

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

by Michael Berne



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

A collection of topical
sermon-starter sketches

by Michael Berne

I wish to dedicate this book to the people of the United Methodist congregations that I have served. Not only have they given me inspiration over the years, they have been kind enough to critique them and brave enough to participate in them during Sunday morning worship and at other times. Through their encouragement, I continue to experiment and incorporate fresh, creative ideas in our worship experiences.

Michael A. Berne

CONTENTS

Introduction

Hobbies

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

A Deadly Virus

A Parable of Caterpillars

Sorry, No Return

The Trouble With Life

God and the Ordinary Christian

INTRODUCTION

Creativity in worship commands a lot of interest these days. Liturgical dance, mime, puppetry, clowning, storytelling, drama and other innovative forms of worship are not only seeping through the cracks, they are rushing through the front door and down the center aisles of church sanctuaries. Creative expressions of worship are not limited to any one brand of church — large or small, city or rural, young or old. More and more pastors, worship committees and their congregations are willing and eager to experiment and have fun as they express their faith in God, commitment to ministry and fellowship with one another.

Along with “traditional” models of worship (which, of course, were themselves once original), the incoming models of creative worship give breath to our praise gatherings. They heighten and intensify the spiritual experience. They make use of our senses, catching our eyes, alerting our ears, inviting our touch, stimulating our taste and even igniting our sense of smell. For many people, the new forms of worship are a refreshing splash in the pool of Christian experience. For others, the innovations spark an affirmative answer to the question, “Can the dry bones of worship live?”

The sketches in this collection may be used as sermon starters. Scripture references have been provided for each one. All of the selections have been “eld tested” in the churches I have served, and all were well received as part of a vital Christian worship experience.

I invite you to have fun with these selections. Expand upon them, use them in various settings and let them come alive. In all, give glory to Jesus Christ.

Michael Berne

Hobbies

Everyone needs a hobby or pastime to develop skills, relieve stress and just have fun. Some recreational activities, however, are a little more unusual than others. There are certain things that shouldn't even be considered as hobbies — especially our faith relationship with Jesus Christ. As Jesus says, it is the person who acts upon his word that builds a house on solid ground.

Scripture Reference: Luke 6:46-49.

Characters: The Interviewer, Fanny (or Phil) Fumble ngers, Allison (or Albert) Halfabrain, Arthur (or Angela) Apathy.

Props: Piano, strainer, three glass jars.

Costumes: House dress, mismatched socks and gym shoes for Allison Halfabrain, suit for Interviewer, regular attire for the other two.

- 1 *(INTERVIEWER stands at Center Stage.)*
- 2 **INTERVIEWER:** *(To the congregation)* Recreation is an
 3 important aspect of our lives. Hobbies provide an
 4 important outlet for the stress we accumulate. To
 5 examine this idea more closely, we have invited three
 6 hobbyists to share with us their unique talents and
 7 interests. First, let me introduce Miss Fanny Fumble-
 8 ngers. *(FANNY enters.)* Tell us, Miss Fumble ngers,
 9 about your hobby.
- 10 **FANNY:** Oh, I just love to play the piano. Why, I practice
 11 for fteen whole minutes once a week, and I take
 12 lessons every other six months, unless I don't feel like
 13 it.
- 14 **INTERVIEWER:** Would you care to favor us with a song,
 15 such as "Amazing Grace"?
- 16 **FANNY:** Oh, I'd love to! *(She sits at the piano and plays*
 17 *"Amazing Grace" very slowly and very badly.)*
- 18 **INTERVIEWER:** *(Sarcastically)* Isn't that lovely? I thought
 19 that playing the piano would demand more time and
 20 practice than what you put into it.
- 21 **FANNY:** Why, goodness no, it's only a hobby. *(She exits.)*
- 22 **INTERVIEWER:** Yes, well, thank you. Now let's meet
 23 Allison Halfabrain. *(ALLISON enters, carrying three glass*
 24 *jars and waving the strainer in the air, as though she is*
 25 *trying to catch something.)* What do you do for a hobby,
 26 Miss Halfabrain?
- 27 **ALLISON:** Oh, I collect air. I trap it in these jars. You see,
 28 this rst jar has air from a pizzeria.
- 29 **INTERVIEWER:** Yes, I can smell the pepperoni.
- 30 **ALLISON:** And this second jar holds air from a nuclear
 31 power plant. See how it glows?
- 32 **INTERVIEWER:** Just don't take the lid off. Tell me, though
 33 — what is that open, empty jar for?
- 34 **ALLISON:** Well, people told me that if I came here on
 35 Sunday mornings, I could get a good supply of hot air.

1 INTERVIEWER: Cute, very cute. Excuse me, but that seems
 2 like a strange and — well, er — *simplistic* collection.
 3 (*Shakes head in disbelief.*) Jars of air.

4 ALLISON: Well, it *is* only a hobby. (*ALLISON continues to*
 5 *collect air as she exits.*)

6 INTERVIEWER: Yes, thank you for coming, Miss
 7 Halfabrain. And now let's hear from our third guest,
 8 Mr. Arthur Apathy. (*ARTHUR enters.*)

9 ARTHUR: Let me tell you before you even ask. My hobby is
 10 religion.

11 INTERVIEWER: You have religion as a hobby?

12 ARTHUR: Oh, sure. You see, I go to church once or twice a
 13 month, if I'm not too tired from Saturday night. I toss
 14 a few bucks into the collection plate, and I go to almost
 15 all the church dinners. One year I even served on the
 16 evangelism committee, but that wasn't too bad. We
 17 didn't do anything all year.

18 INTERVIEWER: But what about growing as a disciple,
 19 Bible study, using the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
 20 witnessing and things like that?

21 ARTHUR: Hey, don't sound so serious. it's only a hobby.
 22 (*ARTHUR exits.*)

23 INTERVIEWER: (*To congregation*) Here's hoping your faith is
 24 more than just a hobby. (*INTERVIEWER exits.*)

25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Giving often seems to be a tricky area for many Christians, primarily because we put more emphasis upon the gift and what it says about us rather than upon our giving being a response to God's love. Giving should come naturally when we recognize that all we have and all we are is to be used to glorify God.

Scripture Reference: Mark 12:41-44.

Characters: Pastor, Miss Flowing Withcash. Big Giver McGruder, Mr. I.M. Wealthy, the Widow.

Props: A collection plate and two pennies.

Costumes: Flashy dress, jewelry and fancy hat for Miss Flowing Withcash, ten-gallon hat, western shirt, pants and boots for Big Giver McGruder, tailored suit for Mr. I.M. Wealthy, shabby dress and shoes for the Widow, normal Sunday attire for the preacher.

1 *(The PASTOR is in place behind the pulpit. The other*
 2 *CHARACTERS are seated throughout the congregation.)*

3 **PASTOR:** On this Stewardship Sunday, it is important and
 4 natural that we take a look at what Jesus had to say
 5 about money. On one occasion, when he and his disciples
 6 were at the temple in Jerusalem, they watched as many
 7 rich people threw huge amounts of coins into the metal,
 8 trumpet-shaped receptacles. The donors could listen with
 9 a sense of self-importance as the coins clattered and rang
 10 and drew the attention of other people. These donors
 11 gave large gifts, and — *(The PASTOR is suddenly*
 12 *interrupted.)*

13 **BIG GIVER:** Hold it right there, Preacher. My name is Big
 14 Giver McGruder. *(He walks to the front of the sanctuary.)* I
 15 reckon I'm the richest man in this county. Now, I would
 16 like to donate the necessary funds to this congregation
 17 for the building of a new education wing. All I ask in
 18 return is that it be named after me, and that a humble,
 19 three-by-ve-foot, full-colored portrait of myself be placed
 20 in every room. *(MISS FLOWING WITHCASH stands and*
 21 *hurriedly makes her way to the front of the sanctuary.)*

22 **MISS WITHCASH:** Just a moment! Just a moment! Excuse me,
 23 Reverend, but I require your attention. I am Miss
 24 Flowing Withcash. My friends call me "Flo," but you may
 25 address me as Miss Withcash. Now then, ignoring this
 26 silly idea of an education feather or wing or whatever it
 27 is, I am prepared to provide this congregation with a
 28 beautiful marble fountain, surrounded by a bed of tulips,
 29 roses, and chrysanthemums. We shall name it, of course,
 30 "Fabulous Flo's Flowing Fountain of Flowers and Faith."
 31 Isn't that just a peachy-keen idea?

32 **I.M. WEALTHY:** *(Standing in his place)* That idea makes me
 33 nauseous. My name is I.M. Wealthy, but then I guess
 34 everyone recognizes me. Let's forget all this nonsense,
 35 because I am prepared to nance the project that this

1 church really needs. Visualize this: A fifty-five-foot
2 aluminum, neon-lighted cross that alternately ashes to
3 passing motorists the messages: “I.M. Wealthy says” and
4 “Honk if you love Jesus.” How about that for a tool for
5 evangelism?

6 **BIG GIVER:** That is the most ridiculous thing I’ve ever heard.
7 Besides, *my* idea is better because it will cost more.

8 **MISS WITHCASH:** But just remember, I am willing to
9 maintain fresh owers for *my* fountain all year round.
10 That de nitely makes my gift more expensive in the long
11 run.

12 **I.M. WEALTHY:** Not when you consider that I am willing to
13 pay half of this church’s utility bill every month. I’d be
14 putting out the most money. Besides, my neon-lighted
15 cross on the roof would be the “loftier” gift.

16 **PASTOR:** *(Slowly and loudly)* Hey! Look! *(The three DONORS*
17 *freeze. Meanwhile, the WIDOW slowly makes her way to the*
18 *front and places the two pennies in the collection plate, then*
19 *exits. PASTOR takes the two pennies and holds them up.)*
20 Jesus said that this poor widow, with her two pennies,
21 has put in more than all the other gifts combined. They
22 all gave out of their wealth, but she put in all she has.
23 She has given the gift that counts—the gift that keeps
24 on giving. *(The CHARACTERS unfreeze and exit.)*

25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

A Deadly Virus

The chicken pox, pneumonia, the measles and even the common cold are all illnesses caused by viruses. Viral infections are diseases that can multiply and spread through living cells. Fortunately, the symptoms can be treated and the viral infection held in check. But there is at least one virus that spreads so rapidly that it can contaminate the life of an entire group of people, including a congregation, in a deadly manner.

Scripture Reference: James 3:1-12.

Characters: Doctor Donothing, Patient.

Props: Clipboard.

Set: Desk and chair.

Costumes: Lab coat for the Doctor, regular attire for the Patient.

1 (*The DOCTOR is sitting behind the desk when the PATIENT*
2 *enters.*)

3 **DOCTOR:** Good morning. Welcome to the Universal Medical
4 Arts Building and Bowling Alley. I'm Doctor Donothing.
5 How can I help you?

6 **PATIENT:** (*Holding on to his/her tongue*) I thing I hurd by
7 tomng.

8 **DOCTOR:** I'm sorry, would you please repeat that?

9 **PATIENT:** (*Louder and slower*) I said, I thing I hurd by tomng.

10 **DOCTOR:** You know, if you would just let go of your tongue,
11 I just might be able to understand you. What did you do,
12 hurt your tongue or something? (*PATIENT nods head "yes"*
13 *vigorously.*) OK, let's have a look-see. Now then, tell me —
14 how long have you had this particular tongue?

15 **PATIENT:** (*No longer holding on to tongue*) What are you, crazy?
16 I was born with this tongue. It's just been hurting, that's
17 all.

18 **DOCTOR:** (*Knowingly*) Let me guess. Does it begin with a
19 numbing sensation, so that you cannot pronounce your
20 words properly?

21 **PATIENT:** Yes, that's right.

22 **DOCTOR:** And then leads to a burning sensation at the tip of
23 your tongue that progresses back toward your throat?

24 **PATIENT:** Boy, that's just the way it happens.

25 **DOCTOR:** And nally, after several hours of intense pain,
26 your tongue feels like pins and needles for the rest of the
27 day?

28 **PATIENT:** Oh, that's right, Dr. Donothing. (*Pause*) Well?

29 **DOCTOR:** Well, what?

30 **PATIENT:** (*Irritably*) Well, what's wrong with my tongue?

31 **DOCTOR:** Oh, I have absolutely no idea, but I did have a
32 similar situation with my third cousin on my Uncle
33 Louie's side. He's dead now — my cousin, not Uncle
34 Louie. The same thing happened to his tongue. His
35 tongue would even swell up and turn purple.

- 1 PATIENT: Oh my goodness, what did he do?
2 DOCTOR: Well, he thought about having it surgically
3 removed.
4 PATIENT: Aaugh!
5 DOCTOR: Don't worry. He decided to see if laser treatments
6 would be of any benefit.
7 PATIENT: What happened?
8 DOCTOR: *(Uses his two fingers to help visualize)* Have you ever
9 heard the expression "forked tongue"?
10 PATIENT: That must have been terrible.
11 DOCTOR: It was. Still, he could do a very good imitation of a
12 hissing cobra. Actually though, I have my own theory. I
13 think this tongue problem is caused by a virus — *gossip!*
14 PATIENT: Wait a minute. Are you telling me that gossip is a
15 virus?
16 DOCTOR: Oh, yes, and a very deadly one, and my third
17 cousin was quite a gossip.
18 PATIENT: I know just what you mean. My spouse is such a
19 gossip. Why, do you know that just this morning, he/she
20 was telling me that our next-door neighbor was caught
21 for drunk driving? Of course, they have enough money to
22 keep it out of the papers, but it didn't surprise me to hear
23 it. Their son, whom they think is such an angel, is always
24 causing trouble at school. In fact, a reliable source told
25 me that the coach has threatened to kick him off the
26 football team for drinking.
27 DOCTOR: Oh, sure, like that coach has a lot of room to talk.
28 I have a friend whose sister-in-law's neighbor is positive
29 that she has seen a car that looks just like his parked
30 outside the bar uptown three nights last week.
31 PATIENT: Well, you think that's bad! My brother, Martin, who
32 has never told a lie in his life, heard someone say
33 something about someone else being arrested at that bar
34 for selling marijuana. Why, I wouldn't be surprised if that
35 place is actually a crack house or the headquarters for

1 an entire drug-smuggling gang from South America.
2 **DOCTOR:** Well, you know that one of the teachers at the high
3 school has grandparents who still live in South America.
4 **PATIENT:** Just think! All the teachers of our children could
5 be involved in sud a ding.
6 **DOCTOR:** What's wrong with you? Doo dound libe, doo
7 dound libe... *(The two of them stare at each other in horror*
8 *as they realize what is happening.)*
9 **PATIENT and DOCTOR:** *(Together)* Oh nob, be god da birus.
10 *Aaughh! (They run Off-stage in opposite directions.)*
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

A Parable of Caterpillars

The process of growth seems to be a natural one. We know that babies grow to be children, and children grow to be adults. But the growth process should not be con ned to physical parameters. Hopefully, we're also maturing intellectually, socially and, most importantly, spiritually. Like a lobster that abandons its shell or a snake that sheds its skin, we all come to those points in life that allow growth to occur. Though growth is good, it can also be a very threatening and frightening experience. But if we want what's best for ourselves, we'll face our fears and continue on to maturity.

Scripture Reference: Genesis 12:1-5.

Characters: Mort and Mable.

Costumes: A white sheet for each character to wrap up in as a cocoon.

1 *(MORT enters Stage Right, wrapped in his cocoon, while*
2 *MABLE enters Stage Left, wrapped in her cocoon. They sit next*
3 *to each other and stare off into the distance.)*

4 **MORT:** What a glorious morning to be a caterpillar, Mable!
5 The mulberry leaves look extra good today. I bet they
6 taste yummy. Mable? Hey, what's wrong? You look like
7 you're a hundred tree branches away.

8 **MABLE:** Huh? Oh, I'm sorry, Mort. I was just thinking, and I
9 have come to a decision. Today I am going to leave my
10 cocoon.

11 **MORT:** Leave your cocoon?! Have you been letting your
12 mulberry leaves ferment too long again?

13 **MABLE:** No, Mort, it's just that I have such a strong urge to
14 shed this old constricting skin and become a utterby.

15 **MORT:** Butter y, Mable, the word is butter y. But are you
16 crazy? It's warm and cozy inside our cocoons. We don't
17 have any cares or worries. It's safe and secure.

18 **MABLE:** Yes, I know, but this cocoon is starting to scratch
19 me. My back is aching, and I think it's because I've been
20 growing wings.

21 **MORT:** Oh, come on now, Mable. If God had intended for
22 caterpillars to y, he would've given us airplanes.

23 **MABLE:** I think God has intended for us to become butter ies
24 all along. After all, look at Arlo.

25 **MORT:** Arlo? Who's Arlo?

26 **MABLE:** He's that caterpillar who lives across the orchard.
27 He has a solar-heated cocoon with a built-in stereo
28 system and video machine.

29 **MORT:** He's pretty strange, all right, but what about him?

30 **MABLE:** Well, his fancy cocoon was found empty, and they
31 say that he has become a butter y.

32 **MORT:** Have *you* actually seen him y? In fact, have you ever
33 seen *any* butter ies? You don't even know for sure that
34 they exist, do you?

35 **MABLE:** No. I don't. But we always take risks when we follow

1 God's call for us. There are no guarantees — except that
 2 God loves us and will be with us. As long as I believe
 3 that, I'm willing to take the risk.

4 **MORT:** Are you sure about this, Mable?

5 **MABLE:** No, of course I'm not sure. It's a scary prospect, and
 6 I feel very nervous. I think I have people in my stomach.
 7 But I'm ready to go — now! (*MABLE unwraps her cocoon*
 8 *and leaves it behind as she begins to exit. She stops when she*
 9 *hears MORT call to her.*)

10 **MORT:** Just remember, Mable, you won't be able to come
 11 back to your old cocoon.

12 **MABLE:** Mort, somehow I believe that once I have own, I
 13 won't ever want to come back. (*She nishes her exit.*)

14 **MORT:** (*To the congregation*) I still don't know. Sometimes, I
 15 confess, I do feel that same urge to become more than
 16 what I am now. I can almost hear God calling me to y,
 17 too, but I would have to surrender my security. If I step
 18 into my hopes or expose my inner dreams, I might be
 19 laughed at or ignored. I might even fail, and then where
 20 would I be? If I dare to risk myself in free- oating faith,
 21 I will have to face that moment of total surrender into
 22 God's hands. If I dare the ight of love, I may not be
 23 loved in return. If I try, I might not make it, but fail?
 24 Perhaps the worst danger is to risk nothing. Tell me what
 25 to do! Should I dare to risk the ight, or wait here until
 26 I die in my swaddling safety? (*Depending upon the response*
 27 *of the congregation and the timing and staging of the skit,*
 28 *MORT has several options for his exit: Leaving with his cocoon*
 29 *as an obvious weight and burden, unwrapping the cocoon and*
 30 *leaving it behind when he exits, dragging it behind him as he*
 31 *exits or, if the sketch is the nal part of the message, not*
 32 *leaving at all. Experiment with it and have fun.*)

33
 34
 35

Sorry, No Return

It seems that the one thing we run out of faster and faster is time. Crowded schedules, deadlines and commitments eat away at what has become our most precious commodity. What do we do when we finally realize that the clock is ticking too rapidly for us to accommodate all the things we plan to accomplish?

Scripture Reference: Luke 9:57-62.

Characters: Clerk, Customer.

Props: A paper bag containing a calendar.

Set: Table.

1 *(The CLERK is standing behind the table as the CUSTOMER*
2 *enters carrying the bag.)*

3 **CLERK:** Good morning! Welcome to Pay-Mart, where we
4 always do our best to keep you smiling while we get your
5 money. And what can we do to, I mean *for* you, today?

6 **CUSTOMER:** I would like to make a return, please. Your sign
7 says that I can return a purchase for *any* reason.

8 **CLERK:** No problem! No problem! You are absolutely right.
9 We have a very liberal return policy here at Pay-Mart. All
10 you need, besides the item itself, of course, is the sales
11 receipt, plus three major credit cards, fourteen character
12 references, a nancial statement from a local bank and a
13 note from your mommy.

14 **CUSTOMER:** Yes, I have all of that. I want to return this. *(He*
15 *pulls the calendar from the paper bag.)*

16 **CLERK:** You want to return a calendar? What do you want to
17 do, exchange it for one with pictures of duckies instead
18 of horses?

19 **CUSTOMER:** No, no. You see, this calendar is defective. It
20 doesn't work right.

21 **CLERK:** *(Skeptically)* You want to return this calendar because
22 it doesn't work right? *(Looks around.)* Are you taping this
23 for one of those TV shows about funny home videos or
24 something?

25 **CUSTOMER:** No, I'm serious. This calendar *is* defective. You
26 see, it runs too fast. When I bought this calendar at the
27 beginning of the year, it said I had plenty of time to do
28 whatever I wanted. Now it says that there are only a few
29 months left in the year, but it sure doesn't seem like it's
30 been that long to me. I mean, what happened to all the
31 time?

32 **CLERK:** I see. You think this calendar is making the days go
33 by too fast. Are you sure you hung it on the wall
34 straight? You know, sometimes if you put these things up
35 at a crooked angle, the numbers can slide down too fast.

1 CUSTOMER: Yes, I'm sure I hung it straight. It's just that I
2 had so many things planned — so many goals set for this
3 year. I was going to exercise each day and change my
4 eating habits. I was going to catch up on all my letter-
5 writing. Most importantly, I was going to take my
6 Christian discipleship seriously. I was going to study the
7 Bible, help the pastor visit people, witness at work, start
8 tithing and take care of people in need. The time went by
9 so fast, though, and I never got around to doing any of
10 those things.

11 CLERK: And you want to blame that on the calendar? Listen,
12 friend, I think it's time for a lesson in reality. Now, I
13 understand your problem. I sympathize with not having
14 enough time to do the important things in life. But if the
15 time goes by too fast for you each day, then getting a
16 new calendar is *not* going to help you. If you find that
17 your great expectations for each day are unmet, if you
18 realize that you were too busy to patch a quarrel, extend
19 some sympathy or tell someone the Good News about
20 Jesus Christ, it doesn't mean that your calendar is
21 running too fast!

22 CUSTOMER: It doesn't?

23 CLERK: No, of course not. It means that your watch is
24 running too fast, and jewelry is on the other side of the
25 store in aisle ten. Good-bye. (*CUSTOMER exits.*) Wow, that
26 was a close one. I almost had to do some paperwork.
27 (*Slight pause, then to an imaginary customer*) Good morning,
28 welcome to Pay-Mart. You want to make a return? Sure,
29 no problem. (*CLERK exits.*)

The Trouble With Life

No one is immune from the onslaught of difficulties in life, and the Christian faith does not promise to be a barrier between ourselves and the problems that come our way. Like the fabled Three Little Pigs, we can do our best to keep the wolf away from the door, but trouble usually manages to find a way in, despite our best efforts. Where do we place our security so that we can remain steadfast when we come up against problems and failures?

Scripture Reference: Romans 8:28-39.

Characters: The Narrator, Arlo, Mable, Arnold, the Wolf

Props: Three cowboy hats, bottle.

Set: Six total chairs — three grouped together at Stage Right for one “house,” three grouped together at Stage Left for the other “house.”

Costumes: Mask and brown sweatsuit for Wolf, pig noses and pink sweatsuits for Pigs.



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:

GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

by Michael Berne.

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011

customerservice@christianpub.com