

PERUSAL SCRIPT



Salt Lake City

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HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES

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CHARACTERS

Michael McCloud -- a young angel

President A. Golden Harper -- Presiding Bishop of "Celestial Industries"

Pearl Gates -- his secretary

Gloria -- his receptionist

Brother Golightly -- Public Relations Director

Stan Daniels -- the father

Ann Daniels -- mother

Jess -- returned missionary son

Jan -- oldest daughter

Randy -- high school senior

Aaron

Karen

Kyle

Verda Madsen -- the Mutual President

Sister Kendall -- first counselor

Melva Groberg -- ward Sunday School chorister

Wilford Groberg -- her wimpy husband

Marvin Denowsky -- a student athlete

Messenger

STUDENTS:

#1 (M)

#2 (F)

#3 (F)

#4 (M)

#5 (F)

various clerks, spirits and dancers

HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES A Musical by *Mark Ogden*. 10 or 11M 8 or 9F + ensemble and dancers. About 2 hours. Various Locations. This play revolves around trying to discover what you promised to do before coming to Earth. Long ago the Lord foreordained three of His children to a great work -- saving the soul of a Fourth Child. Each promised to do his part to help this child fulfill his own special mission in life. When they got to earth, however, things didn't go as planned. Michael McCloud, a special agent from Celestial Industries, was sent down to inspire the three children to keep their word. But when he got to Earth, things again didn't go as planned. Until... Michael McCloud finally converted the Third Child in an unexpected way. In the end the Third Child, without the help of the First Child or the Second Child, kept his promise and helped the Fourth Child become worthy to fulfill the glorious calling to which he had been foreordained. Performance-Traks available. Orchestrations available with the following parts: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion, Violin 1, 3, & 3, Cello, Bass, Piano) **Order #2072**

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.

PART I "CELESTIAL INDUSTRIES"

Scene 1 -- Somewhere in Heaven
#1 -- *Heaven Never Closes* Harper, Gates, Gloria, Ensemble

Scene 2 -- The Main Floor of "Celestial Industries"
#1a -- *Scene Change*

Scene 3 -- President Harper's Office
#1b -- *Scene Change*

Scene 4 -- Brother Golightly's Classroom

Scene 5 -- The Celestial Court
#2 -- *I Will, I Will* Messenger, Randy, Ensemble

Scene 6 -- Golightly's Classroom
#3 -- *Banjo and Piano, Too* Students
#3a -- *Scene Change*

PART II -- "COLD STORAGE"

Scene 7 -- The Living Room of the Daniels' Family
#4 -- *Do It Now!* Jan, Jess, Aaron, Ann, McCloud, Karen, Stan, Kyle
#4a -- *Scene Change*

Scene 8 -- The Living Room of the Daniels' Family
#5a -- *Scene Change*

Scene 9 -- The Living Room of the Daniels' Family
#5b -- *Scene Change*

Scene 10 -- Harper's Office
#6 -- *Valiance* Gates, Harper, Ensemble

(INTERMISSION, if desired)

PART III -- "The Rocky Roadshow"

Scene 11 -- The Fourth Ward cultural hall
#7 -- *I Hate Roadshow* Verda
#8 -- *I Hate Roadshow(reprise)* Kids
#9 -- *Time Without Love* McCloud

Scene 12 -- Harper's Office

Scene 13 -- The Celestial Court
#10 -- *I Will, I Will (reprise #1)* Messenger, Verda

Scene 14 -- Golightly's Classroom

PART IV "THIS SIDE UP"

Scene 15 -- The Groberg's Living Room
#11a -- *Scene Change*

Scene 16 -- A Golf Course

Scene 17 -- Golightly's Classroom
#11b -- *Scene Change*

Scene 18 -- Groberg's Living Room
#12 -- *Heaven Never Closes (reprise)* Melva, Marvin, Ensemble

Scene 19 -- Golightly's Classroom
#13 -- *Quicken Your Step* Golightly, Ensemble

PART V - "CONGRATULATIONS, COMRADE"

Scene 20 -- Daniels' Living Room
#14 -- *A Smile and A Prayer* Jan

Scene 21 -- Golightly's Classroom
#15 -- *I Will, I Will (reprise #2)* Messenger, Ensemble
#16 -- *Curtain Call*

ACT ONE

PART I "CELESTIAL INDUSTRIES"

Scene One -- *President Harper's Office. PRESIDENT HARPER, dressed in a white business suit with gold trim, is reviewing some charts with his secretary, PEARL GATES. His receptionist, GLORIA, is filing papers. As the lights come up, GATES taps him on the shoulder and points to the audience.*

HARPER: Oh, heavens! I didn't see you there. One gets so "anxiously engaged" up here. This must be the group that's going to help take inventory.

GATES: Where would you like them to start, sir?

HARPER: At the top, of course. Counting blessings.

(To aud.)

Who knows, some of them may even be your own! We do appreciate your coming so fax. We're really short of help - you see, they're dedicating several new worlds today.

(To GLORIA)

Wish you could stay.

GLORIA: I'm sorry, President, but I did come in for half a day -- and by Kolob time, that's five hundred years!

(Enter MICHAEL McCLOUD, a young clerk, with some forms)

McCLOUD: President Harper, there are some unusual "BR's" that need your approval.

HARPER: *(to aud.)* We're not above acronyms even here. "BR" stands for Blessing Request. Go ahead, Brother McCLOUD.

McCLOUD: This one's from a missionary in Japan who can't seem to relate to the people.

HARPER: Bless him with a native companion and make sure he eats plenty of raw fish!

McCLOUD: This missionary from California is also having trouble relating to a strange foreign culture.

GATES: Where is he?

McCLOUD: Utah.

HARPER: My, my! Sometimes the Lord blesses his children with severe hardships. Send him strength and tell him not to drink the water!

McCLOUD: How do you do it, President. Your decisions are so wise.

HARPER: Well, I've had high-level management training from the Master himself. I just try to do whatever He'd do.

McCLOUD: The Master himself - wow!

HARPER: Now, why don't the three of you help me take our new "employees" on a little tour.

MUSICAL #1 -- HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES

(To aud.)

I am A. Golden Harper, Presiding Bishop of the Lord's Storehouse. Welcome to Celestial Industries!

Scene 2 -- *The Main Floor of Celestial Industries. It is a beautiful department store of gold and white decor.*

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

HARPER:

LET ME TAKE YOU ON A TOUR THROUGH A MOST UNUSUAL STORE.
WE SINCERELY HOPE WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
WE'RE LIKE TUITION AT THE 'Y' - BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH EXTREMELY HIGH.
THO' OUR BUSINESS IS STUPENDOUS, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN BUY.
OUR FRIENDLY SERVICE IS TREMENDOUS. AND THIS IS WHY . .

ENSEMBLE:

'CAUSE HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES.
WE'RE OPEN DAY AND NIGHT.

HARPER:

SO LIFT YOUR EYES TO THE FRIENDLY EYES,
AND BOOK YOURSELF A FLIGHT.

Actually, we're conveniently located just minutes from downtown (where ever you are). Just head straight up and at the first inter section, choose the right.

GATES:

ABOVE US ON THE SECOND FLOOR COUNTLESS BLESSINGS ARE IN STORE.

GLORIA:

AND UP ANOTHER FLIGHT OF STAIRS THERE'S TALENTS GALORE.

GATES:

LOOK AROUND AND YOU'LL AGREE WE'VE GOT MORE AISLES THAN THE SEA.

GLORIA:

FOR EMPLOYEES THERE'S A SNACKROOM THAT SERVES MILK AND HONEY.

HARPER:

THERE'S ENOUGH STUFF IN THE BACKROOM TO LAST ETERNALLY.

ALL:

HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES.

GATES:

YOU'LL LIKE OUR HELPFUL CLERKS.

ALL:

AND 'WE HOPE THAT YOU'RE READING OUR BROCHURE -
IT'S CALLED THE STANDARD WORKS!

GATES: The scriptures as you know them contain only a partial listing of our merchandise. Major portions of the catalog have yet to be revealed!

ALL:

HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES.
WE'RE OPEN NIGHT AND DAY.

HARPER:

WE OFFER FREE HOME DELIVERY - OR USE OUR LAY-AWAY.

GLORIA: Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where neither Mastercharge nor any other credit card doth corrupt!

(The ENSEMBLE dances. Then MUSIC continues under dialog)

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by *Mark Ogden*

HARPER: If you think malls on Earth are big, you'll really be amazed at the size of this operation. Come with me. Over here we have the bakery department. How's business?

CLERK: Great! But we haven't been as busy since Moses stopped ordering all that manna.

HARPER: Our insurance department processes all your tithing receipts.

CLERK: We're fired up to make sure you never are!

HARPER: There's the budget store.

CLERK: Where you can get a testimony so strong that Satan will never budge it.

GATES: And the Loft . . .

CLERK: . . . where you can get an unspotted garment like this for only seven decades of righteous living. And guess what - we have a white sale everyday.

GLORIA: Don't forget about spiritual gifts - free gift-wrapping, of course.

HARPER: On the very top floor in the Celestial Room you can get robes of righteousness, crowns of glory and pearls of great price.

GATES: It's very impressive, isn't it? As President Harper said - we hope we've got what you're looking for.

HARPER: And remember . . .

ALL:

HEAVEN NEVER CLOSES. WE'RE OPEN RAIN OR SHINE.
AND WE DON'T TELL LIES WHEN WE ADVERTISE
THIS PLACE IS JUST DIVINE.

HARPER:

THIS STORE TO GREAT EXTENT REFLECTS THE MANAGEMENT.

ALL:

THIS PLACE IS JUST DIVINE!

MUSICAL #1A -- SCENE CHANGE (Heaven Never Closes)

(The ENSEMBLE disperses. HARPER, GATES, GLORIA and McCLOUD head back to the Office.)

Scene 3 -- Harper's Office. HARPER, GATES and GLORIA resume working. Enter McCLOUD.

McCLOUD: President Harper, we're getting an urgent request from Salt Lake City - something about plans for a new Moscow temple . . .

GLORIA: Moscow!

HARPER: Idaho. I have the blueprints right here. Sister Gates, please send this down immediately.

GATES: Yes, sir, immediately.

HARPER: Thanks. You're an angel.

GATES: I know.

(She exits.)

GLORIA: I wonder if they'll ever build a temple in Moscow, Russia.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

HARPER: I think so, but it's a ways off. However, there is some news about Russia in which you'd be very interested.

GLORIA: Oh, tell us.

HARPER: I said you'd be interested. I didn't say I'd tell.

McCLOUD: But you didn't say you wouldn't!

HARPER: Oh, all right. They may allow some American professors to study in Moscow.

McCLOUD: (*perceptively*) Professors, huh? Like from BYU? How about nineteen-year-old "professors" from BYU?

HARPER: We are clever, aren't we?

McCLOUD: And if those "professors" could begin to teach as well as study, then Russia, look out!

HARPER: Now don't get carried away. The whole thing is still very if-y. You are, however, a very perceptive young angel. That's why I'm giving you a promotion.

McCLOUD: Already? I've only been a clerk for a hundred years!

HARPER: Well, now you're going to be a Field Representative. Report to Brother Golightly in Public Relations right away.

GLORIA: Oh, Michael, that's wonderful!

McCLOUD: Gee, thanks, Gloria. President Harper, this is a great responsibility.

HARPER: But you can handle it. You were foreordained to do it. I checked. And you'll be interested to know that you were foreordained to some other important callings.

McCLOUD: Really? Tell me.

HARPER: I said you'd be interested. I didn't say I'd tell!

(Blackout)

MUSICAL # 1b -- SCENE CHANGE (Heaven Never Closes)

Scene 4 - Brother Golightly's Classroom -- BROTHER GOLIGHTLY is lecturing as McCLOUD and STUDENTS #1,4,5 listen.

GOLIGHTLY: Good morning and congratulations, McCloud! Today is your final session of Field Representative Training. In a very short time you will be headed for Eaxth, a notoriously difficult planet. Here's what you might encounter . . .

(STUDENTS #1 and #2 role-play a scene.)

STUDENT #1: Ding-dong. Heaven calling. I represent Celestial Industries and today we have a special offer on a world all your own complete with stars and everything.

STUDENT #2: How much?

STUDENT #1: Only faith, repentance, baptism, the Gift of the Holy Ghost and endurance to the end.

STUDENT#2: That's ridiculous!

STUDENT#1: But it's the highest quality you'll ever find.

STUDENT#2: Maybe so, but another salesman came here yesterday and offered me this world for a heck of a

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by *Mark Ogden*

lot less.

STUDENT#1: Which company did he represent?

STUDENT#2: I think he said "The Sizzler".

STUDENT#1: Do you want this world?

STUDENT#2: Not really, but yours is just out of my range. It's just too high. Hey, listen, my kids are cryin' she slams her door

STUDENT#1: I can see why.

GOLIGHTLY: Now, of course, this demonstration was oversimplified. Earth life is much more complex. We want you to succeed, of course, but working with the human race isn't exactly easy. Which brings us to Rule #1.

STUDENTS: NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT HINDERS THE FREE AGENCY OF ANYONE.

GOLIGHTLY: Very good. Our approach must always be subtle. "We'll call, persuade, direct aright, bless with wisdom, love and light, in countless ways be good and kind, but never force the human mind." Now Rule #2.

STUDENTS: NEVER STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR VERY LONG.

(They all quickly shift positions.)

GOLIGHTLY: Too many people need our products. If someone isn't responsive after several attempts, move on to the next door. Rule #3.

STUDENTS: AVOID REVEALIN'G YOUR IDENTITY.

GOLIGHTLY: Right! But if someone suspects that you are an angel and offers you his hand, the laws of heaven say that you must shake it. That way he'll know that you are a true messenger from God. But that shalt not happen, shall it?!

(McCLOUD nods "no".)

Is everything clear so far?

(McCLOUD nods "yes".)

Good, because now we're going to look at a very interesting case study. Long ago before the Earth was created, the Lord sent messengers throughout the hosts of heaven to seek volunteers to do special assignments during their mortal existence. But why am I telling you when I have the visual aids all ready?

Scene 5 - The Celestial Court -- No pause in the flow of the show. Trumpets sound. Behind a scrim we see the MESSENGER standing atop a golden staircase. She is dressed in a luminescent white gown and carries a rolled parchment scroll. On platforms of various levels are SPIRITS, including RANDY, STAN, VERDA and MARV, also dressed in white, facing the MESSENGER. Lights gradually intensify creating a brilliant glow. Beautiful colors play on a white backdrop behind the staircase.)

MUSICAL # 2 -- I WILL, I WILL

MESSENGER:

FROM OUR FATHER I HAVE COME

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

TO SEE IF THERE IS ONE
BOTH STRONG AND TRUE.
'WHO IS FILLED WITH LOVE AND LIGHT?
WHO'LL DARE TO BRAVE THE NIGHT
HIS WORK TO DO?

RANDY:

I WILL, I WILL.
I'M READY.
YOUR CALL I CAN FULFILL.
MY FAITH IS STRONG AND STEADY.
I WILL, I WILL.

MESSENGER:

THE GOOD SHEPHERD SENDS ME HERE
TO ASK WHO'LL VOLUNTEER
TO CALL HIS SHEEP.
'WHO WILL BRAVE THE ICE AND COLD
TO LEAD THEM TO THE FOLD
AND VIGIL KEEP?

RANDY:

I WILL, I WILL.
PLEASE SEND ME.
MY VOICE WILL NOT BE STILL.
AND ANGELS WILL ATTEND ME.
I WILL, I WILL.

MESSENGER:

YOU, WHO ARE VALIANT AND TRUE
NOW ARE CALLED TO DO
THE WORK MOST NOBLE TO PURSUE.

MESSENGER & CHORUS:

HIS SHEEP ARE SCATTERED ALL ABROAD
AMONG THE JAGGED ROCKS WHERE WILD WOLVES ROAM.
YOU WILL GO INTO THE WORLD
AND CALL THE WEARY FLOCKS AND BRING THEM HOME.

RANDY:

I WILL, I WILL.
BELIEVE ME.
MY DESTINY FULFILL.
AND SATAN WON'T DECEIVE ME.

RANDY:

I WILL, I WILL.

ALL:

YOU WILL, YOU WILL.

(Lights fade on the Celestial Court.)

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

Scene 6 - Brother Golightly's Classroom, immediately following. GOLIGHTLY continues his lecture.

GOLIGHTLY: Quite a spirited young spirit - don't you think? Most impressive! He was given a very special assignment to fulfill - so special, in fact, that three others were called just to help him.

McCLOUD: What was it?

GOLIGHTLY: That's classified information.

McCLOUD: Oh, you can tell me. Do you think I'd blab it all over the universe or something?

GOLIGHTLY: McCloud, can you keep a secret?

(McCLOUD nods "yes".)

So can I!

McCLOUD: Well, at least tell us his name.

GOLIGHTLY: On Earth he's called Randy. And I am at liberty to give you a few more facts about his case. In fact, we've prepared another delightful demonstration just for you. Students . . .

MUSICAL # 3 -- BANJO AND PIANO, TOO

(STUDENTS #1, #3 and #4 perform.)

STUDENT #3:

THERE WAS A MAN WHO USED TO PLAY PIANO,
PLAYED THE STUFF THE BEATLES WROTE.
HE PLAYED EVERYTHING JUST SO-SO,
NEVER LEARNED TO READ A NOTE.

STUDENT #4:

ONE DAY A MAN WHO PLAYED BETTER PIANO
SHOWED HIM HOW TO READ "MIDDLE C".

STUDENT #3:

THIS HURT HIS PRIDE AND SO HE REPLIED,

STUDENT #1:

I'M ALREADY GOOD AS I COULD BE!

ALL:

DON'T TEACH ME NOTHIN' NEW. DON'T TRY TO MAKE ME MOVE.
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO - I MIGHT HAVE TO IMPROVE.

STUDENT #3:

AND SO THE MAN 'WHO USED TO PLAY PIANO
NEVER MET BEETHOVEN OR BACH.

STUDENT #4:

TOOK THE PRECIOUS GEM GOD GAVE HIM,
TRADED IT FOR JUST SOME ROCK!

STUDENTS #3 & #4:

AND AT THE PEARLY GATES OF ST. PETER
HE WAS FOUND ON BENDED KNEES.

STUDENT#3:

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

TO THE MAN'S DREAD OL' ST. PETER SAID,
GOLIGHTLY:

THIS GATE TAKES EIGHTY-EIGHT WORN KEYS!

(Music vamps.)

GOLIGHTLY: Now class, what words would accurately describe the pianoman?

STUDENT#4: Mediocre.

STUDENT#3: Lukewarm.

STUDENT#5: Flaky.

GOLIGHTLY: Good, good adjectives! Unfortunately, they also describe Randy's father.

(A spot comes up on STAN DANIELS watching t.v.)

He could be at the Father and Son Banquet; he's watching "Charlie's Angels". Let's see what's next . . .

(STUDENTS #1, #2 and #3 perform.)

STUDENT #1:

THERE ONCE WAS A GAL WHO USED TO PLAY BANJO,
PLAYED IT MORNING, NIGHT AND NOON,
PLAYED IT LIKE A VIRTUOSO -

STUDENT #2:

BUT SHE NEVER PLAYED IN TUNE!

STUDENT #1:

ONE DAY A MAN WHO PLAYED BETTER BANJO
TAUGHT HER HOW TO TUNE UP THE STRINGS.

STUDENT #2:

THIS HURT HER PRIDE AND SO SHE REPLIED,

STUDENT #3:

I WON'T LISTEN TO SUCH FOOLISH THINGS!

ALL:

DON'T TEACH ME NOTHIN' NEW. DON'T TRY TO MAKE ME MOVE.
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO - I MIGHT HAVE TO IMPROVE.

STUDENT #2:

AND SO SHE KEPT ON PLAYING HER BANJO,
NEVER HAD IT TUNED I FEAR.
PASSED AWAY JUST LAST SEPTEMBER,
HAD TO LEAVE HER BANJO HERE.

STUDENTS #1 & #2:

THE ANGELS CAME AND TOOK HER TO HEAVEN,
GAVE HER THERE A FINE PAIR OF WINGS.

STUDENT #2:

GAVE HER I'M TOLD A HARP OF PURE GOLD -

STUDENT #1:

BUT MAN, IT DIDN'T HAVE NO STRINGS!

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

GOLIGHTLY: Someone describe the banjo player.

STUDENT #2: Proud.

STUDENT #1: Stubborn.

STUDENT #5: Egocentric!

GOLIGHTLY: (to #5) Bright girl! Unfortunately, you've just described Randy's Aunt Verda as well.

(A spot comes up on VERDA MADSEN polishing a large silver cup.)

I have to admit - Verda is talented. For her, winning is everything - at any cost. Too bad old trophies collect so much dust. Let's see who else was supposed to help Randy.

(STUDENTS #1, #4 and #5 perform.)

STUDENT #5:

THERE WAS A MAN WHO WENT TO CHURCH SUNDAYS
TO PLAY AN ELECTRIC GUITAR.
THAT CHURCH THOUGHT IT WOULD BRING NEW MEMBERS.

STUDENT #4:

HE THOUGHT GOD WOULD MAKE HIM A STAR!

STUDENT #1:

ONE DAY A MAN WITH REAL UNDERSTANDING
TAUGHT HIM ALL ABOUT THE LORD'S PLAN.

STUDENT #5:

THIS HURT HIS PRIDE AND SO HE REPLIED,

STUDENT #4:

I'M SATISFIED RIGHT WHERE I AM.

ALL:

DON'T TEACH ME NOTHIN' NEW. DON'T TRY TO MAKE ME MOVE.
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO - I MIGHT HAVE TO IMPROVE.

STUDENT #5:

BUT THIS YOUNG MAN WAS DIFFERENT THAN MANY
'CAUSE HE TRIED TO CAST OFF HIS PRIDE.

STUDENTS #4 & #5:

THUS HE FOUND HIS HEAVENLY FATHER
AND WARM CONTENTMENT DEEP INSIDE.
NOW HE JUST LOVES TO WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS
LEARNING THAT THE GOSPEL IS TRUE.

STUDENT #5:

AND HE MUST FILL THE SHOES OF THOSE WHO REFUSE
TO LEARN A LITTLE SOMETHING NEW.

STUDENT #4:

OH, HOW HE YEARNES - CAN'T WAIT TILL HE LEARNS
TO PLAY BANJO AND PIANO, TOO.

ALL:

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by *Mark Ogden*

OH, HOW HE YEARNs - CAN'T WAIT TILL HE LEARNS
TO PLAY BANJO AND PIANO, TOO!

GOLIGHTLY: It looks like there may be some help for Randy yet.

(A spot comes up on MARV DENOWSKY eating.)

But wait a minute! That's Marvin Denowsky. He lives in Peoria, Illinois at least a thousand miles away from Randy. He doesn't know Randy from Adam. I'm not sure he even knows about Adam. Maxv hasn't had much religious training.

McCLOUD: But somebody's gotta help Randy complete his assignment.

GOLIGHTLY: Maybe Randy doesn't need any help. After all, he was very valiant in the . . .

(A spot comes up on RANDY with a beer can in hand.)

Oh, my! Things are worse than I thought. You're going to have to work very hard.

McCLOUD: You mean this case study is my case study? I will work hard. My own Earth life lasted only nineteen years. I didn't have much chance to make a contribution.

GOLIGHTLY: You were called home early because we needed a top-notch employee up here. Now is the time you get your chance. The vastness of eternity stretches before; your career opportunities are unlimited.

McCLOUD: Oh, I'm just gonna bop down there and tell Randy how beautiful everything was in the Celestial Court and how he promised to I don't know what he promised to do.

GOLIGHTLY: That's right - and for a very good reason. Randy isn't supposed to know. And I hardly think you'd be able to keep it under your halo! You've got to remember to be subtle, my boy, very subtle.

McCLOUD: Could you give me just one little hint about his assignment?

GOLIGHTLY: McCloud, you're trying my patience. It doesn't matter anyway because you won't be working with Randy. Your job is to help the others shape-up and keep their promises. Now you'd better start packing for Earth.

McCLOUD: It's time to go already?

GOLIGHTLY: Yes, and we wish you all the success in the world. Go quickly now - and remember, go lightly. Class dismissed.

(BLACKOUT)

MUSICAL # 3a SCENE CHANGE (BANJO AND PIANO, TOO)

PART II - "COLD STORAGE"

Scene 7 - *The Living Room of the Daniels' Family* -- STAN, JESS, AARON and KAREN are all watching t.v. and eating snacks. Enter ANN.

ANN: Jess, will you run to the store for me?

JESS: Can't now. I'm studying.

ANN: How can you study and watch t.v. at the same time?

JESS: Easy, I'm studying commercial art.

ANN: Aaron, how about you?

AARON: Aw - mom.

ANN: Look, we don't have any bread.

AARON: Okay.

(To STAN)

Gimme the money.

STAN: Don't look at me; I don't have any bread either.

ANN: We need eggs, hamburger and some flour, too.

STAN: Ann, wait. We'll go shopping as soon as the games are over.

ANN: When's that?

AARON: Next spring.

(AARON goes to the kitchen. ANN stands trying to figure out what to do next. Enter JAN, KYLE and MARVIN DENOWSKY. JAN carries a bottle of homemade pickles and a piece of cake wrapped in a napkin.)

JAN: Hi, everybody.

ANN: Hi. How was the party?

KYLE: It was fun, Mom. I won this!

(He displays a rubber snake.)

ANN: *(taking the napkin)* What's the matter, Kyle? Didn't you like Susie's birthday cake?

KYLE: I guess not. That's only my seventh piece.

ANN: Well, we'll just put it over here and save it for later.

(She puts it on the coffee table.)

JAN: Mom, everybody, this is Marvin Denow . . .

MARV: Denowsky.

ALL: *(not even looking up from the t.v.)* Hi, Marv.

JAN: He's living down the street in the Groberg's basement apartment.

ANN: Nice to meet you. Where are you from?

MARV: Peoria, Illinois. I came to play football for the "Y".

ANN: Well, you can see we're all football fans. Come in and sit down. I'm making some brownies

MARV: Oh, I can't stay. I was just on my way to practice when I saw Jan and . . . How soon will the brownies be done?

ANN: I'll check.

(She exits.)

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

MARV: Jan, I really do have to leave, but would you like to go have dinner later?

JAN: I'm sorry, Marv, but tomorrow is fast Sunday.

MARV: Okay, so we'll eat fast. What's fast Sunday?

JAN: It's when you don't eat or drink anything for twenty-four hours.

MARV: Gee, that sounds fun. Well, maybe some other time, huh?

JAN: Sure.

(Enter ANN with a plate of brownies.)

ANN: Look. Right out of the oven.

(MARV takes one, then another and another.)

MARV: When did you need this plate back? Well, I've gotta hustle. Thanks. Bye, Jan. Thanks again.

(He exits.)

ANN: Now howja meet him?

JAN: We were walking home from the Cook's when he just came up and started talking about Peoria, Illinois.

He's incredibly friendly. I don't think he's LDS though. I'll ask Sister Groberg about him tomorrow.

AARON: *(from kitchen)* Do we have any more Doritos?

ANN: No, and we don't have any potato chips either. I keep telling everyone we've got to get to the store!

(She exits into kitchen. Enter RANDY.)

RANDY: Hey, has anybody seen my -

(spies Jess)

- blue sweater?

(Jess has it on)

Okay, let's have it.

JESS: You've got all kinds of sweaters.

RANDY: But I'm wearing this one tonight. Lisa and I are going to see "Revenge of the Frog-people"

JESS: "Revenge of the Frog-people" is rated 'R'.

STAN: Randy, you shouldn't see that.

RANDY: You and mom go to 'R's'.

STAN: We only go when the rating is due to violence. I don't want you seeing any dirty movies.

RANDY: Dad, "Frog-people" aren't dirty; they live in the water.

(RANDY now has the sweater and starts to exit. JAN takes him aside.)

JAN: Randy, did you forget that tomorrow's fast Sunday?

RANDY: *(honestly)* Yeah, I forgot.

JAN: Why don't you just bring Lisa over here and watch t.v.?

RANDY: *(negatively)* That sounds fun.

JAN: More fun than "Revenge of the Frog-people".

RANDY: Heck, no. We're going to the drive-in.

(He exits.)

JAN: Randy!

(She follows him off.)

JESS: I don't know about Randy, Dad. I wasn't going to say anything, but I found some beer cans in his car. He said they belonged to some of his friends.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by *Mark Ogden*

STAN: I guess we'd better believe him, Jess. It seems to me you went through a similar phase.

JESS: Well, I know, but not as bad as Randy.

STAN: I can't force him to do what he should. Randy's a good kid inside. He'll pull through - just like you did.

(Enter AARON with drinks.)

AARON: I made Kool-aid. We're out of everything else.

KAREN: *(drinking and choking)* Yech! This is terrible!

AARON: We're also out of sugar.

(The doorbell rings. No one bothers to answer it. Finally, JAN enters and answers the door. The caller is McCLOUD, dressed snappily.)

McCLOUD: Good afternoon, I'm with Bread of Life Industries. Is your mother or father at home?

JAN: Dad, this man would like to see you.

STAN: *(reluctantly rising from his easy chair)* Yes, young man?

McCLOUD: Good afternoon! I'm Mike McCloud from Bread of Life Industries, your experts in home storage - and today we have a terrific offer on our super deluxe wheat-grinder bread-mixer.

STAN: We already have one.

JAN: What we don't have is anything to grind. We have a year's supply of salt, powdered milk, baking soda, bleach, toilet paper and scented candles, but we don't have anything to eat.

McCLOUD: Well, we do have a special offer on wheat.

JAN: Mom, c'mere.

STAN: Jan, this is hardly the time. The Cowboys are slaughtering the Rams!

JAN: But Dad, we should at least look into this.

STAN: Of course, we should. But buying home storage is expensive.

McCLOUD: You can buy some now and a little more each month.

STAN: No, I'll lose money if I don't buy in bulk.

JAN: But it could take years to save up enough to do that. Unless we sold our t.v.

AARON: Dad, no!

MUSICAL # 4 -- DO IT NOW

JAN:

OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN - THAT QUESTION WE ALWAYS HEAR

JESS:

SOMEBODY ALWAYS IS ASKING US WHEN WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR A YEAR.

AARON:

TO WHICH MY MOM REPEATS -

ANN:

THE WAY THIS FAMILY EATS, WE WOULD HAVE TO SELL THIS HOUSE
AND MOVE INTO A GROCERY STORE!
THEN WE MIGHT SURVIVE . . .

AARON:

SAYS SHE -

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

ANN:

... IF WE EAT SPARINGLY!
BUT WHO CAN REALLY BE SURE?

McCLOUD:

NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER.
THE DAYS ARE GETTING SHORTER.
AND HOW SUBLIME - JUST TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE READY,
YOUR FAITH IS STRONG AND STEADY.
DO IT NOW!

(Lights come up on all HEAVENLY CHARACTERS who are looking down upon the scene.)

ALL: *(except Stan)*

WHY DON'T YOU DO IT NOW?
THE LORD WILL SHOW YOU HOW.
THERE IS NO TIME LIKE TODAY.
WHEN HE GIVES A COMMANDMENT TO MEN
HE ALWAYS PROVIDES A WAY,
TRUST HIM AND DON'T DELAY.
ASK HIM AND HE WILL SAY, "NOW!"

KYLE:

OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN -

JAN:

THEY WARN US THAT SOON WE'LL SEE

JESS:

FAMINES . . .

ANN:

AND EARTHQUAKES . . .

AARON:

DISASTERS . . .

KAREN:

AND PLAGUES.

KYLE:

BUT WE SEE THOSE NOW ON T.V.!

JAN:

THE END IS SOON, YOU BET!

STAN: *(contradicting her)*

BUT IT WON'T COME JUST YET.

WE'LL GET NERVOUS WHEN THEY SEND MISSIONARIES TO THE PLACE WITH A STAR!

(Israel)

THAT'S WHEN WE'LL GET PREPARED.

ANN:

THAT IS WHEN I'LL GET SCARED.

STAN:

THAT'S IN THE FUTURE QUITE FAR.

McCLOUD:

NOW IS THE TIME. DON'T PROCRASTINATE LONGER,

THE DEVIL'S GETTIN' STRONGER.

SO RISE AND SHINE.

GET PREPARED FOR TOMORROW

AND YOU'LL ESCAPE THE SORROW.

DO IT NOW!

ALL: *(except Stan)*

YOU OUGHT TO DO IT NOW.

THE LORD CANNOT ALLOW ANY SIN THAT YOU COMMIT.

DON'T DELAY YOUR REPENTANCE TILL THUNDER AND EARTHQUAKES HIT.

THEN THERE'S NO TIME TO QUIT.

THAT'S WHY YOU MUST DO IT NOW.

GEE WHIZ AND HOLY COW!

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW REALLY BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT

ARE THE BLESSINGS THE LORD HAS IN STORE.

FOLLOW HIS SHINING LIGHT.

REACH FOR THE HIGHEST HEIGHT.

DO IT AND DO IT RIGHT NOW

DO IT NOW. DO IT NOW.

DO IT NOW!

McCLOUD: Well, sir, what do you say? I can leave you a can right now, can't I?

STAN: Why don't you just leave me - a card. Maybe in a week or so I'll give you a call.

JAN: Dad, we're always thinking about getting our year's supply, but we never get it. I wish you wouldn't be so
- mediocre.

JESS: Lukewarm . . .

AARON & KAREN: Flaky.

STAN: Don't worry. Like I said -- by the time they send missionaries to Russia, we'll have our year's supply of
blintzes and caviar. Thanks for your trouble, Mr. McCloud.

(Disappointed, JAN shows McCLOUD to the door. The others return to watching t.v.)

AARON: Hey, Dad, the Rams got massacred - 23 zip.

ANN: You mean it's finally over?

STAN: But there's another game.

ANN: I thought we were going shopping. Don't complain when you get open-faced sandwiches for dinner. And
I mean really open-faced!

(ANN exits into the kitchen just as RANDY comes downstairs to leave on his date.)

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

JAN: I'd go to the store for you, Mom, but I've got roadshow practice. You ought to be in it, Randy. There's a great part for you.

RANDY: Dad, will you tell Jan to get off my back about this church stuff?

STAN: Jan, we've talked about this before.

JAN: Okay, I won't say another word. I'll be back later.

(She exits.)

RANDY: So will I.

(He exits through the kitchen.)

AARON: Peace at last. Now maybe we can catch the game.

STAN: Does anybody want to pop some popcorn?

ANN: *(hollering from the kitchen)* There's no popcorn!

(Blackout)

MUSICAL # 4a -- SCENE CHANGE (DO IT NOW)

Scene 8 - The Daniels' Living Room -- It is very early Sunday morning. The scene is dimly lit. KAREN is huddled on the couch, shivering. Enter JAN in her robe.

JAN: Karen, what are you doing?

KAREN: I'm freezing to death.

JAN: Why is it so cold?

KAREN: Because we're snowed in.

JAN: Snowed in? We can't be . . .

(She looks out the window.)

Mom! Dad! We're snowed in!

KAREN: I feel like an Eskimo pie.

(Enter STAN and ANN.)

STAN: What's the matter?

KAREN: Our house is no longer a house; it's an igloo.

ANN: I knew I was shivering. I just thought it was your father's cold feet.

STAN: I'm going to check upstairs.

(Enter JESS, AARON and KYLE from upstairs.)

JESS: There's no need. I already checked. We are trapped in a giant popsicle.

ANN: Somebody turn on the radio.

(AARON switches it on as all listen intently.)

RADIO: . . . in higher elevations. Fair skies are expected to continue along the Wasatch front, except in Utah County where that freak snowstorm continues to dump heavy snow in the bench areas of Provo-Orem.

KAREN: That's us.

RADIO: This incredible precipitation has weathermen all over the nation completely baffled. A record eighty-one inches of snow has fallen in just eight hours. Drifts in some areas are much higher . . .

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

JESS: That's definitely us.

RADIO: Rescue operations are being hampered by poor visibility and high winds. Those stranded are advised to remain calm and wait until the storm subsides before trying to dig themselves out. A full report is upcoming in fifteen minutes on the seven o'clock news . . .

(AARON switches off the radio.)

JESS: Eighty-one inches in eight hours - that's impossible!

KAREN: How long do you think we'll be stranded?

AARON: Days, weeks - years.

KAREN: We'll freeze to death.

AARON: No, we won't freeze to death.

(Realizing.)

We'll starve!

(Suddenly, everyone dashes for the piece of birthday cake still on the coffee table.)

KYLE: It's mine. It's mine!

(AARON reluctantly gives KYLE the cake - in a million crumbs.)

ANN: We should have gone to the store last night.

STAN: But that movie was so good - "Godzilla vs. Charlie's Angels".

AARON: Are there any soda crackers left?

ANN: No, you guys ate every cookie, carrot stick and sugar frosted flake in the house!

KAREN: We are gonna starve!

ANN: No, we won't. We just may not be eating like we're used to. There's lots of powdered milk and three cases of stewed tomatoes in the basement.

ALL: Yuck!

JAN: We should have bought that can of wheat.

JESS: Somebody pray for a speedy rescue.

AARON: Or a pepperoni pizza, whichever comes first.

JAN: Look on the bright side - today is fast Sunday.

JESS: And tomorrow's fast Monday, then fast Tuesday . . .

STAN: Hey, I don't have to give my Sunday School lesson.

KAREN: And we won't have to listen to Melva Groberg bear her travelogue in testimony meeting.

ANN: But we are going to listen to the Choir broadcast.

AARON: And a rough football game will help keep our minds off this gnawing hunger.

(He switches on the t.v.)

JAN: Oh, you and that t.v.! I think we should have church right here - our very own testimony meeting. By the way, where's Randy?

MUSICAL # 5a -- SCENE CHANGE (DO IT NOW)

Scene 9 - The Daniels' Living Room -- All sit dejectedly wrapped in blankets. ANN is in the kitchen STAN

upstairs.

KAREN: Four days of starvation.

AARON: What I wouldn't give for an actual Big Mac.

RANDY: Instead we get macaroni and no cheese . . .

KAREN: Spaghetti and no meatballs . . .

JESS: Tossed salad and no lettuce!

(Enter STAN headed toward the kitchen.)

STAN: Good morning, dear.

ANN: Out of this kitchen! It's off limits! You guys are always sneaking in here. Randy ate the last of the Spam and Jess snarfed down a half pint of cottage cheese.

STAN: You hate cottage cheese.

JESS: I was desperate.

RANDY: You gotta eat constantly when you're starving to death.

STAN: I was going to ask what's for breakfast, but on second thought, don't tell me.

ANN: Well, if you can do any better, the empty cupboards are all yours!

STAN: I'm sorry. You're doing a remarkable job. Who else could turn creamed corn and oatmeal into an exciting dessert?

KAREN: What is for breakfast, Mom?

ANN: Rice pudding and Vienna sausages.

STAN: At least we're not starving. So what if we have to eat some unusual foods for a change?

AARON: But Dad, garbanzo beans and frozen spinach?

STAN: Now, wait - that hot dog casserole we had last night was delicious.

ANN: Good. Because I have all the ingredients to make it again tonight.

(STAN wilts, as does everyone.)

JESS: The way I figure it - if we just had bread, we could make it. We've got butter, honey, jam, peanut butter, ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise. None of those things is too great on a napkin all by itself.

KAREN: Yeah, if we just had bread.

JAN: Or a little wheat to make some bread.

STAN: All right, Jan, don't rub it in. We should have bought that can of wheat. But let's not cry over spilled milk.

KAREN: Especially if it's . . .

ALL: Powdered milk!

JAN: Why don't we all just stop talking about food.

(Total silence. There's nothing else to talk about.)

ANN: Well, wonders never cease. This is the first time in four days your hungry little mouths have been shut.

AARON: Why did you say "wonder", it reminds me of . . .

ALL: Bread!

RANDY: I dreamed last night that a man dressed all in white came down and gave us a full meal.

KYLE: You mean like a angel?

RANDY: No, I mean like Colonel Sanders.

JAN: I dreamed we were all prisoners in Siberia and that Randy brought us bread and water; but after we ate

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

the bread and water, we weren't prisoners anymore.

RANDY: Jan, you have weird dreams.

AARON: Somebody flip on the radio.

RADIO: . . . in lower elevations. A note of interest - winter sports enthusiasts are flocking to the Provo area.

Skiers are planning to turn the Wilkinson Center into a giant slalom and Deseret Towers has become a popular ski jump. Weather conditions above the snowpack are excellent with fair skies, light winds and fresh powder. Now, a look at national news . . .

(KYLE switches off the radio.)

KAREN: Now that's the kind of powder I can go for.

STAN: Did you hear that? Fair skies!

JESS: Light winds!

KAREN: We're saved!

AARON: We won't starve!

JESS: I don't think he made it home.

ANN: Are you sure?

AARON: This is terrible! . . .

ANN: I should say!

AARON: . . . it's gotta work. Green Bay plays today.

ANN: Aaron! I thought you meant Randy.

JESS: I hope they're not stuck at the drive-in.

ANN: He didn't tell me he was going to a drive-in.

AARON: Can't you just picture them out their in a snowbank with their lips frozen together?

STAN: Aaron, that's enough.

ANN: Telephone Lisa's house and see if they're over there.

(Enter RANDY from upstairs.)

RANDY: Hey, don't panic. I'm right here. I got home just in time to snowshoe up to my bed-room window.

ANN: Oh, I'm glad you're home.

AARON: I'm glad you're lips aren't frozen together.

RANDY: Big joke. Let me tell you it's bad out there. This just might be the end.

STAN: Why?

RANDY: Well, I wouldn't have thought so until I saw this guy named Noah loading animals into a giant snowmobile!

(Blackout.)

MUSICAL #5b -- SCENE CHANGE (DO IT NOW!)

Scene 10 - President Harper's Office -- PRESIDENT HARPER is at his desk. Enter GLORIA and McCLOUD.

GLORIA: President Harper, you have a visitor.

HARPER: Well, Michael! We haven't seen you for quite some time. Did anything good come from all that

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

snow you had us dump on Provo?

McCLOUD: Not that I know of.

HARPER: Well, it was a creative idea - a bit unusual, but at least you're trying.

McCLOUD: Brother Golightly said he hated it, that it was about as subtle as a missionary haircut. I should have stayed a clerk.

HARPER: Nonsense. Are you implying that my judgment is faulty?

McCLOUD: No, sir, I didn't mean that.

HARPER: I know you didn't. Sister Gates!

(Enter GATES)

I think Mike needs a little cheering up.

GLORIA: What he needs is a good shot of valiance.

HARPER: Excellent idea!

GATES: I'll prepare the medicine.

McCLOUD: Wait! I hate shots.

HARPER: This "shot" does not involve a needle. It comes in the form of a story. Sister Gates . . .

MUSICAL # 6 -- VALIANCE

GATES:

AGES AND AGES AGO - WHEN OF VALIANT SOULS THERE WERE FAR MORE,
THERE WAS A STRANGE AND BIZARRE WAR,
WHAT YOU MIGHT GALL OUR OWN "STAR WAR"!
JESUS PROPOSED THAT MEN BE MORTAL AND VALIANT AND FREE.
SATAN, OF COURSE, PLANNED ON USING "THE FORCE"
TO PERSUADE MEN TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY.
YOU HEARD BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY,
HOW SATAN WANTED THE GLORY.
YOU SOON DECIDED ON JESUS' PLAN.
THAT'S HOW YOUR VALIANCE BEGAN.

JESS: Let's start digging out.

(Exit JESS, RANDY, AARON, KAREN and KYLE.)

ANN: I certainly hope they've unburied the stores. We might get out, but that doesn't mean we'll get food right away. Snow cones can get pretty boring.

JAN: I have to say I hope we've all learned a lesson from this.

STAN: Well, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to use the phone.

JAN: Are you going to call Bread of Life Industries and get us some wheat?

STAN: No, honey, I'm going to call Acme Rentals and get us a snowmobile.

(Quick blackout. LIGHTS up)

GATES & HARPER:

VALIANCE IS COURAGE BORN OF TRUTH -
TO GRASP THE IRON ROD WITH IRON WILL.

PERUSAL SCRIPT -- Heaven Never Closes by Mark Ogden

VALIANT, YOU ONCE WERE VALIANT -
AND ALL THAT VALIANCE IS WITHIN YOU STILL.
(ENSEMBLE of CLERKS and STUDENTS dance.)

GATES:

SATAN IS STILL ON THE LOOSE,
TRYING TO GET YOU TO STUMBLE.
HE WANTS YOUR RESISTANCE TO CRUMBLE
SO YOU'LL TAKE A TERRIBLE TUMBLE.
BUT MIGHTY AS HE SEEMS TO BE,
YOU'RE REALLY STRONGER THAN HE.
SMILE AND BE GLAD.
YOU'VE GOT WHAT HE NEVER HAD.
YOU ARE MORTAL AND VALIANT AND FREE.
SO TELL HIM WHEN HE COMES TO FIND YOU
TO SHUT UP AND JUST GET BEHIND YOU!
TAKE UP YOUR ARMOR, YOUR SHIELD AND YOUR SWORD.
VALIANCE WILL BE YOUR REWARD!

HARPER: Now, do you feel better?

McCLOUD: Yeah, I'm fired up'.

GATES: Fired up?

McCLOUD: Ready to cook!

GLORIA: Ready to cook.

GATES: I think all this talk about Satan has the boy confused.

McCLOUD: No, I'm just eager to get back on the battlefield and punch ol' Lucifer's lights out.

HARPER: Good, because I hear Brother Golightly's got another assignment for you.

McCLOUD: Another assignment? You mean I'm supposed to stop working with Brother Daniels?

HARPER: It seems so. If that snowstorm didn't phase him, what will? I'm afraid Brother Daniels has forgotten how special he once was and still could be. Now, don't get discouraged again. There are plenty of others who need your help -

(Lights up on VERDA.)

- desperately!

(McCLOUD now excited, dances with enthusiasm)

ALL:

VALIANCE IS COURAGE BORN OF TRUTH -
TO GRASP THE IRON ROD WITH IRON WILL.
VALIANT, YOU ONCE WERE VALIANT -
AND ALL THAT VALIANCE IS WITHIN YOU STILL.
AND ALL THAT VALIANCE IS WITHIN YOU STILL!

(INTERMISSION, if desired)

22 more pages in Act Two