this heaven?

FRANK:

No, it's Central Park, right?

HARRY:

Yup!

RICHARD:

(To Harry) Hey, if this is a dream, I'd really like to wake
up now.

(Harry pinches Richard.)

HARRY:

It's no dream, Richard.

RICHARD:

How do you know my name?

HARRY:

(Looking at Richard with a smirk) Because we're angels.

PEARL:

And we also have Beth, Carol, Frank, and David.

HARRY:

And I'm Harry, and she's Pearl.

FRANK:

Why have you brought us here?

HARRY:

To help.

RICHARD:

What if we don't need your help?

(Harry and Pearl glare at Richard for a second.)

RICHARD:

Okay, well, what if we don't want your help?

PEARL:

I really think you'd benefit from hearing what we have to say.

RICHARD:

Just my luck that I'd get stuck in the elevator that you chose for your little sermons.

PEARL:

It's not luck. You were on the agenda for today.

DAVID:

Hey, can I ask how long this is going to take? I really need to finish my route. And what is today, Tuesday? I have classes starting at one.

HARRY:

Isn't it worth the wait to meet real angels face-to-face?

PEARL:

Yeah, we usually work behind the scenes so folks never even know we're there.

DAVID:

Then why did you choose to talk to us face-to-face?

PEARL:

Well, *some people* (pausing to look at Richard) need to see things with their own eyes to believe them.

(Richard's face shows obvious anger.)

BETH:

(Motioning to the five chorus angels) Who are they?

HARRY:

They're other angels who'll be helping us today. We have PJ, Sharon, Karen, Sal, and Grace.

(Carol pauses as she studies the angels for a few seconds.)

CAROL:

(To Pearl) Don't you know you're not supposed to wear white after Labor Day?

DAVID:

Seven angels for five people? We must really need some serious help!

RICHARD:

Look, before you begin this "help", I need to know.... why today, why now, why us?

PEARL:

Glad you asked. Everybody have a seat and listen closely.

(The five humans sit down around the picnic area.)

(Music cue for start of "A NEW BEGINNING")

PEARL:

PLEASE KNOW THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU
TO HELP ACHIEVE HIS WILL
YOU'LL FIND TRUE MEANING IN HIS PLAN
A PURPOSE TO FULFILL

THE ROAD AHEAD IS LONG AND HARD
A HUMBLE PATH TO TAKE
BUT YOU'LL GROW CLOSER TO OUR LORD
WITH EV'RY MOVE YOU MAKE

SO LET THIS BE A NEW BEGINNING
AS WE TOGETHER LEARN WHAT'S REALLY TRUE
THOUGH THIS WHOLE THING MAY SEEM STRANGE
HE CAN HELP YOU MAKE A CHANGE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE IN ALL YOU DO

NOW KNOW THAT YOU ARE CALLED TO SERVE
HIS PEOPLE, YOURS TO CARE
AND SPREAD SALVATION'S SAVING GRACE
HIS MESSAGE, YOURS TO SHARE

EACH PERSON LIVING OUT THEIR FAITH
IN FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE
TO GIVE HIM HONOR, GLORY, PRAISE
TO WORSHIP GOD ABOVE

THIS DAY WILL BE A NEW BEGINNING
IF YOU SURRENDER ALL THAT LIMITS YOU
THERE IS PEACE YOU CAN OBTAIN
IN HIS CARE YOU WILL REMAIN
AND SEIZE THE CHANCE TO START ANEW

(Pearl now speaks while the music softens. The five chorus angels appear and lay their hands on the shoulders of all the "humans" except for Richard.)

PEARL:

I want us all to hold hands and pray with me as we start this journey together.

(They take each other's hands, though Richard does so reluctantly.)

PEARL:

Dearest Lord Jesus, please guide these people to see Your will. Strengthen their faith, bring them closer to You. Allow them to make a true difference in the world. Amen.

PJ:

(Loudly) Praise Jesus!!

(They break hands, the music gets louder, and Pearl begins to sing again.)

PEARL:

SO LET US START THIS NEW BEGINNING
ALLOW THE LORD TO SEE HIS LOVE SHINE THROUGH
IF YOU'LL ONLY LOOK INSIDE
AND LET US BE YOUR GUIDE
IT IS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO
PLEASE KNOW THAT WHAT WE SAY IS TRUE
A NEW BEGINNING'S HERE FOR YOU

(End of Song - "A New Beginning")

HARRY:

We'd like to talk with each of you individually. We want to help you discover how God wants to use your life. So, who wants to go first?

BETH:

Oh, me, me, me!

PEARL:

Just what I like, an eager soul.

BETH:

Can I ask a question first though?

PEARL:

Sure.

BETH:

Isn't Harry a funny name for an angel?

HARRY:

Well, my actual name is Harold.

DAVID:

Harold?

HARRY:

Yes, Harold? Don't you know the song about me?

DAVID:

What song?

HARRY:

"Hark the Harold, Angels Sing".

RICHARD:

So that's what passes for humor in heaven, huh?

PEARL:

Don't listen to him. He's always telling the worst jokes! So Beth, tell me, what's important to you? What do you want to do with your life?

BETH:

I want to be a singer and dancer. I want to be heard on the radio, and play to sold-out concerts. I want to be the next big star.

RICHARD:

(Mockingly) Oh, because we all know that rock stars are the best and most devout Christians around.

CAROL:

Watch how you speak to my daughter, sir! She's very talented and I have little doubt she'll be a star.

HARRY:

It's okay for everyone to share their opinions and ideas here, but please do so politely.

DAVID:

Beth, I'm sure you know a person's chances of making it big in showbiz are really small. Even if you're talented, it's a long shot at best.

BETH:

People keep doubting me. Some of my friends say the same thing. And I'm sick of it.

(Music cue for start of "*SING AND DANCE*")

BETH:

JUST TAKE A LOOK
 I'LL PROVE YOU WRONG
 I'LL MOVE MY FEET
 I'LL SING MY SONG
 TO GIVE SOME VALIDATION
 I'LL GIVE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION

ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO
 IS SING AND DANCE
 DON'T COUNT ME OUT
 WITH JUST ONE GLANCE
 AMBITION'S NOT A CRIME
 JUST GIVE ME AMPLE TIME
 CAUSE ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SING AND DANCE

IN NO TIME FLAT
 I'LL STAKE MY CLAIM
 SOON EV'RYONE
 WILL KNOW MY NAME
 I'VE GOT THE MOTIVATION
 TO BE AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION

ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO
 IS SING AND DANCE
 I'LL MAKE IT BIG
 I'LL GRAB MY CHANCE
 THE CRITICS ALL WILL SAY
 THIS KID IS HERE TO STAY
 CAUSE ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SING AND DANCE

(Optional dance break for Beth.)

JUST WATCH ME NOW
 I'M GOIN' FAR
 WITH FAME AND CASH
 I'LL BE A STAR
 WITH GREAT DETERMINATION
 I'LL GAIN THE WORLD'S APPRECIATION

ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO
IS SING AND DANCE
NO TIME FOR FUN
OR SWEET ROMANCE
I'LL BE AN INSTANT HIT
I'M NEVER GONNA QUIT
CAUSE ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SING AND DANCE
YES, ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SING AND DANCE
I SAID, ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS SING AND DANCE

(End of Song - "Sing and Dance")

PEARL:

Honey, do you know that you just fulfilled Scripture?

BETH:

Really? How?

PEARL:

The Bible talks about "entertaining angels", and you just did!

PJ:

Amen!

HARRY:

Let's see what our esteemed panel of judges thought.

SAL:

Dawg, you did your thing!! Good job! Way to keep it real.

KAREN:

I just loved it! The singing was heavenly, like all the brilliant colors of a rainbow. You make me smile!

(Grace glares at Karen for a few seconds with an "I can't believe you are that cheesy" stare.)

GRACE:

(With a British accent) I thought it was just okay. Not bad, but nothing spectacular. Maybe a bit self-centered.

BETH:

Umm...okay.

HARRY:

Beth, what's important to you regarding your faith?

BETH:

Well, I'm involved with my church youth group, and my friends at school know I'm a Christian. And I'm one of the only teenagers I know who reads the Bible ... sometimes.

PEARL:

Well, that's great. But we're a bit concerned about your desire to get fame and fortune from your talents.

HARRY:

Have you ever considered using your God given talents to worship Him?

CAROL:

And how is she supposed to do that?

HARRY:

PJ, why don't you take that question?

PJ:

She could sing in church.

BETH:

In my church, all they ever sing are hundred year old hymns. The music I like to sing isn't considered Christian by most people there. My friends from youth group and I call them the "Frozen Chosen".

PJ:

You know, there isn't such a thing as Christian or non-Christian music, only Christian and non-Christian lyrics. You could offer to sing something in church, maybe something more in your style? Someone out there may connect to the messages you share with your music in a new and exciting way.

BETH:

I know a lot of churches are starting to include more contemporary music in their worship services. I don't think it's something they'd try at mine.

PEARL:

Couldn't hurt to ask.

PJ:

God loves it when people praise and worship Him, and I don't just mean on Sunday mornings. Expressing your love to Him by using your talents is certainly a wonderful start, and that's just the start. God wants you to be thankful for all of the things you have, and to live out that gratitude through your love, devotion, and obedience around the clock. He wants a real relationship with you.

PEARL:

However you end up using your talents and whatever comes of your dreams of becoming a star, use your gifts for the sake of the Lord and to worship Him. Just know that yearning to be rich and well-known shouldn't be your goal. God's Word says that you can shine like a star for all eternity if you live for Christ and be a light to others.

CAROL:

Why shouldn't my daughter want to be able to live the best life she can? If she can use her God given talents to earn enough money to live a life with certain benefits, I say that's her right and "good for her". Anyway, my husband and I have already shown her the good life, and it's not her fault if she aspires to that same type of life. And, we do try to express our appreciation for everything we have.

PEARL:

Earn the right to a good, easy life?

CAROL:

Well, my husband works hard and has a very important job. If his income reflects that hard work and important job status, then I feel that this is the Lord's way of telling me I should enjoy those blessings.

HARRY:

Would you mind explaining that a bit more?

(Music cue for start of "**THANK THE LORD**")

CAROL:

THROUGH DISCRETIONARY SPENDING
AND INCOME NEVER ENDING
WE KNOW OUR LIVES AND FUTURES HAVE BEEN BLESSED

IF WE CAN TRAVEL ON A WHIM
THEN WE GIVE DUE THANKS TO HIM
BECAUSE OUR BANK ACCOUNTS ARE NOT DISTRESSED

IF WE DON'T QUITE FEEL ENTITLED
PERHAPS A BIT UNBRIDLED
BUT DON'T FORGET THAT SOME OF IT WAS EARNED

AND IF WE OFTEN REACH OUR DREAMS
WE'RE MORE HUMBLE THAN IT SEEMS
FOR GRATITUDE IS SOMETHING WE HAVE LEARNED

AND WE TRULY THANK THE LORD
THROUGH THESE GIFTS, HE DOES REWARD
AND FOR ALL OUR HEALTH, AND ALL OUR WEALTH
WE THANK THE LORD

THOUGH YOU MAY SAY WE ARE SPOILED
WITH CREDIT CARDS WELL-OILED
WE'RE NOT TO BLAME FOR LIVING FREE FROM STRIFE

SO IS IT WRONG TO MEET OUR NEEDS
AS WE CULTIVATE THE SEEDS
THAT GOD SO WISELY PLANTED IN OUR LIFE

AND WE TRULY THANK THE LORD
THROUGH THESE GIFTS, HE DOES REWARD
AND FOR ALL OUR HEALTH, AND ALL OUR WEALTH
WE THANK THE LORD

RICHARD:

NOW IF GOD REALLY DOES EXIST
THEN THERE'S A LESSON YOU HAVE MISSED
AND DON'T YOU FEEL YOU OWE HIM SOMETHING MORE

YOU MUSTN'T CALL A WANT A NEED
SO YOU CAN JUSTIFY YOUR GREED
YOUR SELFISH PRIDE IS TOO GREAT TO IGNORE

AS YOU SAY YOU THANK THE LORD
FOR THE STUFF YOU CAN AFFORD
YOU FEEL FREE FROM SHAME, AND FREE FROM BLAME
AND THANK THE LORD

(End of Song - "Thank The Lord")

PEARL:

Well, that was, ... revealing.

CAROL:

(To Richard) I don't appreciate your judgmental input, by the way.

HARRY:

(To Richard) Yes, we're surprised to hear you arguing that point.

RICHARD:

(To Harry) Well, I'm not prepared to say you "angels" are real, but I know enough about what Christians believe to know that she's missing the point. I figure if they're allowed to "enlighten" you, I can too.

BETH:

They're angels, with divine insight.

RICHARD:

Whatever.

HARRY:

(To Carol) But he's right, you know. Saying you're grateful is fine and dandy, but God wants more than just words.

DAVID:

We're all called by God to serve others.

PEARL:

Look, God wants all of you to enjoy the material blessings He's given you. But He also wants you to have hearts on fire for Him. Carol, you say you're grateful.

CAROL:

I am.

PEARL:

How do you show that in your actions?

CAROL:

Well, I...I help out with a few fundraisers with my church's women's group. The money goes to some type of charity.

PEARL:

And? (Pause) Look, there are lots of ways to get actively involved in helping others. When you demonstrate your faith, even indirectly, people learn about Jesus.

HARRY:

What material things in your life could you live without?

CAROL:

Look, I know that I drive a fancy car, own expensive jewelry, and eat what some would consider lavish meals.

RICHARD:

(Sarcastically, in a snobby voice) Don't forget about the spa treatments and the designer clothes.

CAROL:

Now that's not fair.

HARRY:

Look, we're just trying to ask everyone to think about the choices they make. Carol, if you spent some of the time and money you spend enjoying those "discretionary" items, and instead used them to help others, don't you think you could make a positive difference in people's lives?

CAROL:

I suppose I could, but I just don't know if I can change.

DAVID:

I make deliveries of free medicine to cancer and AIDS patients who can't get out to pick it up. (David moves over to Richard and places his hands on Richard's shoulders.) I also try to spend time with the elderly ... at the nursing home close to my house.

(Richard is annoyed at being the brunt of the joke.)

FRANK:

I work at my local homeless shelter two times a month.

PEARL:

(To Richard) And how about you, Richard?

RICHARD:

Believe it or not, I help run a clothing drive for veterans each year.

PEARL:

Carol, I'm sure you're familiar with the Scriptures that talk about storing up your treasure in heaven, right?

CAROL:

Yes....sort of.

PEARL:

Karen, would you mind explaining?

KAREN:

Imagine that a box existed that held the treasures each person amassed here on earth, and another one for the treasures they've stored up in heaven. Let's take a look at what we might find in the boxes of a typical well-off American.

SHARON:

(Standing over one of the open trunks) Well, here in the earthly treasure box, we have a Rolex watch, some Jimmy Choo shoes, a beach house on Hilton Head, the latest electronic gadgets, and lots more stuff. The box is almost full.

KAREN:

Sparkling garbage!

CAROL:

Sparkling garbage? Why did you call it that?

KAREN:

Because when this world passes away, it will all be turned into trash. What's in the other box?

PJ:

(Standing over the other open trunk) Well, we've got a few acts of charity and some good deeds on the behalf of others. And there are a few nominal donations to support some worthy causes. But, there's room for a lot more.

KAREN:

Most people today put too much value on earthly material goods, and give too little time or effort towards helping those around them. It's easy to get distracted and spoiled by the accumulation of wealth too.

PEARL:

Richard, you can attest to what people will spend on material stuff, right?

RICHARD:

Well, yes. I'm a gemologist. I've traveled the world in search of precious stones and jewels. I've seen the thousands, even millions of dollars people will pay for such gems.

HARRY:

Yes, but at the end of the day, those gems are really nothing more than pretty rocks.

CAROL:

Look, I don't mind donating some additional money for some good causes, and I can try to look for more opportunities to help here and there. But, I'm very set in my ways, and it would take a big sacrifice to change my lifestyle to the degree you're suggesting.

PEARL:

Sacrifice! Now you're talkin'! That's the whole point! Think about the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross?

CAROL:

Well, that's different.

PEARL:

Not really! You're called to humble yourself, and to surrender your own selfish wishes to do God's will.

(Music cue for start of "*THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES*")

HARRY:

COMF'TABLE AND COZY
 YOU JUST WANT MORE STUFF
 ALL YOUR PRIZED POSSESSIONS
 IT'S NEVER ENOUGH
 LOOKIN' FOR FULFILLMENT
 BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE
 INSTEAD YOU CHOOSE
 THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES

GOOD HEALTH, EDUCATION
 HOUSING, CLOTHING, FOOD
 FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION
 PILLS TO HELP YOUR MOOD
 YOU TAKE IT ALL FOR GRANTED
 WHEN DOES HE GET HIS DUE
 INSTEAD YOU CHOOSE
 THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES

YOU ARE CALLED TO SERVICE
 HUMBLY IN HIS NAME
 THINKING MORE OF OTHERS
 NOT OF GREED OR FAME
 CHANGE THE WORLD FOR BETTER
 IF YOU FOLLOW OUR CUE
 THAT'S HOW TO LOSE
 THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES

POVERTY AND HUNGER
 FAMINE, WAR, DISEASE
 THIS WORLD'S MANY PROBLEMS
 PUT YOU ILL AT EASE
 SPEND SOME TIME IN SERVICE
 SEE WHAT GOOD IT CAN DO
 THAT'S HOW TO LOSE
 THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES
 CAUSE YOU'VE JUST GOT THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES

CAROL/BETH:

YES, WE'VE JUST GOT THE GOOD-LIFE SPOILED BLUES

(End of Song - "The Good Life Spoiled Blues")

FRANK:

(To Carol) Don't you see the things that we all take for granted in our lives? Our freedom, our health, our opportunities for education and good jobs.

KAREN:

As Americans living in the 21st Century, you have so many luxuries that people even 30 years ago couldn't have imagined. It's so easy to be seduced into living a life of ease if you have the money to do so.

PJ:

Even today, there are people in this world that live in poverty who would gladly work just as hard as your husband, and who are just as smart too.

BETH:

I bet they're grateful for just having the bare essentials of life.

CAROL:

I do miss that feeling you get from doing something for others out of the kindness of your heart, and not out of guilt or just to look good. I did a lot of volunteer work when I was in college. I guess that I've gotten too wrapped up in myself and my standard of living, and missed the big picture. Here I am worrying about living without my sports car and diamonds. I'm so sorry for my selfishness. I pray that the Lord will forgive me and give me strength to make changes in my life.

BETH:

And mine too.

HARRY:

He already has. Let me tell you, all this work is makin' me hungry. Anyone else want something to eat?

(Harry opens up the picnic basket.)

DAVID:

What's the grub?

HARRY:

Well, since it's still early in the day, and we're angels, we've got bagels and donuts.

DAVID:

What do bagels and donuts have to do with you being angels?

HARRY:

They're "holy"!

PEARL:

(Lifting her arms towards the sky) Help me Lord.

HARRY:

Well, I just love earthly food. Fried chicken's my favorite.

DAVID:

KFC?

HARRY:

Actually, I prefer Church's!

(Harry pulls out a bucket of Church's chicken.)

DAVID:

Fast food! That's my style. I'm always on the go. I can't tell you the last time I sat down to a decent meal. I still live with my parents, and my mom's always yelling at me for never being home to eat.

PEARL:

Don't you think you should slow down?

DAVID:

Who's got the time?

(Music cue for start of "ON THE RUN")

DAVID:

IN MY JOB, SPEED'S ESSENTIAL
A CRAZY, HECTIC PACE
DELIVERING THEIR LETTERS
WITH DEADLINES TO ERASE

(He mimes delivery of a package to one of the Angels.)

ON MY BIKE, I GO ZIPPING
THROUGH TRAFFIC, LEFT AND RIGHT
FROM ONE STOP TO ANOTHER
THEY SAY I'M QUITE THE SIGHT

I'M ON THE RUN
THE DAY HAS JUST BEGUN
I'M GOING FAST
THE TIME IS SPEEDING PAST
AND WHERE I GO
THE PEOPLE ALWAYS KNOW
I'M ON THE RUN
UNTIL THE RACE IS WON

I ALSO GO TO COLLEGE
TO WORK FOR MY DEGREE
I'M ENERGIZED AND WIRED
AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE

MY CLASSES GO BY SLOWLY
WHICHEVER ONE I'M IN
BUT WHEN THEY'RE DONE, I'M MOVING
I'M ON THE RUN AGAIN

I'M ON THE GO
I'M NEVER MOVIN' SLOW
MY FEET DON'T STOP
I GO UNTIL I DROP

MY LIFE'S A BLUR
THAT'S JUST HOW I PREFER
MY FUTURE'S MADE
IF I CAN MAKE THE GRADE

NOT ALL MY TIME'S SPENT WORKING
OR STUCK INSIDE A SCHOOL
I GO TO CHURCH TO WORSHIP
OBEY THE GOLDEN RULE

I TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TO SHOW THE LORD I CARE
I GIVE MY TIME TO OTHERS
AND KEEP IT ALL IN PRAYER

I'M ON THE RUN
IN SERVICE TO GOD'S SON
I DO MY PART
TO SHOW THE WORLD MY HEART
DO ALL I CAN
TO HELP ACHIEVE HIS PLAN
I'M ON THE RUN
TO GET THE LORD'S WORK DONE

I'M ON THE RUN
TO GET THE LORD'S WORK DONE

(End of Song - "On The Run")

PEARL:

That boy makes me tired just lookin' at him.

BETH:

Can I ask you a question?

PEARL:

Sure, fire away.

BETH:

Where are your wings?

(Pearl tilts the bucket and points inside.)

PEARL:

Well, right here's one dear.

HARRY:

And she criticizes my jokes.

PEARL:

(Kindly) You never mind those types of questions for now. All in due time.

HARRY:

(To David) Well, it's great to hear that you fit in some time for the Lord and His work in your busy schedule. Let me ask you something. What type of response do you get when you share your faith with the people on your route and at school?

BETH:

Yeah, that's always hard for me. I do it, but there are some people who get turned off by it, and it can be a scary thing to do.

DAVID:

Well..... I can't honestly say that I do *anything* to try to let those people know I'm a Christian or to help them to know Jesus. In my work, I'm usually in and out so fast that I don't get much of a chance to say more than "Hi" and "Bye". And at school, I know that most people my age aren't really into the church scene, so I don't bring up that part of my life.

SHARON:

Don't you see the chance you're missing though? Look, we know that most jobs don't allow for active evangelism. But if you slow down a bit and take the time to build more concrete relationships, you'd probably find the chance to share your faith with people just within the normal course of conversation.

DAVID:

Yeah, but being quick is what my job and personality are all about.

HARRY:

But Sharon is right. Look, what's more important, getting to the next delivery quicker or taking a few extra seconds to strengthen a friendship that could lead someone to know Jesus? And as far as your school goes, you'd be surprised how many people your age are looking for meaning and purpose in life.

SHARON:

And where can a person find more direction than from faith in Christ. Look, even if you don't feel comfortable going up to someone and saying "Hey! Do you want to hear about Jesus?", you can still let your actions and behavior show the character of your faith. You can let people know you're a Christian in ways that aren't threatening or overbearing. Establish that friendship first, and then let your faith shine through.

HARRY:

You have to remember what Jesus said in the Great Commission. He gave personal instructions to His followers to go out and do their part to bring others into His kingdom. Don't minimize the importance of this part of your faith.

(Music cue for start of "**SPREAD THE WORD**")

HARRY:

YOU GOTTA SPREAD THE WORD
SO IT IS HEARD
IN EACH AND EV'RY LAND

YOU GOTTA SPREAD THE WORD
DON'T BE DETERRED
SO PEOPLE UNDERSTAND

LET THE GOSPEL BE REVEALED
DO NOT LEAVE YOUR FAITH CONCEALED
LET THE PEOPLE BE PREPARED
AND LET SALVATION'S GRACE BE SHARED

YOU GOTTA MAKE IT KNOWN
THAT HE ALONE
CAN OPEN HEAVEN'S GATE

YOU GOTTA MAKE IT KNOWN
FOR HE HAS SHOWN
HIS KINGDOM'S WORTH THE WAIT

LET YOUR FAITH BE LIKE A LIGHT
LIKE A BEACON IN THE NIGHT
LET HIS MERCY SHINE THROUGH YOU
AND SHARE THE WORD YOU KNOW IS TRUE

YOUR MISSION CANNOT BE IGNORED
YOU OWE IT TO THE LORD
GO TELL THE BLESSED STORY
REFLECT THE SAVIOR'S GLORY

YOU GOTTA LIFT YOUR VOICE
LET'S ALL REJOICE
AND WATCH HIS KINGDOM GROW

YOU GOTTA LIFT YOUR VOICE
AND MAKE THE CHOICE
TO LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW

LET THE MESSAGE BE PROCLAIMED
DO NOT EVER BE ASHAMED
LET THE SPIRIT SHOW THE WAY
AND MAKE THE MOST OF EV'RY DAY

(End of Song - "Spread the Word")

DAVID:

Here I was thinking that I was doing all I should do as a Christian because I went to church, tried not to sin, and did work on behalf of others. I guess I missed a pretty important part.

SHARON:

The Bible only guarantees that three things are going to last forever; God, the Bible itself, and people. Since God and the Bible are already set, God wants you to invest your time, energy, and care into people. If just one person believes because you shared Jesus with them, then what you've done will last forever.

PEARL:

God clearly communicates to His people what he wants them to do with their lives and the eternal impact it can have on others. Everyone needs to do their part to share that message of love, sacrifice, service, worship, stewardship, and forgiveness with the world.

PJ:

Amen!!!

FRANK:

What if you don't deserve forgiveness? What if the things you've done are so bad that you can't fathom God's forgiveness, and you can't forgive yourself?

PEARL:

Is this a hypothetical question, or is there something you'd like to share with us?

FRANK:

I'm sure you already know.

HARRY:

Well, not everybody does.

FRANK:

I killed someone. (Pause) I had a good job as a middle manager in a corporation, and a fiancé. One afternoon after work, I went drinking with some co-workers. I didn't think about what might happen if I drove home. I never made it. I hit a girl on a bike. She was just fourteen years old. I have the memory of her limp, crumpled body ingrained in my mind. It pains me to no end knowing the suffering and grief I've caused her family.

PEARL:

Have you tried to deal with the pain? Haven't you sincerely accepted Christ and received the forgiveness that comes from Him?

FRANK:

I've tried to move on, and I do declare Jesus to be my Savior! But I have nightmares every single night. I relive that horrible event over and over again, reminding me of how unworthy I am of the Lord's love.

(Music cue for start of "**ONCE UPON A TIME**")

FRANK :

YOU REMEMBER THE SIGHT OF THE WRONG YOU HAD DONE
 YOUR CAR WAS AS DEADLY AS ANY GUN
 YOU REMEMBER THE PAIN WHEN YOU SAW HER LAST BREATH
 YOU KNOW YOU CAUSED A NEEDLESS DEATH
 YOU REMEMBER THE SHAME WHEN THEY READ YOU YOUR RIGHTS
 AND THE WAITING ALONE AND THE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

YOU BEGIN WITH DENIAL
 YOUR SMILE ENDS
 YOU DON'T PRETEND TO COMPREHEND
 ALL THIS GRIEF IN DISBELIEF
 YOU MISS THE LIFE THAT YOU ONCE HAD
 THAT'S NOW GONE BAD
 AT THE TRIAL FOR YOUR CRIME
 ONCE UPON A TIME

(The Chorus Angels mime a trial, with Frank the defendant.)

YOU ADMITTED YOUR GUILT TO A COURT OF YOUR PEERS
 THEN THEY SENT YOU TO JAIL FOR TWO LONG YEARS
 YOU REMEMBER THE LIFE YOU HAD BEFORE THAT DAY
 YOU WISH THE PAIN WOULD GO AWAY
 WHEN YOUR TIME HAS BEEN SERVED AND YOU'VE PAID YOUR DEBT
 THERE'S A FEELING OF GUILT THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET

YOU DECIDE TO CONTINUE
 BUT WHEN YOU TRY
 YOU START TO CRY, YOU CAN'T DENY
 WHAT YOU DID, YOU KILLED A KID
 INSTILLED A PAIN INSIDE YOUR HEART
 THAT WON'T DEPART
 ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH FOR YOUR CRIME

(A Chorus Angel lies beside a bike, Frank stands over her.)

ONCE UPON A TIME
 ONCE UPON A TIME
 ONCE UPON A TIME

(End of Song - "Once Upon A Time")

FRANK:

So you see, I ended a little girl's life. I destroyed a family's hopes and dreams. I actually got a letter from her parents. They said that they learned that I was a Christian. They thought that I was truly sorry and wrote that they had forgiven me. But I just can't seem to forgive myself or believe that God can forgive me either.

GRACE:

But don't you understand that everyone is unworthy of God's forgiveness? What God wants to tell you is that even though you did something terrible, His love is enough. His mercy is bigger than any sin.

HARRY:

Great point Grace! The sacrifice Jesus made for you isn't just for going to heaven after you die. It's for your life right now.

GRACE:

Our prayer is that you can accept that forgiveness Jesus has already given you. About those nightmares, maybe they'd go away if you finally accept God's forgiveness. Did you have one last night?

FRANK:

No, that's the strangest thing. I had the most vivid dream.

PEARL:

We know.

FRANK:

At first, I thought it was going to be another nightmare, but it wasn't.

(Music cue for start of "**THE JUDGMENT**")

FRANK :

I DREAMED I DIED AND STOOD BEFORE
GOD'S HOLY THRONE ON HIGH
WHERE SATAN LISTED ALL MY SINS
TO WHICH HE'D TESTIFY
THE MANY THINGS THAT I HAD DONE
WERE ONLY JUST A START
FOR THEN HE LISTED ALL THE SELFISH
MOTIVES OF MY HEART

"THE PENALTY IS DEATH," HE SAID
AS I BEGAN TO CRY
FOR I HAD FALLEN SHORT AND SO
I KNEW THAT I MUST DIE
BUT THEN THE HOLY WORD OF GOD
IT BRUSHED ASIDE MY SHAME
AS I RECALLED WHAT CHRIST HAD DONE
I STARTED TO PROCLAIM

OH THE JUDGMENT IS IN
AND THE EVIDENCE IS OUT
THE WITNESSES HAVE SPOKEN
SO THERE IS NO DOUBT
AND THOUGH I AM GUILTY
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE
THAT THE ONE WHO IS JUDGE
HAS FORGIVEN ME

I SLOWLY WIPED AWAY THE TEARS
AND LIFTED UP MY HEAD
I SAW MY JUDGE AND SAVIOR STAND
AND LISTENED AS HE SAID
"THE PENALTY FOR THIS MAN'S SIN
HAS LONG BEEN SATISFIED
I LOVE HIM SO I TOOK HIS PLACE
WHEN I WAS CRUCIFIED"

OH THE JUDGMENT IS IN
AND THE EVIDENCE IS OUT
THE WITNESSES HAVE SPOKEN
SO THERE IS NO DOUBT
AND THOUGH I AM GUILTY
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE
THAT THE ONE WHO IS JUDGE
HAS FORGIVEN ME

DAVID:

NOW THERE'S A DAY THAT'S COMING
A DAY FOR US ALL
WHEN THE DEAD AND THE LIVING
WILL ANSWER TO HIS CALL

CAROL:

AND WHEN YOU STAND BEFORE HIM
I TRULY HOPE AND PRAY
YOU'LL STAND AS ONE FORGIVEN
AND JOIN WITH ME TO SAY

FRANK/DAVID:

OH THE JUDGMENT IS IN
AND THE EVIDENCE IS OUT

CAROL/BETH:

THE WITNESSES HAVE SPOKEN
SO THERE IS NO DOUBT

FRANK:

AND THOUGH I AM GUILTY
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE
THAT THE ONE WHO IS JUDGE
HAS FORGIVEN ME
HAS FORGIVEN ME
HAS FORGIVEN ME

(End of Song - "The Judgment")

PEARL:

Frank, your dream is reality for everyone who believes. Jesus forgives, and God sets you free from the fear of judgment.

FRANK:

I believe it.

HARRY:

Then start living like a child of God. Live with joy rather than pain and fear.

GRACE:

You need fellowship with other believers. That will help you really experience life again, now that you've really experienced forgiveness. You need people, and they need you. Go back to church, connect with others. You have gifts to share with them and with the church as a whole.

FRANK:

I will. I promise.

DAVID:

(to Grace) So, your name is Grace, right?

GRACE:

Yes.

DAVID:

Now that sounds like an angel name. I'm surprised we don't have Faith, Charity, and Hope here too, instead of angels with everyday names like Sharon and Karen.

HARRY:

Oh, Faith, Charity, and Hope are friends of ours, but they're busy in other places today. Besides, Sharon and Karen are great angel names.

DAVID:

How so?

HARRY:

Well, just as Grace is the angel of grace and mercy, Sharon is the angel of "sharing God's love" and Karen is the angel of "caring for others".

DAVID:

(shaking his head) You angels are a corny bunch.

BETH:

What does PJ stand for then?

PJ:

It's short for Praise Jesus!

BETH:

Well that makes sense?

RICHARD:

If I may, I'd like to ask something. God's forgiveness is given to those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God and receive Him as their Lord and Savior, right? What about those people who haven't done that?

HARRY:

It's never too late!

RICHARD:

Well, if Frank thought that his one act, whatever the impact, made him unworthy, I shudder to think of what you'll think of me.

PEARL:

Give us a try.

RICHARD:

I guess I used to believe in the existence of God. But when my wife died, I was in agony. She was a Christian who always talked about God's blessings through Christ. How could a God who's so loving allow the death of a woman in her prime? I was left alone with our children and a profound emptiness. I decided that if God did exist, He was a harsh and vengeful God. For me, the more logical explanation was that He didn't exist at all. I concluded that He was the creation of mankind as a way to justify our rules and order. A way to give us hope for an afterlife together with those we've lost.

FRANK:

And where did that lead you?

RICHARD:

I focused on my business and got active in a national atheist group. I wanted to keep others from falling for the same promises that I thought were just a bunch of lies. Now, I debate theologians on the existence of God, Jesus, and everything you represent.

CAROL:

So this must be quite the shock to you?

RICHARD:

Well, yes, obviously.

HARRY:

You've studied the Bible for these debates. You know the factual evidence to support Jesus as the Messiah.

RICHARD:

Yes, I had to know the basis of the arguments for faith in order to denounce them. I can quote the Bible left and right. I know how Jesus fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the promised Messiah. I also know the evidence to support Jesus' resurrection. But when you deny that God exists, you obviously deny that someone could be His Son or rise from the dead.

DAVID:

So where does that leave you now?

RICHARD:

Well, ...thanks to these miracles, I've seen the evidence of my faulty judgment. But I still need to know something. Why do we have to experience all this pain and suffering?

SAL:

Some things in life are impossible to understand. Sometimes pain and suffering happen because people do something wrong or tragic. Other times, like with your wife, it's a lot more difficult to know why something bad happens. The human body is wonderful, but it also gets sick and dies, sometimes far too early or quickly. People grieve and suffer, but if you believe in Jesus, you realize that death is not the end. When you die, you're with Jesus, and live forever with Him. And in the meantime, your pain and grief can be used by God to help comfort others going through the same thing you experienced.

HARRY:

God wants you to trust Him to take care of you, even when it's hard. That's what faith is.

PEARL:

Jesus said that you would face trouble in this world, but that you had to take heart. Jesus overcame the world. Let God take your pain and use it for something good. No matter how little time you might have left on this earth, go out and use it in positive ways.

RICHARD:

That's not as easy as it sounds.

HARRY:

We know that.

RICHARD:

So what do I do now?

HARRY:

Just surrender to Jesus.

(Music cue for "**SURRENDER**")

PEARL:

WILL YOU SURRENDER
ALL THE PAIN YOU'VE HELD INSIDE
WILL YOU SURRENDER
THE FEARS FROM WHICH YOU CANNOT HIDE

TRUST HIS SALVATION
A PRODUCT OF HIS LOVE
TRUST IN HIS MERCY
A GIFT FROM GOD ABOVE

WILL YOU SURRENDER
AND LISTEN TO HIS CALL
IF YOU SURRENDER
PROCLAIM HIM LORD OF ALL
HONORING HIS SACRIFICE
ON THE CROSS, HE PAID THE PRICE
NOW, WILL YOU SURRENDER TO OUR LORD

WILL YOU SURRENDER
LET FORGIVENESS SET YOU FREE
WILL YOU SURRENDER
AND OPEN UP YOUR EYES TO SEE

FOR HE IS WAITING
TO TAKE YOU BY THE HAND
HE WANTS TO LEAD YOU
INTO THE PROMISED LAND

WILL YOU SURRENDER
RECEIVE HIM HERE AND NOW
IF YOU SURRENDER
AND TAKE THIS SOLEMN VOW
JESUS CHRIST WILL BE YOUR LORD
FELLOWSHIP WILL BE RESTORED
YES, IF YOU SURRENDER TO OUR LORD

RICHARD:

CAN I SURRENDER THIS LIFE THAT I HAVE BUILT

HARRY:

FREE FROM THE SORROW, THE PAIN, AND THE GUILT

RICHARD:

CAN I RECOVER THE LIFE THAT I ONCE KNEW

HARRY:

ETERNITY BECKONS, A NEW LIFE WAITS FOR YOU

PEARL:

WILL YOU SURRENDER
AND GIVE YOUR HEART AWAY
IF YOU SURRENDER
YOUR NEW LIFE STARTS TODAY
IF YOU LOOK INSIDE YOUR SOUL
LET THE LORD BE IN CONTROL
NOW, WON'T YOU SURRENDER TO OUR LORD

PEARL:

WILL YOU SURRENDER

RICHARD:

I SURRENDER
I KNOW YOUR WORD IS TRUE

PEARL:

IF YOU SURRENDER

RICHARD:

I SURRENDER
I GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU
LET ME KNOW YOUR LOVING GRACE
LET ME FEEL YOUR WARM EMBRACE
YES, LORD, I SURRENDER TO YOU

DAVID / CAROL / FRANK / BETH:

YES, LORD, I SURRENDER TO YOU

(End of Song - "Surrender")

RICHARD:

You said we have to do our part, regardless of how little time we might have. You have no idea how right you are.

BETH:

Actually, they probably do know. They seem to know everything else.

RICHARD:

I only have only a year to live. (The other humans react with surprise and sadness at this news.) It sort of makes me wonder why I would be chosen to have this intervention with so little time left to put what I've learned into action.

HARRY:

Because it can make a huge difference.

RICHARD:

How so?

PEARL:

Well, salvation lasts forever. It means everything for you.

SAL:

But there are other things too. You have a high profile debate coming up with lots of media coverage. How amazing would it be to hear you say that you've accepted Jesus as your Savior? The story of your new relationship with Him could be shared there in front of believers, skeptics, and non-believers alike.

BETH:

It could move others to seek a similar relationship, or at least to examine their own beliefs.

PEARL:

Wisdom beyond her years!

HARRY:

And isn't there something else you'd like to fix before you die?

RICHARD:

My family. I'm estranged from my kids, who are now grown. They couldn't take my active denouncement of their faith. My anger was so great at the loss of their mother. I let that anger pour out into my relationships, including the ones I should've cared about the most. I've only met my grandchildren a few times.

SAL:

Don't you think that they would welcome the "changed" you back into their lives, especially given the time that you have left?

RICHARD:

I certainly hope so.

SAL:

So, are you ready to turn your back on your anger and resentment? Are you ready to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

RICHARD:

Yes.

HARRY:

Richard, will pray with me? I'll pray, and then you can pray. Okay?

RICHARD:

That would be great.

HARRY:

Dear God, Richard is ready to receive Jesus as his Savior. Help him understand and give himself fully to his new faith. Help him trust in Jesus for both today and forever. He has sinned, but You are ready to forgive and receive him into Your family. Make eternal life real to Richard as he trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior. Take control of all the days left for Him in this life, and make him the person You want him to be for You.

RICHARD:

Oh God, I'm sorry for turning away from You for so long. Today, I give myself to You. I am weak. I have failed. I believe that Jesus died for me, and I know He rose from the dead and is alive today. My life belongs to Jesus now. He is my Lord, my Savior. Thank You for the life that You give because of Him, a life that lasts forever. Take over my life, be in charge of it, and help me be the person You want me to be. I love you. Thank You for loving me enough not to give up trying to reach my heart. Please forgive me for working to keep others away from You. Use all the days I have left for Your sake. Thank You for forgiving me. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

(Harry hugs Richard. Richard's face reveals a renewed presence and smile.)

PJ:

Amen! Hallelujah!!! Praise God's name.

RICHARD:

Hey, I don't remember what your name is.

SAL:

It's Sal.

DAVID:

Oh, as in Salvation!

FRANK:

(to David) You have an amazing grasp of the obvious.

PEARL:

Well Richard, how does it feel?

RICHARD:

Like a gift more wonderful than anything I could ever imagine!

(Music cue for start of "**NO EYE HAS SEEN**")

RICHARD:

WITH MY EYES I HAVE SEEN
ALL THE WONDERS OF THIS EARTH
I HAVE HELD WITHIN MY HANDS
MANY TREASURES OF GREAT WORTH

AND THOUGH I MARVEL AT THEM ALL
I NOW KNOW THERE IS MORE
FOR THERE'S A PLACE FOR ALL WHO HOLD
THE KEY TO HEAVEN'S DOOR

NO EYE HAS SEEN, NO EAR HAS HEARD
NO MIND CAN CONCEIVE
WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE
WHO LOVE HIM AND BELIEVE
I CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPREHEND
JUST WHAT AWAITS FOR ME
WHEN I WALK THOSE STREETS OF GOLD
FOR ALL ETERNITY

AS I STAND HERE I KNOW
I'VE BEEN BLESSED BEYOND COMPARE
I HAVE ALL THAT I MIGHT NEED
FOR I KNOW I'M IN HIS CARE

AND HE'S PREPARING ME A HOME
NO ARTIST COULD PORTRAY
A PLACE NO POET COULD DESCRIBE
FOR NO WORDS COULD CONVEY

NO EYE HAS SEEN, NO EAR HAS HEARD
NO MIND CAN CONCEIVE
WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE
WHO LOVE HIM AND BELIEVE
I CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPREHEND
JUST WHAT AWAITS FOR ME
WHEN I WALK THOSE STREETS OF GOLD
FOR ALL ETERNITY

OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE YET TO SEE
I WILL MAKE IT MY PRIORITY
THAT WHEN I COME INTO THAT HOLY DWELLING PLACE
I WILL LOOK UPON MY LOVING SAVIOR'S FACE

NO EYE HAS SEEN, NO EAR HAS HEARD
NO MIND CAN CONCEIVE
WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE
WHO LOVE HIM AND BELIEVE
I CAN'T BEGIN TO COMPREHEND
JUST WHAT AWAITS FOR ME
WHEN I WALK THOSE STREETS OF GOLD
FOR ALL ETERNITY

WHEN I JOIN MY SAVIOR THERE
FOR ALL ETERNITY

(End of Song - "No Eye Has Seen")

FRANK:

(To Richard) Welcome to the family.

RICHARD:

I only wish I could've believed before today.

SAL:

You're a lot like someone in the Bible. Paul fought against Jesus, and it took something supernatural to change him. But after he became a Christian, he spread the message to more people than maybe anyone else ever has.

PEARL:

Richard, you'll be reconciled with your family, just as you've now been reconciled with God through Jesus. I promise.

RICHARD:

You can't know how reassuring that news is to me.

DAVID:

(To Harry and Pearl) What now? Should we run out and tell others that we've seen real angels?

PEARL:

I don't think so. Just live out your faith. Miracles happen when people live their faith, and the world needs that more *today* than ever before.

BETH:

What do you mean?

PEARL:

Well, I hate to deflate everyone so soon after having such a wonderful blessing take place, but we have something we have to tell you.

HARRY:

This morning, this country was attacked. Terrorists hijacked four airplanes. Two of them were flown into the World Trade Center, the very building that you were taken from.

BETH:

Oh, no!

CAROL:

My brother-in-law! Is he alive?

PEARL:

Yes, he got out okay.

FRANK:

Is that why the elevator stopped?

HARRY:

Yes!

PEARL:

Both towers have now collapsed. Thousands of people were killed. One of the other planes crashed into the Pentagon near Washington DC, and the other crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

DAVID:

Who did this? And why?

HARRY:

You'll have to find that out with everyone else.

BETH:

So would we be dead if you hadn't rescued us?

HARRY:

Possibly. But God decided to use you. Your faith, made stronger in Christ, is needed now more than ever.

PEARL:

The coming years will see wars that result from today's attacks. There will be great pain, suffering, and strife on a global scale.

FRANK:

My co-workers, my friends. Many of them may have just died. How could this happen?

GRACE:

Sometimes people choose to do evil things. That's part of what it means to say that we all live in sin. God didn't want this to happen.

KAREN:

But God makes it very clear that He desires you to work through and in every situation for the good of others. Your actions are needed now.

PJ:

You need to help people grow closer to God, to worship and follow Him with a passion to do His will. It can make a difference in this world that will never be the same again.

SHARON:

You must find your identity in Christ, and not in your career, your hobbies, or your social status.

SAL:

You must personally find hope and security in Christ, especially during times like these. You can help others find refuge in Him as well. Remember, God is with you. Jesus is with you.

(Music cue for start of "**THE TIME**")

SAL:

NOW IN THIS TIME, OF DARKEST NIGHT
SHOW THEM GOD'S LOVE, A SHINING LIGHT
OPEN YOUR HEARTS, FOR GOD TO FILL
BLESS THEM ALL, LORD, TO DO YOUR WILL

GRACE:

THIS IS A WORLD, CONFUSED AND NUMB
ONLY HIS LOVE, CAN OVERCOME
THIS IS THE TIME, TO STAND UP TALL
HEAR HIS WORD, NOW, AND HEED THE CALL

KAREN:

NOW IN THIS WORLD, SO LOST, UNSURE
SHOW THEM A LOVE, THAT WILL ENDURE
THIS IS THE TIME, TO DO YOUR PART
SHOW THE LOVE THAT'S INSIDE YOUR HEART

PJ:

HIS LOVE, IT WILL LAST FOREVER
IT CONQUERS HATE AND FEAR
THIS LOVE, LORD, IS YOUR ENDEAVOR
GIVE THEM YOUR STRENGTH, LORD, AND DRY EACH TEAR

SHARON:

THIS IS A LOVE, YOU CANNOT HIDE
THIS IS A LOVE, THAT WILL ABIDE
THIS IS A LOVE, YOU'RE MEANT TO SHARE
FOR HIS LOVE IS BEYOND COMPARE

SAL, GRACE, KAREN, PJ, SHARON:

LEAD US NOW, LORD, AND HEAR OUR PRAYER

(End of Song - "The Time")

PEARL:

I realize that you're all in shock at the news you've heard, but I need you to turn your attention back to us. (Pause) In due time, you'll have the chance to grieve and mourn along with everyone else. Right now though, I want you to focus on this second chance you've been given.

HARRY:

When each of you received Jesus as your Savior, you were rescued from the punishment of sin in order to love and serve Him. Today, God has rescued you again for that same purpose.

PEARL:

You've been renewed and strengthened to fulfill God's will for yourself and others. People escaping the tragedy downtown will soon be filling the park. They need your assistance. Be a representative of Christ. Show them the compassion, love, and comfort found in Jesus.

HARRY:

You're not alone. The Holy Spirit resides in you to guide you. His love is greater than any hateful act or war. God and Jesus are with you always, wherever you go!

PEARL:

We're going to leave you now. It's your turn.

HARRY:

But first, give thanks for this second chance. Be a grateful believer and let your faith be seen in all you do. Take the few minutes you have now as a group to praise Him and reflect on all you've learned before you get to work.

(Music cue for start of "**WHERE COULD I GO?**")

(The five humans join hands as the seven angels slowly leave.)

CAROL / FRANK:

WHERE COULD I GO, THAT YOU ARE NOT THERE
WHAT COULD I DO, THAT YOU WOULDN'T CARE

WHAT COULD I THINK, THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW
WHERE COULD I HIDE, THAT YOU WOULDN'T GO

OH, WHERE COULD I GO, AWAY FROM YOUR LOVE
FOR YOU SENT YOUR SON DOWN TO EARTH FROM ABOVE
HE DIED ON A CROSS, BUT HE ROSE THE THIRD DAY
FOR HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, AND THE WAY

BETH / DAVID:

WHAT COULD I SAY, THAT YOU COULDN'T HEAR
WHAT COULD THERE BE, TO CAUSE ME TO FEAR

WHERE COULD I TURN, THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE
YOU ARE MY GOD, AND YOU LIVE IN ME

OH, WHERE COULD I GO, AWAY FROM YOUR LOVE
FOR YOU SENT YOUR SON DOWN TO EARTH FROM ABOVE
HE DIED ON A CROSS, BUT HE ROSE THE THIRD DAY
FOR HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, AND THE WAY

RICHARD:

WHAT COULD I DO, THAT YOU'D TURN AWAY
NOTHING MY LORD, FOR YOU'LL ALWAYS STAY
HOW COULD I LIVE, IF YOU HADN'T DIED
TO PAY FOR MY SIN, YOU WERE CRUCIFIED

CAROL / BETH / FRANK / DAVID / RICHARD:

OH, WHERE COULD I GO, AWAY FROM YOUR LOVE
FOR YOU SENT YOUR SON DOWN TO EARTH FROM ABOVE
HE DIED ON A CROSS, BUT HE ROSE THE THIRD DAY
FOR HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, AND THE WAY

CAROL / BETH / FRANK / DAVID / RICHARD:

OH, WHERE COULD I GO, AWAY FROM YOUR LOVE
FOR YOU SENT YOUR SON DOWN TO EARTH FROM ABOVE
HE DIED ON A CROSS, BUT HE ROSE THE THIRD DAY
FOR HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, AND THE WAY

CAROL / BETH / FRANK / DAVID / RICHARD:

OH, WHERE COULD I GO, AWAY FROM YOUR LOVE
FOR YOU SENT YOUR SON DOWN TO EARTH FROM ABOVE
HE DIED ON A CROSS, BUT HE ROSE THE THIRD DAY
FOR HE IS THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, AND THE WAY

(End of Song - "Where Could I Go?")

(Music cue for start of "**BOWS / EXIT MUSIC**")

COMPANY:

FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD
LET OUR SAVIOR BE ADORED
AND FOR EV'RY FACE, HERE IN THIS PLACE
WE THANK YOU LORD