

A Tale of Wotsits

This is a sketch about reaching out and "being Jesus" to our local communities and also to one another in our church fellowships.

Cast: 2 Readers 1 & 2

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | This is the story of the Bethel Neighbourhood Community Gospel Fellowship Church |
| 2 | It's a true story |
| 1 | Yes <i>definitely</i> true |
| 2 | Are you sure it's true |
| 1 | <i>(seeming hurt)</i> Yes |
| 2 | Cos it doesn't sound as though it could be true to me |
| 1 | I know it's true |
| 2 | Really? |
| 1 | Really - It must be true because I made it up myself! |
| 2 | <i>(slow and sarky)</i> Ha Ha |
| 1 | But it's a sad tale, very sad |
| 2 | OK, I believe you - it's sad. |
| 1 | You see, the streets around Bethel Community Wotsit Fellowship teemed with children, families, teenagers, mums, dads, grannies, grandads, aunts, uncles, cat, dogs... |
| 2 | And Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all |
| 1 | <i>(sings)</i> And Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all, and Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all! |
| 2 | Are you sure the streets teemed with people |
| 1 | Not really, but it sounded good. Anyway, there was this Bethel Thingy Wotsit Church and they were sound evangelicals. |
| 2 | Biblically sound? |
| 1 | No, just sound asleep. But one day they woke up and realised that God had called them to grow. So they went down to the Christian Bookshop and bought a whole lot of books on how to fill their church. There was so much to absorb but they decided that they would transform themselves into a Purpose Driven |

| | |
|---|--|
| | Freedom in Christ Church with round the year Alpha courses. |
| 2 | So they printed the invitations |
| 1 | They planned the suppers |
| 2 | The got a new powerpoint thingy that showed videos |
| 1 | They got Nicky Gumbel on CD |
| 2 | I didn't think that Nicky Gumbel was that small so he'd fit on a CD |
| 1 | Oh, yes, he's only six inches high you know |
| 2 | And you expect me to believe that? |
| 1 | No |
| 2 | And what happened? |
| 1 | What happened is that nobody came. |
| 2 | Not a soul |
| 1 | Not a peep |
| 2 | No peeps at all in fact |
| 1 | The Bethel Thingybob Community Whatsit people had an urgent meeting - what was wrong? |
| 2 | Mrs Perkins with the large hat said she was sure that people can't have liked the Alpha meal menu |
| 1 | Charlie thought that the décor of the church building put people off. Perhaps it was time to have another building programme and put in plush reclining airline style seats. |
| 2 | Jim told them that it was a punishment for the sin of not using the Authorised Version |
| 1 | Then a small voice spoke out. |
| 2 | People turned |
| 1 | They barely recognised it |
| 2 | It was Nancy, an elderly lady that seldom spoke |
| 1 | But her words sliced through them |
| 2 | Like a hot knife through butter |
| 1 | Ouch! |
| 2 | She said softly "how much did we pray" |
| 1 | There was silence because they all knew the answer. |
| 2 | The answer was not a lot if you haven't guessed it. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | In fact they'd prayed for nobody because they knew nobody in their neighbourhood. |
| 2 | In fact, they realised that they hardly knew one another |
| 1 | They didn't really like one another actually. Why should they listen to the likes of Larry who was dodder, and Iris who never seemed to do anything other than sleep through sermons. |
| 2 | Their lives were full, busy. Why waste spare time on prayer when they could be organising? And why bother with some of the losers in the congregation who didn't seem to do much anyway. |
| 1 | And what about Jesus? |
| 2 | What about Him? |
| 1 | What indeed. |
| 2 | One Sunday a man came. A visitor |
| 1 | Wow - a visitor. Perhaps all that publicity worked after all -- even without a prayer meeting! |
| 2 | Yes a real live visitor. He was pampered, welcomed and buttered up. He smiled a lot as people proudly told him of their organ fund, the historic building, the great preachers of the past, the wonderful architecture of the building. |
| 1 | Then he asked it. |
| 2 | What? |
| 1 | You know - THAT question |
| 2 | THAT question |
| 1 | Where's Jesus? |
| 2 | The people all spluttered |
| 1 | King James Jim tried to correct the visitor. Jesus is gone, he's been gone 2000 years. But the rest knew what he meant |
| 2 | The visitor couldn't see Jesus in them |
| 1 | Not a jot; not a word; not a deed. |
| 2 | And they knew it too |
| 1 | So our tale has a moral |
| 2 | It does? |
| 1 | Yes. It isn't a piece of tittle-tattle you know |
| 2 | Right - and the moral is |
| 1 | If we want to grow, we need to grow together, love one another, become more |

| | |
|---|---|
| | like Jesus, talk and listen in prayer - then reaching out and loving those who don't know Jesus |
| 2 | Will be easy |
| 1 | A doddle |
| 2 | And what happened to Bethel Wotsit Fellowship |
| 1 | They had a choice - to grow , to start loving one another and those who needed Christ. To start following what God wanted for them - or to die. |
| 2 | And? |
| 1 | <i>(To the audience)</i> Why don't you finish the tale?! |

©Mark Reid 2006