

# PERUSAL SCRIPT



An Inspirational Musical  
By **Mark Ogden**



Newport, Maine

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## **A.J.'S MIRACLE**

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## Cast of Characters (10M 4W 1boy)

**Mitch Dalton** -- A.J.'s rowdy frat brother

**Alan Jamison (A.J.)** -- reluctant missionary

**Elder Stuart Casey** -- district leader, A.J.'s first companion

**Elder Rex Tyberg** -- California muscleman

**Elder Kirk Bingham** -- sensitive scripture-whiz

**Esperanza** -- A.J.'s golden contact

**Sister Adele Garvey** -- southern sweet-spirit

**Sister JoAnne Southwick** -- gorgeous, spiritual, spacey

**Elder Steve Robbins** -- Assistant to the Mission President

**Elder Charles Clayton** -- Assistant to the Mission President

**Elder Knoll Bradley** -- Mr. Obnoxious

**Arturo** -- Esperanza's little brother (10-13)

**Diego** -- Esperanza's ex-boyfriend

**Paco** -- Diego's buddy

**Hortencia** -- an excitable neighbor

## Other ELDERS and SISTERS and VILLAGERS

**AJ's MIRACLE** -- a missionary musical by Mark Ogden. About 2 hours. 10M 5W 1boy + villagers, elders & sisters. Various locations. A Missionary story you will never forget! A.J.'s Miracle is meant to show the human side of missionaries. The show is based on the true incidents of the author as he served his mission. The story begins with a bet: \$500 that AJ cannot fulfill an LDS Mission. The story follows his reluctant progress as he is sent to serve in Mexico. It is said that a mission is the best kept secret in the Church. Unless you go you have no idea what it is really like. The many missions in their varied locations in the world are each totally different. Just as different are the missionaries who serve. The underlying theme of AJ's Miracle is this: "The Lord can take the worst and make the best." **Order #2071**

**Mark Ogden**, composer, lyricist and book writer, and also founder of St. George Musical Theater, often said writing and producing a play was like having a baby. Once he conceived of an idea, it would grow and grow until he had to put it on paper and write music to accompany the dialogue. Finally, when the baby emerged on stage, it was a joy to behold as the newest member of his family. St. George Musical Theater was another of his babies. Conceived in the mid 1980's, this tiny nursery of players rehearsed, presented, reviewed, and revised Mark's dramatic work. In 1988, Mark's directing abilities won him the privilege of directing It's My Life by Carol Lynn Pearson. Sponsored by Southwest Mental Health, he and the show traveled to many Southern Utah schools and kept the dream of St. George Musical Theater alive. Tragedy struck in 1992 when Mark Ogden was diagnosed with AIDS. He fought a long, difficult battle with the disease, but passed away two years later in 1994 leaving St. George Musical Theater an orphan.

## **ACT ONE**

### **Prolog**

#1 -- Only By Some Miracle Mitch

### **Scene 1-- Elder's Apartment**

#1a -- Only By Some Miracle (reprise) Mitch

### **Scene 2 -- Back Road**

#2 -- Xoacan Theme

### **Scene 3 -- Xoacan Village**

#3 -- Silver and Gold Casey & A.J.

#3a -- Underscore

#3b -- Xoacan Theme

### **Scene 4 -- Post Office**

#4 -- Monday Night Girl Tyberg, Bingham, Garvey & Southwick

#4a -- Monday Night Girl (reprise) Garvey & Southwick

### **Scene 5 -- Elder's Apartment**

#5 -- The Promise Bingham

### **Scene 6 -- Xoacan**

### **Scene 7 -- Orizaba Chapel**

#6 -- Lengthen Your Stride Garvey, Clayton, Bingham, Robbins, Southwick, Tyberg, Casey, A.J.

## **ACT TWO**

### **Scene 8 -- Elder's Apartment**

#7 -- Making Preparations Mitch

#7a -- Making Preparations (reprise) Mitch

### **Scene 9 -- Mission Home / Veracruz**

#8 -- Faith Precedes The Miracle Clayton & Robbins

### **Scene 10 -- Orizaba Chapel**

#9 -- Dare To Be Different Casey, Garvey, Southwick, Esperanza

#10 -- The Field Now Is White Esperanza

### **Scene 11 -- Post Office**

#11 -- Love Isn't Over Garvey & Southwick

#12 -- I Am You Casey

### **Scene 12 -- Elder's Apartment**

#13 -- Trunky

### **Scene 13 -- Elder's Apartment**

#14 -- The Field Now Is White (Reprise) Bradley & Tyberg

### **Scene 14 -- Xoacan**

### **Scene 15 -- MTC**

#15 -- Faith Precedes The Miracle (reprise) Mitch

### **Scene 16 -- Xoacan**

#16 -- Curtain Call

## ACT ONE

**Prologue** -- *A U. of U. Frat House -- Spot on MITCH DALTON chalking a pool cue.*

### **MUSICAL #1 -- ONLY BY SOME MIRACLE**

**MITCH:** Alan Jamison -- may he rest in peace -- was a great guy, a loyal frat brother and the best bud I ever had... Until I killed him.

LATE ONE NIGHT

WE ALL WERE LOUNGIN' AROUND DRINKIN' BEER,

PLAYIN' CARDS

AND SINGIN' SONGS OF GOOD CHEER.

I MENTIONED HOW OUR FRIENDS SEEMED TO JUST DISAPPEAR

ONE BY ONE

THEY'D GO ON MISSIONS AND LEAVE US SITTIN' HERE.

I TEASED A.J.

AND SAID, 'WE'RE BOTH MORMONS, Ya KNOW,

I'M MUCH TOO YOUNG TO DIE,

BUT WHY DON'T YOU GOV

HE SAID HE COULDN'T LEAVE HIS TRUE LOVE IN THE LURCH

BESIDES HIS FOLKS WOULD CROAK IF EVER THEY SAW HIM GO TO CHURCH.

BUT BEING QUITE INVENTIVE

IN PRESSING MY VIEWS,

I OFFERED AN INCENTIVE

HE COULDN'T REFUSE.

NOT REALIZING THAT WE'D HAD TOO MANY BEERSO

I BET HIM A THOUSAND DOLLARS HE COULDN'T LAST TWO YEARS.

I HAD FORGOTTEN

SOMETHING YOU JUST DON'T FORGET

THAT NOTHIN' EVER COMES BETWEEN HIM AND A BET.

HE SHOOK MY HAND AND DRUNKILY, SPUNKILY SAID,

*(Imitating)*

YOU'LL BE OUT A THOUSAND SMACKERS OR I'LL BE VERY DEAD!

*[Funeral march]*

SO WHEN HE'S SENT HOME

I'LL MAKE HIM PAY UPAT ONCE.

I KNOW THAT GUY TO A 'T' ...

*(He's really rowdy!)*

HE WON'T SURVIVE EVEN THREE SHORT MONTHS.

ESPECIALLY IF HE'S SENT TO THE M.T.C.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

CONCERNING MISSIONS --  
I GUESS YOU PROBABLY KNOW ...  
YOUR MOTIVE DOESN'T MATTER AS LONG AS YOU GO.  
BUT IF YOU GO BECAUSE OF A BET, PLEA OR DARE ...  
HERE'S MY SIMPLE SUPPOSITION:  
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER.  
ONLY BY SOME MIRACLE  
WILL HE LAST TWO YEARS OUT THERE!  
*[Applause]*

**Scene 1** -- *The Elder's Apartment in Mexico.*

**MITCH:** Yeah, A.J.'s in for a traumatic experience. I went with him last Thursday and when the barber started cutting and chopping away, he nearly passed out from loss of hair ... Maybe he could survive somewhere in the States ... But Mexico? He even hates Taco Time! ... And I've heard about the ratholes those guys live in ...

*[Lights reveal the dismal Apartment]*

Run-down dives with peeling paint and paralyzed plumbing, filled with cockroaches and other creepy creatures commonly called ... companions.

*[Enter CASEY, BINGHAM and TYBERG. They take their places and freeze]*

Oh, I guess it's not so bad -- if you're into mud, mosquitos, sunstroke, cactus, hepatitis and tapeworms ... Pretty soon he'll be right back here and I'll be a thousand bucks richer ... I can feel the money now -- right in the ol' pocket Unless, of course, the cockroaches kill him.

*[Spot out on MITCH. CASEY and BINGHAM are eating breakfast, TYBERG lifting weights]*

**TYBERG:** *Eight, nine, ten! I haven't been in this kinda shaped since I played football.*

**CASEY:** Oh, did you play football?

**TYBERG:** I made California All-State. Haven't I told you that?

**CASEY:** Not since yesterday.

**BINGHAM:** I Timothy, 4:8. 'For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things!

**TYBERG:** D&C, Section 4. 'O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve Him with all your heart, might, mind and strength!

**BINGHAM:** I Samuel, 2:9. 'For by strength shall no man prevail!

**TYBERG:** Meet Todd Bingham, the walking Bible. I defy you to find one football scripture.

**BINGHAM:** Okay -- 'And it shall come to pass!' And somewhere it says that Rams were sacrificed!

**TYBERG:** I'm hitting the showers. Any hot water?

*[He exits]*

**CASEY:** Is there water? I'm hitting the district report.

**BINGHAM:** Hebrews 11:1-2. 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. And by it the elders obtained a good report!

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**CASEY:** *(going into his bedroom)* You are a walking Bible!

**TYBERG:** *(from offstage)* Hey, Bingham, I need some soap!

**BINGHAM:** Okay, just a minute.

*[He continues reading his Bible. A knock]*

**TYBERG:** Bingham, where's the soap?

**BINGHAM:** Esperate. [es-pair-a-tay]. Somebody's at the door.

*[He crosses. Enter TYBERG half-naked]*

**TYBERG:** What a hassle! I'll get it myself.

**BINGHAM:** *(flinging the door open wide)* Buenos dias. [Bwen-os Dee-as]

*[Enter SISTERS GARVEY and SOUTHWICK. Beet-red, TYBERG dashes out.]*

**GARVEY:** *(to TYBERG, heavy Southern accent)* Hey, Adam, where's yer fig leaf?

**BINGHAM:** What brings you here so early?

**GARVEY:** We need Jose Smith pamphlets.

**SOUTHWICK:** And here's your Tabernacle Choir tape.

*(Displaying a twisted mass)*

It may need rewinding ...

**GARVEY:** And we brought our reports.

**BINGHAM:** Casey! The Assistants said there was a batch of greenies comin' in. Casey's bound to get one of 'em.

**SOUTHWICK:** I'm gonna miss Elder Parker. He was such a hunk -- I mean, a rock.

**GARVEY:** We know whatcha mean.

**CASEY:** You're early. Our date's not till eight -- months from now.

**GARVEY:** *(handing him the reports)* We've been busy, O Great District Leader.

**BINGHAM:** Look at all those baptism papers!

**CASEY:** Must be the perfume.

*[A knock]*

**SOUTHWICK:** I'll get it.

*[She opens the door to reveal A.J. looking quite bewildered]*

Que desea? [kay the-say-a? (What do you want?)]

**A.J.:** Que direccion estar aqui? [kay dee-rek-see-ohn es-tar a-kee? (What address to be here)]

**SOUTHWICK:** Como? [ko-mo? (What?)]

*[A.J. hands her a slip of paper]*

De donde es Usted? [teh thohn-deh es oos-thehd? (Where are you from?)]

**A.J.:** Como? [ko-mo?]

**SOUTHWICK:** De donde es Usted?

**A.J.:** No entender. [no ehn-tehn-dair (I don't understand)]

**SOUTHWICK:** Whair are joo frohm?

**A.J.:** You speak English! Sort of.

**SOUTHWICK:** Jes, may ah-ee help joo?

**A.J.:** Well, uh... Do some missionaries live around here?

**SOUTHWICK:** Joo mean thos despeeceable Mormon misioneros -- always drunk, always running with strange

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women ...

**A.J.:** Yes, I mean, no!

**SOUTHWICK:** (*brightly, dropping the act*) They live right here! Come right in.

**CASEY:** Hi! I'm Elder Casey. This is Sister Garvey. And Elder Bingham. And you've met Sister South-week!

**SOUTHWICK:** Ah-ee hope joo know ah-ee was teasing ...

**TYBERG:** (*entering, now dressed*) Don't forget me.

**SOUTHWICK:** Elder Tyberg, we've certainly been seeing a great deal of you lately.

**GARVEY:** But in this case, a great deal is no big deal.

**TYBERG:** (*to A.J.*) She's from Arkansas. You can tell 'cause her heart's a little rock...Where you from?

**A.J.:** Salt Lake.

**TYBERG:** What a drag. Another Utah boy ... Play football?

**A.J.:** Yeah, in high school.

**TYBERG:** Varsity?

**A.J.:** Yeah ...

**TYBERG:** All right! We've got us a team, coach ... I don't suppose you brought a ball?

**A.J.:** A football?

**TYBERG:** There's not one lousy football in all of Mexico!

**CASEY:** Where's your luggage?

**A.J.:** Out where the cabdriver left it.

**BINGHAM:** How much did he charge you?

**A.J.:** Five hundred pesos.

**SOUTHWICK:** Oh, dear.

**TYBERG:** Man, you got robbed! If I had to be a greenie again, I'd slit my wrists.

**GARVEY:** Promises, promises.

**CASEY:** It's okay. You'll learn the ropes.

**GARVEY:** Well, y'all, time to get rollin! See you at zone conference on Thursday, if not before.

**TYBERG:** Hopefully n--

**SOUTHWICK:** Nice to meet you, Elder --

**A.J.:** Jamison. Alan Jamison.

**TYBERG:** My, my. On a first name basis already.

**CASEY:** Knock it off, Rex.

**GARVEY:** Que tengan un buen dia. [kay tehn-gahn oon bwehn dee-ah]

*(To TYBERG specifically)*

Y que le machuque un tren! [ee kay leh mah-choo-kay oon trehn]

*[The SISTERS exit]*

**A.J.:** What'd she say.

**CASEY:** Have a nice day.

**BINGHAM:** And she wished him the opportunity of being smashed by a train.

**TYBERG:** Garvey! If she's from Little Rock, I'd hate to see the girls from Big Rock.

**CASEY:** Well, Elder Jamison, I'm afraid we're not making a very good first impression. But it's not like this all the time.



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**TYBERG:** Sometimes it's worse.

**BINGHAM:** But most of the time it's love at home. Welcome to Orizaba! [Oh-ree-sah-vah]  
*[He hugs A.J.]*

**A.J.:** *(recoiling)* Hey! What're ya doin'?

**CASEY:** It's okay. It's a Mexican custom. Everybody does it.

**A.J.:** *(worriedly to TYBERG)* Everybody?

**TYBERG:** Yeah. It's just like shaking hands. No big deal.

**A.J.:** You guys've been down here too long.

**BINGHAM:** You'll get used to it.

**A.J.:** Wanna bet?

**CASEY:** Let's go get your stuff.

**A.J.:** You guys actually live in this dump? It's worse than the Beta house.

**BINGHAM:** You'll get used to this, too.

**A.J.:** No way. No way in hell!

*[Shocked reactions. They freeze. Spot on MITCH]*

**MUSICAL # 1a -- ONLY BY SOME MIRACLE (REPRISE)**

**MITCH:**

CONCERNING MISSIONS

I GUESS YOU PROBABLY KNOW

YOUR MOTIVE DOESN'T MATTER

AS LONG AS YOU GO.

BUT IF YOU GO BECAUSE OF A BET, PLEA OR DARE

HERE'S MY SIMPLE SUPPOSITION: YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER!

ONLY BY SOME MIRACLE

WILL HE LAST TWO YEARS DOWN THERE!

*[Spot out. Lights dim]*

**Scene 2 -- A back country road, about noon.**

**A.J.:** So where are we?

**CASEY:** I'm not sure.

**A.J.:** Why'd we get off the bus?

**CASEY:** I don't know. I just felt impressed to get off.

**A.J.:** Well, I was never impressed to get on -- all those chickens and bawlin' kids

**CASEY:** Elder, be quiet a second. Can you feel something?

**MUSICAL # 2 -- Xoacan Theme**

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**A.J.:** You and your inspiration. This only happens in Wilford Woodruff's journal.

**CASEY:** Listen! ... Can't you hear it? ... I think we're supposed to go over there.

**A.J.:** Where?

**CASEY:** There!

**Scene 3** -- *The village of Xoacan. It is bustling with activity. In the town square there is a rustic Well surrounded by people washing clothes, watering plants and making tortillas.*

**CASEY:** All right! Let's go!

**A.J.:** I guess I'm supposed to haul the briefcase

**CASEY:** (*undaunted*) I'll carry it - Look at this place! I'll bet no missionary's ever been here.

**A.J.:** I can see why. I'm thirsty.

*[CASEY crosses to HORTENCIA at the Well]*

**CASEY:** Perdone, Señorita, tenemos sed. [pai-r-dohn-eh, sehn-yo-ree-tah, teh-eh-mos seth] Pardon, miss, we're thirsty.

**HORTENCIA:** El pozo es suyo. [el poh-soh es soo-yoh (It's your Well)]

**CASEY:** Gracias. [Grah-see-ahs]

**A.J.:** What'd she say.

**CASEY:** It's our well.

*[He grabs the dipper, takes a drink and offers it to A.J.]*

**A.J.:** I don't know. Is it safe?

**CASEY:** I hope so. It's all there is.

*[A.J. carefully takes a sip, then another. Then to HORTENCIA]*

Como se llama el pueblito este? Eko-mo seh yah-mah el pweb-lee-toh es-teh? (What's the name of this village?)

**HORTENCIA:** Xoacan. [Zoh-ah-cahn]

**A.J.:** What'd ya ask her?

**CASEY:** The name of the village.

**A.J.:** She said 'desolation' with a capital D, right?

**CASEY:** Please don't speak English in front of these people.

**A.J.:** Then I wouldn't be saying anything.

*[CASEY gestures 'on the nose']*

**ARTURO:** (*teasing in a marked accent*) Hwat time ees eet?

**CASEY:** (*tapping his watch*) Son las doce y media [sohn lahs doh-say ee may-dee-ah (It's twelve-thirty)]

**ARTURO:** Tahnk joo.

**A.J.:** Does he know English?

**CASEY:** The kids pick up some words in school.

**A.J.:** (*to ARTURO*) Come here ... Say this: I am ugly. I am ugly.

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**ARTURO:** (*turning the tables*) Joo are uhg-lee!

**PACO:** (*sidling over*) Son gringos, no? [Sohn green-gohs, no? (You're Americans, aren't you?)]

**CASEY:** Si.

**PACO:** Son ricos, pues ... [Sohn ree-cohs, pwehs ... (You're rich then)]

**CASEY:** No, hombre ... Mira! [No, ohm-breh ... Mee-rah. (No, sir ... Look!)]

*[CASEY displays empty pockets]*

**PACO:** Ni un peso tiene? [Nee oon peh-soh tee-eh-neh? (You don't have even a peso?)]

**CASEY:** Ni un peso! [Nee oon peh-soh! (Not one peso)]

**MUSICAL # 3 -- SILVER AND GOLD**

PLATA Y ORO NO TENGO MAS LO QUE TENGO TE DOY.

*[He gives ARTURO a lollipop]*

NO IMPORTA DE DONDE YO VENGA -MAS VALE A DONDE VOY.

VOY EN LA SENDA DE CRISTO AL PADRE DE LLEGAR.

ESPERO QUE TU ESTES LISTO CONMIGO A VIAJAR.

**A.J.:** What'd you say?

**CASEY:** I said ...

SILVER AND GOLD HAVE I NONE,

BUT THIS I WILL GIVE TO YOU -

*[He gives PACO a pamphlet. PACO wanted a lollipop]*

DON'T ASK US WHERE WE COME FROM, BUT WHERE WE ARE GOING TO.

WE'RE ON THE PATHWAY OF JESUS THAT LEADS TO OUR FATHER'S SIDE.

WE REALLY HOPE HE SEES US OFFERING YOU A RIDE!

**A.J.:** You said that?

**CASEY:** It doesn't translate exactly.

TENGO UNA SONRISA QUE GRATIS PUEDO DAR.

TAMBIEN TENGO MUCH PRISA TU AMISTAD DE LOGRAR.

I HAVE A SMILE TO CHEER YOU THAT I CAN GIVE FOR FREE.

IF YOU'LL LET ME GET NEAR YOU, YOU WILL GET CLOSE TO ME.

*[He gives PACO a lollipop and ARTURO a pamphlet. CASEY 'dances' with HORTENCIA, offering first a sucker then a pamphlet. Eventually, she gets both]*

**CASEY:**

OH, IF YOU ONLY KNEW US

THEN YOU WOULD TELL FOR SURE

THAT JESUS IS WORKING THRU' US

TO BRING YOU TO HIM ONCE MORE!

**A.J.:** Ole!

*[Tableau, applause. Enter DIEGO angrily]*

**DIEGO:** Saben quienes son? [SAH-ven kee-EN-ehs sohn? (Do you know who they are?)]

Son Mormones! [Sohn Mor-MOHN-ehs! (They're Mormons!)]

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Tienen muchas esposa. [Tee-EHN-ehn MOO-chahs es-PO-sahs! (The ones with all the wives!)]

**PACO:** Mormones!

*[He throws down his pamphlet]*

**HORTENCIA:** De veras! No sabia. [Deh VEH-rahhs. No sah-VEE-ah. (Really? I didn't know)]

*[She quickly gathers up her laundry. ARTURO runs off]*

**DIEGO:** Vayanse, Diablos! [BUY-ahn-seh, dee-AHV-lohs! (Get out of here, you devils)]

*(Pointing emphatically to the Catholic church)*

Alla esta la Iglesia de Dios- [ah-YAH es-TAH lah ee-GLEH-see-ah deh dee-OHS. Right there is the church of God.]

Yo mismo la ayudia edificar. [yoh MEES-moh lah ah-yoo-DEE-ah eh-dee-fee-CAR. I helped build it myself.]

Vamonos, Paco. [BAH-moh-nohs, PAH-coh (Let's go, Paco)]

*[DIEGO pulls the sucker from PACO'S mouth and tosses it at A.J.'s feet. Exit DIEGO, PACO and HORTENCIA hurriedly. Stunned silence]*

**A.J.:** Man, who was he?

**CASEY:** I don't know ... Not a fan.

**A.J.:** What'd he say?

**CASEY:** Basically ... 'Don't slam the door on your way out!

**A.J.:** Well, let's go.

**CASEY:** Just a minute ...

**A.J.:** Whataya mean, just a minute? The guy was ticked!

*[CASEY, eyes-closed, is deep in thought]*

Oh, come on, don't tell me we're being inspired again!

**CASEY:** Please, be quiet

**A. J.:** *(waiting only an anxious moment)* Casey!

**CASEY:** We're staying.

**A.J.:** You're crazy!

**CASEY:** Okay, but we're staying.

**A.J.:** And do what? Fist-fight?

**CASEY:** Tract.

**A.J.:** Tract! ... Yeah, and the very first door we knock on is gonna be his door! Hi! You told us to get out of town, but we thought we'd drop by for lunch anyway ...

**CASEY:** There's a reason we're here, Elder.

**A.J.:** Yes, we've come here to die.

**CASEY:** Look, he's only one guy. Somebody else may want us here.

**A.J.:** Like the local priest ...

**CASEY:** Like the Holy Ghost.

**A.J.:** I still think we should go.

**CASEY:** I appreciate your input.

**A.J.:** But you're the senior companion and my 'input' doesn't matter.

**CASEY:** Yes, it matters.

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**A.J.:** But we're staying anyway?

**CASEY:** We're staying anyway.

**A.J.:** Great ... Fine ... Send my body to Sunset Memorial Gardens ...

**CASEY:** We'll go every other door . Wanna start?

**A.J.:** (*sarcastically*) You're the leader.

**CASEY:** Okay, me first.

[He picks a door and knocks several times. No answer]

Okay, your turn.

**A.J.:** I can't believe you expect me to do this. Not on my first day.

**CASEY:** Why not?

**A.J.:** I don't know what to say!

**CASEY:** What'd they teach you to say?

**A.J.:** A bunch of stuff.

**CASEY:** Then say it! Okay, look, let's practice a little first. I'll be Señor Garcia.

**A.J.:** Can't we go home and practice?

**CASEY:** No.

**A.J.:** Oh, man ... Okay ...

**CASEY:** Okay. I'm Señor Garcia.

**A.J.:** Okay ...

(*Terrible accent*)

Buenas tardes.

**CASEY:** Buenas tardes. [VWEHN-ahs, THAR-thehs. (Good afternoon)]

**A.J.:** How am I doin' so far?

**CASEY:** Fine, fine ...

**A. J.:** (struggling for every word) Nos sentimos ... complacidos ... por estar ... con usted ... y su familia ...

Señor Garcia ... Nos sentimos ...

**CASEY:** Representamos [reh-preh-sehn-TAH-mohs (We represent ...)]

**A. J.:** Oh, yeah ... Representamos a una iglesia ... I can't do this!

**CASEY:** Sure you can.

**A.J.:** Not today.

**CASEY:** Yes, you can. You've got to get past the first time. The sooner it's over, the sooner it's over!

**A.J.:** I knew this stuff in the M.T.C., but it's different out here.

**CASEY:** I know. I know exactly what you mean ... Pick a door.

**A.J.:** I can't.

**CASEY:** Pick a door.

**A. J.:** (*crossing to ESPERANZA'S house*) Did you know you're a jerk?

[*He knocks quite boldly. ESPERANZA answers. Then, in perfect Spanish*]

Buenas tardes, Señorita. [VWENN-ahs THAR-dehs, sehn-yo-REE-tah]

Representamos a Jesu Cristo. [reh-preh-sehn-TAH-mohs ah HEH-soo CREES-toh]

Sabemos que esta buscando a la verdad. [sah-BEH-mohs kay es-TAH boos-CAHN-doh ah lah bair-THAHD]

**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle** by *Mark Ogden*

Se la traemos. [Seh lah trah-EH-mos]

[Good afternoon, Miss. We represent Jesus Christ. We know you are searching for the truth. We bring it to you]

**MUSICAL # 3a -- [Underscoring begins]**

**ESPERANZA:** (*moderately accented*) Yes, we expect you.

**A.J.:** What?

**CASEY:** You expected us?

**ESPERANZA:** Yes, expected you.

**A.J.:** You speak English.

**ESPERANZA:** A little ... I study in Orizaba ... And you speak Spanish -- very well.

**A.J.:** What'd I say?

**CASEY:** You said, 'We represent Jesus Christ. We know you've been seeking the truth and we bring it to you!'

**A.J.:** I said that?

**ESPERANZA:** You know you did!

**CASEY:** And it's true? You've been expecting us?

**ESPERANZA:** Si.

**CASEY:** I told ya, Elder, there was a reason we came here

**ESPERANZA:** (*displaying a pamphlet*) Si.

*[Suddenly, ARTURO appears in the doorway]*

**ARTURO:** (*pulling the lollipop from his mouth*) Si!

*[A.J. and CASEY exchange glances as the lights quickly dim]*

**MUSICAL # 3b -- XOACAN THEME**

**Scene 4 -- Outside the Orizaba Post Office.** *GARVEY, TYBERG and BINGHAM wait as SOUTHWICK hands out the letters.*

**TYBERG:** C'mon. c'mon, quit snoopin' and pass 'em out.

**SOUTHWICK:** All right: Parker, Parker, Bingham, Casey, Garvey, Southwick, Southwick, Southwick, Southwick, Parker ... and Tyberg.

**TYBERG:** My faithful and loving girlfriend comes thru' again!

**SOUTHWICK:** Three letters for Parker ... Poor guy just missed 'em ... Oh, well, I'll just have to forward 'em.

**GARVEY:** No problem. After all, 'forward's' your middle name!

**BINGHAM:** I'll take Casey's letter. They've headed out to the boonies and won't be back till late.

**SOUTHWICK:** (*to TYBERG*) Well, is it your 'Dear John'?

**TYBERG:** Are you kidding? Leslie is solid! We're engaged, ya know. She's already bought our china, silverware, kitchen set and bedroom furniture. Now she's saving up to buy an apartment building.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**BINGHAM:** She writes him every other day.

**TYBERG:** Doesn't wanna lose me to some love-sick señorita. She converted me, ya know.

**GARVEY:** I didn't know that! I thought anyone that cocky must've had his calling and election made sure from birth.

**TYBERG:** Lemme tell ya how it happened ...

**BINGHAM:** Wake me up in an hour, okay?

*[He sits and starts to study]*

**MUSICAL # 4 -- MONDAY NIGHT GIRL**

**TYBERG:**

WELL, I WAS STROLLIN' ALONG THE BOULEVARD  
WHEN I WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.  
THERE WAS THIS FOXY YOUNG LADY WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE  
AND A PAIR OF GORGEOUS EYES.

*[He pretends SOUTHWICK is Leslie]*

WELL, I WAS EAGER TO MAKE HER ACQUAINTANCE,  
BUT I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T FALL FOR A LINE  
SO I STRUTTED RIGHT UP TO WHERE SHE SAT IN THE PARK  
AND SAID, 'DJA WANNA HAVE DINNER SOME TIME?'

SHE SAID,

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY,  
SATURDAY IS COOL.

MAYBE EVEN SUNDAY

IF YOU TAKE ME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

BUT I'M ALL BOOKED UP ON MONDAY NIGHT.

I'M JUST NOT FREE TO ROAM.

'VE GOT A DATE WITH MY FAMILY

FOR FAMILY HOME EVENIN' ...

AND MAN, I'VE GOTTA STAY AT,

MAN, I'VE GOTTA STAY AT,

MAN, I'VE GOTTA STAY AT HOME!

**BINGHAM:** (bored, but beating him to the punchline)

MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.

SHE WAS A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.

**TYBERG:**

SHE WAS A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL

**BOTH:**

OUT OF THIS WORLD! MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.

**TYBERG:** Hey, who's tellin' this story anyway?

**BINGHAM:** Sorry ... It's just that when you know something by heart ...

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

*[TYBERG quiets him with a look]*

**SOUTHWICK:** Go on, go on. Leslie sounds really sharp.

**TYBERG:**

WELL, I DIDN'T QUITE KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKIN' ABOUT,  
BUT MY INT'REST WAS BEGINNIN' TO CLIMB.  
A VERY PUZZLED LOOK APPEARED ON THE FACE  
OF THIS BOY FROM ANAHEIM.  
SO SHE TOOK ME TO HER FAMILY HOME EVENIN'  
AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT I WAS IMPRESSED.  
SHE TAUGHT ME LOTS OF THINGS ABOUT THE GOSPEL OF LIFE  
AND I WANTED HER TO SHOW ME THE REST.  
SO TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY  
I STUDIED AND SHE TAUGHT ME.

*[slower]*

ONE SATURDAY NIGHT I WAS DRESSED IN WHITE  
AND THE ELDERS FINALLY CAUGHT ME:

*[a tempo]*

NOW WE'RE BOTH BOOKED UP ON MONDAY NIGHT.  
SHE'S GOT A DIAMOND RING FROM ME.  
AND WHEN I GET HOME WE'RE GOIN' TO THE TEMPLE  
TO PLAN MONDAY NIGHT ETERNALLY.

**QUARTET:**

MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.  
SHE WAS A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.  
SHE WAS A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.

**TYBERG:**

OUT OF THIS WORLD!

**QUARTET:**

MONDAY NIGHT GIRL!

*[Tableau, applause]*

**SOUTHWICK:** What a great idea! I'm gonna try it.

**GARVEY:** What Leslie sees in you I'll never know.

**TYBERG:** Eternal bliss.

**GARVEY:** Weepin', wailin' and gnashin' a teeth ... Come on, Southwick. We got a full schedule today.

**SOUTHWICK:** Hasta luego, Patos. [AHS-tah loo-EH-goh, PAH-tohs. (See ya later, Ducks.)]

**GARVEY:** Come on!

*[They exit. TYBERG begins doing curls with his briefcase full of rocks]*

**TYBERG:** Patos? Did she say 'ducks'?

**BINGHAM:** I think she meant 'cuates' [KVAH-tehs], you know, 'chums!

**TYBERG:** Half the time, I don't think she knows what she's saying.



PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

*[He indicates that she's an airhead]*

Maybe she meant 'zapatots' [sah-PAH-tohs, (you know, 'shoes!)]

**BINGHAM:** *(quizzically)* Maybe.

*[Unseen, does the same 'airhead' gesture about TYBERG]*

Well, you've got the appointment card. What're we doing?

**TYBERG:** Nothing's scheduled till noon.

**BINGHAM:** What's at noon?

**TYBERG:** Lunch.

**BINGHAM:** *(disappointed)* Great.

**TYBERG:** We can go to the Montoyas and see if they have any referrals.

**BINGHAM:** We were just there yesterday. Spent all morning watching her pluck chickens. I wish you'd stop exercising; it's driving me nuts!

**TYBERG:** Oh, that reminds me. I found a little scripture you might care to note. It's Acts ... uh, 24:16!

*[TYBERG tries to find Acts in his Bible. BINGHAM finds it for him]*

'And herein do I exercise myself, to have a conscience void of offense toward God and men!

**BINGHAM:** I Timothy 4:7 'Refuse profane and old wives' fable, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness!

D&C 101:37, 'Care not for the body or the life of the body, but care for the soul and the life of the soul'

Hebrews 12:1. 'Let us lay aside every weight and run with patience the race that is before us' ...

**TYBERG:** Okay! I give. I give.

**BINGHAM:** Now can we go tracting?

**TYBERG:** Fine. Let's go tracting.

**BINGHAM:** Great!

*[He mistakenly picks up, or tries to pick up, TYBERG'S briefcase. He tugs and collapses.]*

**TYBERG:** Wanna trade briefcases?

**BINGHAM:** No, I'll carry the stick. You can keep the stones!

*[They exit. Enter GARVEY and SOUTHWICK.]*

**GARVEY:** Men, men! You'd think there wasn't anything in the world besides --

**SOUTHWICK:** *(displaying a letter)* I forgot to mail it ... I'm sorry ... I want him to get it before he leaves for Nigeria.

**GARVEY:** Now which one is this?

**SOUTHWICK:** Paul ... I hate the Peace Corps. He may go to Africa and never come back.

**GARVEY:** Does it matter? Seems to me you've got plenty left.

**SOUTHWICK:** Wrong! Both Tom and Roger got married. Steve's engaged. Dave's moved to Boston. And Scott's gone to San Francisco. And now Paul's off to Nigeria! The longer I'm here, the fewer I have.

**GARVEY:** I'd kill to have problems like yours.

**SOUTHWICK:** I've been thinking about Elder Tyberg's girlfriend. Now that's the type of person I'd like waiting for me ... Darin's my most dedicated, but if he ever started buying china I'd go into shock.

**GARVEY:** Let's turn the tables, JoAnn-honey ... If you were waitin' fer somebody, would you be absolutely faithful?

**SOUTHWICK:** Of course, I'd be just like Leslie.

**MUSICAL # 4a -- MONDAY NIGHT GIRL (REPRISE)**

I WOULD JUST SIT AT HOME AND WRITE LETTERS  
OR BAKE COOKIES TO SEND IN THE MAIL.  
I WOULD SAVE ALL MY MONEY FOR OUR FUTURE HOME

**GARVEY:**

UNLESS YOU FOUND A NEW OUTFIT ON SALE.

**SOUTHWICK:**

AND I WOULD VISIT HIS FAMILY DAILY,  
SLEEP WITH HIS PICTURE, YOU BET:  
NEVER GO OUT IF ASKED ON A DATE -

**GARVEY:**

UNLESS YOU HADN'T SEEN THE MOVIE YET:

**SOUTHWICK:**

ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY  
I'D STAY HOME (WHICH JUST APPALLS ME)  
ON SATURDAY NIGHT I WOULD JUST SIT TIGHT

**GARVEY:** Unless

**SOUTHWICK:**

SOMEBODY CALLS ME.

**GARVEY:**

NO, YOU WOULD FORCE YOURSELF TO BE LOYAL AND TRUE  
ALTHO' WE KNOW YOU HATE TO BE ALONE --  
EV'RY DAY OF THE WEEK WOULD BE LIKE FAMILY HOME EVENIN'

**SOUTHWICK:**

I GUESS IT HAVE TO STAY AT

**GARVEY:**

YES, YOUT HAVE TO STAY-AT

**BOTH:**

YES, YOU'D / I'D HAVE TO STAY AT HOME.  
MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.  
YOU'D/I'D BE A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.  
A MONDAY NIGHT GIRL.  
OUT OF THIE WORLD!  
MONDAY NIGHT GIRL!

*[Button. Lights dim]*

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**Scene 5** -- *The Elders' Apt., late that night. The stage is pitch-dark. A.J. and CASEY are just getting home.*

**CASEY:** We're home.

**A.J.:** I never thought I'd be glad to see this place ... How do ya turn on the lights?

**CASEY:** Pull the cord over the sink.

*[A.J. enters, trips down the stairs and knocks over the ironing board]*

**BINGHAM:** *(from offstage)* Casey, is that you?

**A.J.:** No, it's Princess Grace.

**CASEY:** Bingham, get the light.

**BINGHAM:** Sure.

*[There is the flash of a light-bulb, then darkness again]*

Darn! That's the third bulb this month! Just a sec ... And the elders' apartment was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the room. And Elder Bingham moved upon the face of the sink. And Elder Bingham said 'Let there be light ...

*[Lights up]*

And there was light!

**CASEY:** Jamison, you okay.

**A.J.:** Just getting my daily supplement of iron.

**CASEY:** Bingham, I've gotta tell ya what happened today.

**A.J.:** Is there anything in this dump to eat?

**BINGHAM:** There's some stuffed chile surprise in the fridge.

*(To CASEY)*

What? What happened?

*[A.J. opens the fridge]*

**CASEY:** Well, we were riding along way out in the middle of nowhere and I had this funny feeling we should -

**A.J.:** They're stuffed with peanut butter!

**BINGHAM & CASEY:** Surprise!

**CASEY:** Anyway, I had this funny feeling we should stop the bus and get off. We wandered around a while and then we saw it -- this little town named Xoacan. So we hustled over and got a drink at the well and then started talking to some people.

**A.J.:** And then this big Mexican dude came up and told us to get our butts out of there. And boy, was he ticked!

**BINGHAM:** You're kidding!

**A.J.:** But big shot here wouldn't leave.

**CASEY:** Bingham, I just felt we should stay. And I was right because we started tracting. And it was Jamison's turn. And this girl answered the door. And when he opened his mouth, out came the most perfect, flawless Spanish you've ever heard!

**BINGHAM:** Flawless?

**A.J.:** What of it?

**CASEY:** Really! And lemme tell ya, this girl is solid gold. Wants us to go back and give her and her whole family all the lessons.

**BINGHAM:** That's great! That's terrific! ... But what about 'the big Mexican dude'?

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**CASEY:** I don't know. What can he do really?

**A.J.:** Pull a switchblade, that's all.

**CASEY:** If he gives us any more trouble, we'll go see the mayor; better yet, the priest.

**A.J.:** There's a great idea.

**BINGHAM:** I hope it works out. You deserve it, Casey.

**CASEY:** Hey, I don't deserve anything. But Esperanza does -- that's her name.

**BINGHAM:** Appropriate.

**A.J.:** Why'?

**BINGHAM:** It means 'hope!

**A.J.:** Yeah, well, we're gonna need more than hope.

**CASEY:** What's with you? We've got the Spirit showing us every step.

**A.J.:** Whatever you say ...

**CASEY:** How else do you explain the perfect Spanish?

**A.J.:** I don't know ... Adrenalin or something ... Ask me tomorrow. I'm going to bed.

**CASEY:** Jamison, you were inspired! ... You didn't feel anything?

**A.J.:** Dizzy. That's how I felt.

**CASEY:** Dizzy.

**A.J.:** And tired is how I feel. Wouldja please just let me go to bed?

**CASEY:** Fine. Just go to bed! ... I mean, Buenas noches, Elder, que duermes con los angelitos. [BWEHN-ahs  
NO-chehs, EL-dair, kay DWAIR-mehs cohn lohs ahng-heh-LEE-tohs]

**A.J.:** Whatever that means ...

**BINGHAM:** May you sleep with the angels.

**A.J.:** You, too.

*[He exits wearily]*

**BINGHAM:** Hijole! [EE-hoh-leh. (Oh, boy!)]

**CASEY:** What am I gonna do? I can't figure him out.

**BINGHAM:** Boy, I don't know.

**CASEY:** When he talked to that girl today, he was a completely different person. You wonder why guys like that even go on missions.

**BINGHAM:** At least with Tyberg, he's just lazy ... Egotistical and lazy ... Neanderthal, egotistical and lazy. But other than that, he's a good guy.

**CASEY:** Remember Elder Johnson, my first companion? He used to sleep twelve hours a day ... Not to mention twelve hours a night. They'll make you a senior pretty soon.

**BINGHAM:** Boy, I wish I'd been with you today. We didn't do anything. Watched our last investigator move to Mexico City.

**CASEY:** I'll talk to him again ...

**BINGHAM:** Have you ever felt that somebody down here was just waiting for you to find 'em? Somebody you knew really well in the pre-existence, but couldn't remember?

**CASEY:** You feel that war.

**BINGHAM:** Yeah, I do. I really do. And that's why it's so frustrating when we sit around. He could be just around the corner and I could miss him.

**MUSICAL # 5 -- THE PROMISE**

BEFORE THE SEAS WERE FORMED  
BEFORE THE FIELDS WERE WARMED  
BEFORE OUR FATHER LET US COME TO EARTH TO DWELL  
I KNEW YOU WELL.

I MADE A PROMISE THEN  
THAT WE WOULD MEEET AGAIN,  
THAT I WOULD SEARCH FOR YOU WHEREVER YOU MIGHT ROAM  
AND BRING YOU HOME.  
BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE  
I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE  
YOUR SHINING EYES OR GLOWING FACE,  
YOUR CHEERFUL SMILE OR WARM EMBRACE ...

*[A.J. enters unnoticed and listens]*

AND SO TO KEEP MY VOW  
AND SEEK YOU OUT SOMEHOW  
I LIFT MY LAMP TO EV'RY WAND'RER IN THE NIGHT  
TO BRING YOU LIGHT.

AND SOMEDAY A PASSERBY  
WILL HEAR MY CRY  
AND WELL LOOK EYE TO EYE,  
OUR TEARS WILL SHOW  
REMEMBRANCES OF LONG AGO ...

AND SO TO KEEP MY PLEDGE  
I SEARCH EARTH'S FARTHEST EDGE.  
I RAISE MY VOICE AND PRAY MY MESSAGE WILL BE HEARD.  
I KEEP MY WORD.

FRIEND, I AM CALLING YOU.  
OH, HEAR ME CALLING YOU.  
I KEEP MY WORD.

*[CASEY notices A.J. He leaves quickly. He gives BINGHAM a 'thumbs up' as the lights dim]*

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**Scene 6** -- *Xoacan; two days later. DIEGO, PACO, HORTENCIA and ARTURO surround the well in great agitation. Enter A.J. and CASEY carrying the briefcase.*

**DIEGO:** (*belligerently*) Que paso con el pozo? [kay pah-SOH cohn el POH-sohl (What happened to the well)]

**CASEY:** No se . Que paZo? [no SEH. kay pah-SOH? (I don't know. What happened?)]

**HORTENCIA:** Ya no hay agua! [yah no ah-ee AH-gwa (Now there's no water!)]

**DIEGO:** Culpa de ustedes! [GOOL-pah deh oos-THED-ehs! (And it's your fault!)]

**CASEY:** No, Señor. No hicimos nada- Eno sehn-YOR. no ee-SEE-mohs NAH-dah No, sir. We didn't do anything)]

*[Enter ESPERANZA. ARTURO scoots off]*

**ESPERANZA:** (*indignantly*) Diego! No lo hicieron! [Dee-EH-goh! no lo ee-see-AIR-ohn! (Diego! They didn't do it.)]

Que cosa de pensarlo! [kay COH-sah deh pen-SAHR-loh! Khat a thing to think)]

**A.J.:** What's 'wrong with the well?

**ESPERANZA:** There is no water.

**A.J.:** No water?

**DIEGO:** Que' dice? [kay DEE-seh? (What's he saying?)]

**ESPERANZA:** Vayanse, ustedes! Me parezcan locos. [BUY-ahn-sehq oos-THED-ehs. meh pah-REHS-cahn LOH-cohs. (Go away! You're acting crazy.)]

**DIEGO:** No los quiero aqui! [no lohs kee-AIR-oh ah-KEE. (I don't want them here.)]

**ESPERANZA:** Yo si! ... A quien han hecho daño? A ti? [yoh, SEE! ... Ah kee-EHN ahn ECH-oh DAHN-yoh. Ah TEE? (I do! Who have they hurt? You?)]

Estan aqui de ayudarnos., Eehs-TAHN ah-KEE deh ah-yoo-DAHR-nohs. (They're here to help us.)]

**DIEGO:** (*pointing to the well*) Lo veo. Lo veo. [lo BAY-oh (I see.)]

**ESPERANZA:** Diego ... Por favor ... Dejame ... Dejanos ... No te concierne. [Dee-EH-goh ... por fah-VOR ... DEH-hah-meh ... DEH-hah-nohs ... No teh cohn-see-AIR-neh. (Please. Leave me alone. Leave us alone. It doesn't concern you.)]

**DIEGO:** A ver. Vamos a ver. [ah BAIR. BAH-mohs ah bair. (We'll see.)]

*[He backs off. Then, to PAGO]*

Vamonos. [BAH-moh-nohs. (Let's go.)]

*[Muttering, exit DIEGO, PACO and HORTENCIA]*

**A.J.:** This is unreal!

**CASEY:** When did it happen?

**ESPERANZA:** Yesterday.

**CASEY:** It's not the only well, is it?

**ESPERANZA:** No, no. There are three others.

**A.J.:** This is unreal! And that guy was mad!

**CASEY:** Who is he?

**ESPERANZA:** His name is Diego. He works that little store to the side of the church. He does not like Americanos because his brother went to America and has sent no letters. So he hates Americans?

**CASEY:** How do you know all that?

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**ESPERANZA:** He told me ... He likes me ... I do not like him.

**CASEY:** (*nodding*) Oh ... Well, I'm glad you showed up when you did ...

**ESPERANZA:** Glad I -- ?

**CASEY:** Game by. Glad you came by and stood up for us.

**ESPERANZA:** Stood up?

*[They laugh.]*

**CASEY:** Thank you for helping us. You're a very special person.

**ESPERANZA:** That is understood.

*[They laugh again]*

**A.J.:** What would make this well go dry?

**CASEY:** Who knows Maybe the Lord is trying get everyone's attention ...

**A.J.:** Oh, come on!

**ESPERANZA:** Perhaps the water has found a new ... street.

**A.J.:** Maybe somebody forgot to pay the bill.

**CASEY:** Esperanza, I don't think we should stay ... Not today ... But we'll come back and hopefully this'll be fixed by then.

**A.J.:** All right, Casey! Let's vamonos.

**ESPERANZA:** I understand. And I will try to make Diego understand.

**A.J.:** Yeah, do that.

**CASEY:** How about next Monday?

**A.J.:** Monday's prep-day.

**CASEY:** What's more important, Elder?

*[A.J. rolls his eyes]*

**ESPERANZA:** Monday, si. Monday esta perfecto. [Monday es-TAH pair-FEC-toh.]

**CASEY:** Great! ... We'd better go ... Whose turn on the briefcase?

**A.J.:** Yours.

*[It's not. CASEY grabs it anyway]*

**CASEY:** Thanks again.

**ESPERANZA:** I will pray for you.

*(Pointing to the well)*

And him, too.

*[They start out. Lights dim]*

**Scene 7 -- The Orizaba Chapel; the next day. Zone Conference. The Assistants, ROBBINS and CLAYTON greet GARVEY, SOUTHWICK, TYBERG and BINGHAM.**

**SOUTHWICK:** Well, Elder Clayton

**CLAYTON:** (*stoically*) Sister Southwick. I hear 'the Relief Society' has really been cleaning up. Seventeen baptisms!

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**GARVEY:** Twenty-three. We had six more yesterday.

**ROBBINS:** Fantastic! How about you guys?

**TYBERG:** We won't goose-egg. We've got one.

**CLAYTON:** Still doing a hundred push-ups every morning?

**TYBERG & SOUTHWICK:** Sure am! / Oh, yes.

**TYBERG:** Feel that stomach. Solid granite.

**GARVEY:** (*pushing his head*) You're right ... Oh, you said 'stomach'!

**ROBBINS:** (*to BINGHAM*) How you doin'?

**BINGHAM:** As well as can be expected.

*[Enter A.J. and CASEY]*

**ROBBINS:** Casey! Haven't seen you since Veracruz!

*(Eyeing A.J.)*

I see you're still letting everyone borrow your ties.

**BINGHAM:** And shirts.

**TYBERG:** And socks.

**SOUTHWICK:** And hair spray.

**CLAYTON:** (*to A.J.*) How do you like the ol' mission field so far?

**A.J.:** You want the truth?

*[Enter KNOLL BRADLEY noisily]*

**BRADLEY:** Okay, I'm here. Start the party.

**TYBERG:** Bradley!

**BRADLEY:** (*grabbing TYBERG with a big abrazo*) Hey, what's happenin', ya ol' flipper?

**TYBERG:** Bradley! Put me down.

*[He does]*

You're still crazy.

**BRADLEY:** (*flagrantly to the Assistants*) No, man, I'm trunky. Only three months to go.

**CLAYTON:** Elder Bradley, what're we gonna do with you?

**BRADLEY:** Transfer me to Acapulco.

**ROBBINS:** We'd better start the meeting ...

*[As they take their places ...]*

**BRADLEY:** Sister Southwick! Will you marry me?

**CLAYTON:** (*at the podium*) Buenos dias, elde-res y hermanas. [BWEH-nehs DEE-ahs, EHL-dair-ehs ee air-MAHN-ahs. (Good morning, elders and sisters.)] Welcome to Zone Conference. Let's begin by asking Elder Jamison to give the opening prayer.

**A.J.:** Why me?

*[He goes to the podium, bows his head and stammers]*

Padre Celestial, te damos gracias por ... Te pedimos que ... Amen.

*[He sits]*

**CLAYTON:** Thank you, elder. I'm sure the Lord understood whatever you said ... Now we'd like to hear from a few of you -- at random ... Let's start with -- Sister Garvey.

*[He sits. She goes to the podium]*



**PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle** by *Mark Ogden*

**GARVEY:** I knew it was gonna be me ... Well, let's see ... The big news is that we've been blessed with twenty-three baptisms. We taught twenty-three great people and I'll tell y'all why ... Persistence! We jus' kep' goin' back till they knew we really cared ... Now that's whatcha gotta do!

**MUSICAL # 6 -- LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE**

YOU ARE RUNNING IN A RACE TODAY  
AND YOU HOPE TO TAKE FIRST PLACE TODAY.  
YOU SURVEY THE FIELD AND FIND 'EM ALL  
WAY AHEAD -- AND YOU'RE BEHIND 'EM ALL.

THERE IS STILL A LAP OR TWO TO GO  
ARE YOU GOING TO NAP OR TAKE IT SLOW?  
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE LAGGING WAY BEHIND  
DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T MAKE RECORD TIME.

LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.  
POUR ON THE SPEED.  
SOON YOU WILL UP AND TAKE THE LEAD.  
YOU'LL HAVE THE STRENGTH  
TO WIN BY A LENGTH.  
GET THE LORD ON YOUR SIDE  
AND THAT'S ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED.

**CLAYTON:** *(rising)* Gracias, Sister Garvey ... Now let's hear from ... Elder Bradley!

**BRADLEY:** *(startled)* What?

*[He quickly closes the magazine he's reading]*

No flippin' way!

**CLAYTON:** Okay ... Elder Bingham!

*[BINGHAM bounds up to the podium]*

**BINGHAM:**

YOU ARE RIDING ON A BUS TODAY  
AND YOU GOT YOUR 'DEAR JOHN' JUST TODAY.  
YOU'RE TOO SICK AND BROKEN-HEARTED  
TO NOTICE SOMEONE SITTING NEXT TO YOU.  
BUT HE'S SEEN YOU OUT ABOUT YOUR BIZ,  
KNOCKING HARD ON EV'RY DOOR BUT HIS.  
YOU GOULD GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER  
IF YOU'D PUT DOWN THAT STUPID LETTER AND ...

*[He gestures expectantly]*

**ALL:** *(except A.J. and BRADLEY)*

LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

**BINGHAM:**

SAY 'HOW DO YOU DO?'  
DON'T LET A GOLDEN CHANCE FALL THRU!  
RIGHT NOW YOUR GOALS THE SAVING OF SOULS.  
SOMEWHERE ANOTHER GIRL  
IS SAVING HERSELF JUST FOR YOU.

**CLAYTON:** Thanks, Elder ... Now let's hear from -- Elder Robbins!

**ROBBINS:** You can't do that! ... All right, we'll set an example -- together! And then let's hear from Sister Southwick.

[Latin beat. Accents]

JOO ARE TRACTING OUT SOMEPLACE TODAY.  
DOORS ARE SLAMMING EEN YOUR FACE TODAY.

**CLAYTON:**

THE ONLY WAY TO GET AHEAD TODAY  
WOULD HAVE BEEN TO STAY EEN BED TODAY.

**ROBBINS:**

BUT DON'T BE A DOUBTING THOMAS NOW.

**CLAYTON:**

THAT LAST HOUSE MIGHT HOLD A PROMISE NOW.

**BOTH:**

THAT FORSAKEN SHACK YOU MIGHT IGNORE  
JUST MAY HAVE A VERY GOLDEN DOOR ...

**SOUTHWICK:**

ONE DAY JESUS WALKED ALONG THE SEA,  
SPIED THE FISHING SONS OF ZEBEDEE -  
PETER, JAMES AND JOHN WERE THERE AFLOAT  
WISHING THAT THEY OWNED A MOTOR BOAT!

*(slower, gentler)*

FROM THE ROCKY SHORES OF GALILEE  
JESUS CALLED OUT TO THE CHOSEN THREE,  
'FISHERMEN OF MEN YOU SOON WILL BE.  
LEAVE YOUR FISHING NETS; COME FOLLOW ME!  
LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.

**GARVEY:**

LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.

**SOUTHWICK:**

LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.

**GARVEY & SOUTHWICK:**

THO' THE RIVER MAY SEM WIDE

**TYBERG:** *(unexpectedly enthusiastic)*

PADDLE SOME MORE.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- A. J.'s Miracle by Mark Ogden

YOU'LL REACH THE SHORE.

SOON YOU WILL REST YOUR OAR OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

**SISTERS & ASSISTANTS:**

WORK LIKE EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON YOU.

PRAY LIKE IT ALL DEPENDED ON HIM.

YOU'LL BE AMONG THE CHOSEN FEW

FULL OF BLESSINGS TO THE BRIM.

**BINGHAM:**

PRAY LIKE EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON HIM.

WORK LIKE IT ALL DEPENDED ON YOU.

**SISTERS, ASSISTANTS, BINGHAM:**

THE HOPE INSIDE WILL NEVER DIM.

ALL YOUR SCHEMES WILL SOON COME TRUE.

ALL YOUR DREAMS WILL BLOOM ... IF YOU WILL ...

**ASSISTANTS, BINGHAM, SOUTHWICK**

WORK LIKE EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON YOU.

*[CASEY encourages A.J. to sing along. Reluctantly, he does]*

PRAY LIKE IT ALL DEPENDED ON HIM.

YOU'LL BE AMONG THE CHOSEN FEW,

FULL OF BLESSINGS TO THE BRIM.

PRAY LIKE EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON HIM.

WORK LIKE IT ALL DEPENDED ON YOU.

**ALL:** *(except BRADLEY who conducts sarcastically)*

YOU WILL GET YOUR REWARD. LIFE ETERNAL WILL BE YOURS!

*[Tableau, applause. Enter ESPERANZA highly distressed]*

**GARVEY, TYBERG, CASEY:**

LENGTHEN YOUR STRIDE.

CONQUER NEW SHORES.

OPEN A MILLION BRAND NEW

DOORS.

SHARPEN YOUR SWORD.

TRUST IN THE LORD.

**CASEY:** Esperanza! What's wrong?

**ESPERANZA:** *(displaying a letter)* You must not come tomorrow. Another well has gone dry. And I have received this letter -- signed by many, also the priest -- that you are not welcome in Xoacan!

*[Startled reactions]*

**ROBBINS:** Casey, what's going on?

**CASEY:** You tell me.

*(To ESPERANZA)*

Thank you for coming all this way.

**ESPERANZA:** I had no other way to tell you.

**A.J.:** I told ya, Casey. I told ya we shouldn't go back there.

**CASEY:** Elder, we were inspired.

**A.J.:** By the Devil maybe.

**ESPERANZA:** No ... For the Devil, Xoacan was always too small ... But I think ... I think he is there now.

*[Various reactions as the lights dim]*

*[End of Act I] (24 more pages make up Act Two)*