

Skits and songs by Steven Muir

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Stages of faith skit

1	Giddy
2	Giddy
1	Like a beer?
2	(unenthusiastically) uhh yeah ok then
1	Great beer this one eh?
2	(unenthusiastically) Yeah mate nice beer alright
1	So – you heard that william and meryl are coming back from Tanzania
2	Yep – sounds like they’ve put in a great effort over there – lots of difficult situations they’ve had to face. I reckon it must have changed them a lot with all those struggles they’ve been through.
1	Oh that reminds me of something - have you heard about the stages of adaptation to missionary life.
2	No – how does it go
1	Well the 1st stage of adapting to being a missionary is when you’re having a cup of tea and a fly comes along and falls into your cup – you throw the whole cup of tea out and start again. The 2 nd stage is when you’re having a cup of tea and a fly comes along and falls into your cup, you just pull the fly out and drink the tea anyway. The 3 rd stage is when you’re having a cup of tea and a fly comes along and falls into your cup and you keep on drinking the tea without bothering to extract the fly. The 4 th stage is when you’re having a cup of tea and you find you don’t have a fly in your cup, then you go off and catch a fly to put in your cup cause it just doesn’t seem right without one. Ha ha get it you add a fly deliberately - pretty funny eh?
2	Hang on I don’t get it though, I mean william and meryl are both coffee drinkers aren’t they.
1	Well maybe you should think about it for a bit longer. Actually these stages can be applied to all kinds of things – they’re quite a profound way of describing life’s journeys. Have you heard of Erikson’s 8 stages of life for example?
2	No
1	How about James Fowlers 6 stages of faith then?
2	No haven’t heard of those ones, but I think I know what you mean, kind of like the stages of developing a beer pot – I think I’m about a 4 and a half. Then theres Trev’s rugby stages – have you heard of them
1	No – how do they go
2	Well stage 1 is when you don’t watch any rugby at all, stage 2 is when you go down to the local park now and then on the fine days and watch a few games. Stage 3 is when you go every week even if it’s raining, stage 4 is when you begin to shout abuse at everyone, stage 5 is when you go and watch games at Jade Stadium, then the final and ultimate stage is when you watch games on a plasma widescreen TV in the comfort of your own home.
1	Hang on – these stages never involve actually playing any rugby yourself?
2	No no – trevs a great visionary as far as appreciating rugby, but we’re happy to leave the playing of it to the professionals
1	Well these other stages are different – they’re all about your own personal journey and growth, not about watching others do things. It’s all about how you typically grow and change as you get older in life
2	Sounds like the beer pot stages fit that description pretty well – personal growth and changes as you get older
1	Maybe I should explain Fowlers 6 stages of faith to you. Stage 1 is the intuitive-projective stage when you’re very young, stage 2 is the mythical - literal stage, stage 3 is the synthetic – conventional stage, stage 4 is the individuative – reflective stage....
2	Wait on does this fowler bloke have a stage when it becomes easier to understand long confusing names cause I don’t think I’m quite there yet.
1	Umm no I don’t think he does actually
2	So what’s the point of these stages
1	Well maybe an example will help make it clearer. You for example are probably somewhere between stage 3 and 4. You don’t necessarily believe what you parents believe like in stage 2, and you’ve largely adopted the beliefs of your peer group - that’s stage 3. But you’re struggling to accept some of the beliefs of you peers and you are finding it more important to be true to your own beliefs, and in stage 4 that’s ok even if your peers don’t like it
2	So let me get this straight – you’re part of my peer group right?
1	Right
2	So if I believe something different from you then that’s ok even if you don’t like it right?
1	Yeah that’s right
2	Well it so happens that I have this deeply held belief that this is a terrible beer. Now I know you like this stuff but to be true to my own personal journey I’m off to find a decent drink see you later.
1	(stunned) Ohh bye then

Parable of the sower

Steven Muir Feb 2000

Aim - show Gods extravagant grace in loving everyone even if theres not much chance they'll respond.
Car passing a tractor (carboard cutouts) Beep beep
Do you realise you've been spilling all this seed down the road – I've been driving over it for a couple of km. Is your tractor faulty or something.
Nosirree, the tractors just fine, I want that thar seed to be on the road
Sorry!!?? You're intentionally putting your seed on the road. Look I might be a bit of a city slicker but I was under the impression that seed grows better in a paddock after you've ploughed it and all that.
Yessirree I reckon you'd be right about that paddock thing
So is there any reason you're putting your seed on the road
Yessirree theres a whole group of us all over the world called ERFAL and we're all doing it
ERFAL sounds awful. Does it stand for anything
Yessirree it stands for Equal Roights For All Land. We in ERFAL believe that it's unfair that only the bourgeios soil gets the priviledged position of bearing fruit. We think that all land types should have equal opportunitites, and ashvelt has as much right as anything to try and grow things. It's only this dualistic, capitalistic, neagrarianistic culture that discriminates against bitumen and prevents it from achieving it's full potential.
(stunned) ohh... so does this stuff actually grow?
Yessirree... well I'm sure there have been at least one or two that have sprouted
And did they grow?
Yessirree.... Well just 2 or 3 at the side of the road I seem to remember. The rest got snappe doff in their prime...by callous motorists like you I might add.
A couple of plants out of millions of seeds, doesn't sound very efficient to me
Nosirree it's not but what do you expect after centuries of ashvelt repression. Years of ingrained habits don't change overnight you know. Still we press on encouraging ourselves with the ERFAL Anthem.
Don't think thers any danger of anything here getting IN-GRAINEd. So you've got an anthem – how does it go?
Sow sow sow your seed
Gently down the road
Sadly sadly sadly sadly
None of it has growed

Altogether now (get everyone to sing in two parts)

Jonah and Prophets Anonymous Team Support (PRATS)

Characters Jonah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and group leader and Hosea the mannikin

Leader	welcome to this weeks meeting everyone, great to see you've all made it. Come in take a seat. We've had an apology from Isaiah – something about burning coals on his tongue – he's finding it a bit hard to talk for the last few days. Shall we start by saying the pledge together.
All	I am a prophet of God. I promise to do my best to speak God's word even though I should face danger or ridicule. I will not fear for God is with me. If I expect others to change and obey God's will I must first be prepared to change myself.
Leader	Thank you, now as you know this week is step three – overcoming fear, who would like to share first
Jeremiah	Ahh hello my names Jeremiah
All	Hello Jeremiah
Jeremiah	Well it's been quite a hard week for me – I have to confess I did experience a high level of fear on three separate occasions
Leader	Thats ok mate
Ezekiel	Happens to the best of us
Jeremiah	I did however to deliver a rather unpopular message encouraging the entire nation to commit treason and not fight Nebucanezzar, and told them God is actually on the other side this time, not our side.
Leader	Well done
Ezekiel	Thats a tough call
Jonah	You're an inspiration to all of us
Leader	Whats that bandage on your arm for
Jeremiah	Oh that's just a bit of OOS occupational overuse syndrome. I had to write out this quite lengthy scroll and read it to the king, which he of course didn't like and had it burned, then God told me to write it out all over again – arm got a bit stiff by the end of it all.
Jonah	You ever thought of getting a scribe
Jeremiah	Now theres a good idea – got any good recommendations?
Jonah	Well no – the king had my scribe executed the other day – I'll keep my eye out though. I hear student job search have a few available.
Leader	Jeremiah how are you shaping up after that incident down the well a few weeks ago.
Jeremiah	Well I'm still a bit confused actually. I mean right at the start of my ministry God promises profusely that no harm will befall me, then that jolly high priest has me beaten and left down the well to starve. I must admit I'm struggling to understand God's definition of 'no harm'. I was pretty angry at those priests who all ganged up on me too
Leader	Why don't you let some of that anger out mate, don't bottle it up you're in a safe environment here, express it how you like
Jeremiah	Actually I'd really like those infernal priests burn in hell, in fact I might just call down fire from heaven on them all right now... In the name of yahweh I command fire...
Leader	Whoa there jeremiah, you know it's against the rules to call down fire from heaven during meetings, heres some paper and crayons – maybe it's be more appropriate for you to express your feelings by drawing them –try a bit of art therapy to cool off while someone else talks. Who would like to share next?
Obadiah	Hello my names Obadiah
All	Hello Obadiah (pause)
Leader	Well....?
Obadiah	Oh I didn't want to say anything, but it was nice hearing you guys say my name, noone says my name very much these days, why doesn't someone else say something
Jonah	Hello my names Jonah
All	Hello Jonah
Jonah	Well I received a call from God the other day top go to Ninevah and tell them all to repent or God's going to blast them off the face of the Earth.
Leader	Praise the Lord
Ezekiel	Great opportunity
Jeremiah	That'll look good on your CV
Jonah	Yeah well the trouble is I don't want to go
All	DISOBEDIENCE
Ezekiel	Quick lets all say the pledge again just to encourage Jonah
Ezekiel & Jeremiah	I am a prophet of God. I promise to do my best to speak God's word even though I should face ...

Obadiah	
Leader	(Pulling hair out) Hang on guys that's not going to help Jonah. Now jonah maybe you'd like to tell us how this call from God makes you feeeeel. Maybe this is a good opportunity for you to put step three in to practice and overcome your fear. Maybe you're afraid they'll hurt you or laugh at you?
Jonah	No no - it's all just so predictable. I go to Ninevah, preach about God's wrath, they repent, God forgives them then they get off scott free – after all that sin they've been doing. It's been so long since we had a decent shower of brimstone. I guess I'm just becoming a bit bored with it all. Maybe it's time for a career change.
Jeremiah	Yep sounds like a mid life crisis to me. I hear there's some great opportunities in the tourist industry. I reckon whale watching is a sure investment. I know we're not meant to use our prophetic gift for personal gain but I'd be willing to invest some capital in a little partnership, something tells me you'd do really well with whales.
Leader	Excuse me we're here to encourage Jonah in his calling as a prophet, not to make profit. Look I know it can get a bit tedious being God's mouthpiece day in and day out, but that's why we're here to help you. Does anyone else have anything to share to encourage Jonah in his call to Ninevah.
Ezekiel	Ninevah!!! – I'd give anything to go to Ninevah, sounds fantastic....
Leader	Excuse me can you introduce yourself please
Ezekiel	Oh sorry, Hello my names Ezekiel
All	Hello Ezekiel
Ezekiel	Ninevah!!! – I'd give anything to go to ninevah –a quick preach and then you're out of there. Sounds like a romp in the park compared to my calling. 390 days lying on my left hand side outside Jerusalems gate –all day every day just lying there - that's what God wanted me to do. Each day I lie there in misery was meant to symbolise a year of Israels punishment.
Jeremiah	Sounds terrible
Jonah	That's pretty hard going all right
Ezekiel	Had a bit of a breakthrough the other day though just towards the end of the 390 days. God spoke to me again and said I had to change what I was doing – boy was that a relief. I was getting sooo sick of lying on my left side.
Jonah	What ... you didn't have to lie on you side any more?
Ezekiel	No I got to roll over and lie on my right hand side – felt much better I can tell you. The right hand side is for Judahs punishment. Another 40 blimmen days though for Judah. Still I have been using the time to think up some pretty creative insults for the nation – I'm working on one to do with donkeys emissions and horses ...you-know-whats
Leader	Well I think thats quite enough, thank you for sharing Ezekiel. Now Jonah you see your call could be much worse. Why don't you go and get on a boat and head off to Ninevah and we'll hear back from you next week and find out how you got on. Now unfortunately we've run out of time. Lets finish by breaking into pairs and pronouncing the benediction on each other
All	(banging staffs together in pairs in time) Prophecy prophecy speak the word of God I feel a total dickhead but I'll speak the word of God
	See you next week, thanks guys that was great, bye etc

Week2	Characters Leader, Hosea, Jonah, Elijah
Leader	Welcome to this weeks meeting – great to see you’ve made it back from Ninevah Jonah. Lets start with the pledge
All	I am a prophet of God. I promise to do my best to speak God’s word even though I should face danger or ridicule. I will not fear for God is with me. If I expect others to change and obey God’s will I must first be prepared to change myself.
Leader	Now this week is step 4 – how to make sinners repent. Is there anyone who’d like to share first?
Hosea	Hello my names Hosea
All	Hello Hosea
Hosea	Well God spoke to me a while back and told me to marry this woman. Now as you know I’ve been struggling with the whole celibacy thing for a while and I thought I’d be really happy to end up being married, but I’m having a few problems adjusting to married life that I hadn’t anticipated
Leader	A few problems eh? Now theres no need to be embarrassed Hosea. I hear that lots of men your age have problems in that area but there are some wonderful new drugs out now that can really help.
Hosea	No not those sort of problems, the problem is that God told me to marry this woman called Gomer
Elijah	Gomer – she’s not that prostitute is she, with red curly hair, 5 foot 4, who hangs out down at the square on Friday nights
Hosea	Yep that’s the one – you don’t know her do you?
Elijah	Me no no never seen her before in my life- it’s just umm ah a friends who told me about her that’s all. I’ve never met her personally
Hosea	Hmmm anyway I must say I’m struggling to figure out what’s going on. God knows she’s going to be unfaithful to me, and that’s the whole point – she’s meant to symbolise Israel being unfaithful to God. Apparently we’re going to have kids and call them really geeky names like Reg and Gen.
Leader	Hey hosea, whats wrong with Reg and Gen those names don’t sound to geeky to me
Hosea	Yeah that’s because Reg and Gen are the short versions, their proper names are Reject and Genocide. They’ve just got to be screwed in the head after growing up with names like that. I was hoping for a nice stable family, you know three bedroom tent, mortgage, couple of pets, maybe a few grandchildren down the track and a holiday house up by Galilee. Fat chance of that now. I mean I’ll do it but it’s going to be hard.
Jonah	Yep that’s a tough one mate
Leader	We’ll encourage you as much as we can though
Elijah	Yeah if you ever need anyone to keep an eye on Gomer you let me know – I’d be happy to help
Leader	Now is there anyone else who would like to share
Jonah	Hello my names jonah
All	Hello jonah
Jonah	Well as you know last week I got the call to go to Ninevah and initially I wasn’t so enthusiastic, but after the support group meeting last week I was really inspired – glory to God. So off I headed straight to the docks and asked for the first boat to Ninevah. Anyway this guy said yeah that’s where we’re heading and so I got on board and off we sail. We get out to sea and blow me down he turns the boat the wrong way. I says to him hey this isn’t the way to Ninevah and he said Ninevah I thought you said Minerva, which as you all know is in the opposite direction. It was an innocent mistake – could have happened to anyone. I was just wondering what to do about it when this huge storm blows in - very unseasonal. The crew start chucking cargo overboard so we don’t sink but it looks like we’re going down anyway so I figure its God’s way of telling me to get off and over I jump full of faith that God will protect me. Now I’m not a great swimmer so first I tried parting the sea like old Moses used to, but that was no go. Then I tried walking on the top of the water, but it’s trickier than it looks – someone will crack it one day I’m sure but it wasn’t a happening thing. Then... the perfect solution – a huge fish comes and swallows me up and starts swimming for Ninevah. I was filled with the joy of the Lord and spent the 3 days or so inside the whale preparing my sermon to deliver to Ninevah. It was a pretty impressive entrance being spat out of a fish’s mouth onto the beach I can tell you. One of the best sermons I’ve ever preached in my life and the all repented there and then – it was a great victory in the heavenlies – praise the Lord
	Pause – All look at each other
Leader	Ere Jonah – don’t forget we’re all prophets. We hear from God and something’s telling me there’s something fishy about this story and its not the thing that swallowed you
Hosea	Yeah Jonah was that a fish or a whale that swallowed you
Jonah	Hey come on guys lighten up – it was umm a whale I guess- I could breathe inside so a whale would make more sense.
Hosea	Do you realise there’s all scientific evidence shows that there is no species of whale in existence that has a large enough throat to swallow a human whole – sounds pretty dodgy to me

Jonah	No No that part of it's true I tell you. OK Ok there were some bits I did use a bit of creative licence – I tried to run away from God there at the start and deliberately got on the wrong boat. I wasn't too enthused about being thrown overboard and ending up in some fishes belly either. It was a pretty good sermon all the same, but then after they all repented I was really angry. Like I said last week not a meteorite to be seen, not a single gram of brimstone. Unbelievably boring and predictable. I went and lay down in the sun and wanted to die.
Hosea	Hmm sounds like post prophecy depression syndrome to me.
Elijah	Can I say something
Leader	Sure go ahead
Elijah	Hello my names Elijah
	Hello Elijah
Elijah	Well I experienced the same thing after that incident with the prophets of Baal a few years ago. Called down fire from heaven -as you do, slaughtered hundreds of those blasted prophets of Baal – no shortage of judgement there. Then same as you Jonah wham! Just wanted to lie down and die.
Jonah	Really so what happened to you
Elijah	Well an angel came and told me to have a good sleep, eat some healthy food. I hadn't been looking after myself properly that was the problem –too much stress. Got some good exercise tramping up to this cave at Horeb and had a lovely holiday – beautiful outlook you know and a lovely mild climate – I'd highly recommend it. Anyway a couple of weeks later I felt much better and God speaks to me in a still small voice and I'm back into it again full of the old zeal.
Jonah	See that's just my point – how come he gets to go to all the slaughters – its just not fair. How am I ever going to become a major prophet at this rate? The only slightly interesting thing that happened me was this vine that grew up to shade me from the sun as I was lying there wishing to die. But do I get an angel ?? No just some miserable worm that chomped it's way through the only good thing that I could see in the whole affair. Then the vine died and God was trying in his usual tactful way to make a point that he cared for Ninevah more than I cared for that vine so I should be happy that they had all survived and hadn't been obliterated.
Leader	So are you happy about that?
Jonah	No not really. I'm still thinking about a career change – can't say this one is providing a lot of job satisfaction. I need something more relaxing. I'm looking into Jeremiahs idea about the whale watching. It's bound to catch on some day soon. I was even thinking of a swim with the whales thing, maybe even spend a night in a whale – theres a few OSH issues to deal with and the usual resource consent thing but I reckon it could be a winner. It's either that or worm farming I can't decide.
Leader	Well I'm sorry but that's all we have time for this week. Jonah we'd be very sad if you left the prophets anonymous team support group. It's just starting to get interesting. Next week is step 5 – understanding heathen kings. Could you all do some homework during the week and deliver at least one prophecy to a heathen king and we'll discuss their responses next time. lets finish by breaking into pairs and pronouncing the benediction on each other
	(banging staffs in time) Prophecy prophecy speak the word of God I feel a total dickhead but I'll speak the word of God

I'm part of Christ's body

by Steven Muir 12/8/03

to the tune of "I'm in the Lord's army"

I may never be a creationist
Protest abortionists
Hate evolutionists
I may never be an evangelist
But I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir

I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir
I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir
I may never agree with any one of you
But I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir

I may never ordain a homosexual
Be post evangelical
Or name and claim revival
I may never vote for Graham Capill
But I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir

I may never listen to Rhema
Be a promise keeper
Or annointed worship leader
I may never allow a woman preacher
But I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir

I may never enjoy singing Hillsong
Read a book of Bishop Spong
Believe the rapture won't be long
I may never think that I could be wrong
But I'm part of Christ's body, yes sir

How To Pray In One Minute Or Less

(Grant Cooper)

1) Start: Pray to:

- a) Our Father who art in Heaven
- b) Jesus
- c) Holy Spirit
- d) All of the above

2) How to praise you:

- a) Hallowed be thy name
- b) You're wonderful
- c) You're magnificent
- d) You're O.K. I suppose

3) I pray for:

- a) Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Canterbury to win the rugby
- d) Fay Tucker

4) I ask that you:

- a) Give us this day our daily bread
- b) Make all my problems go away
- c) Make everyone else's problems go away
- d) Make everyone go away

5) Forgive:

- a) Me my sins as I forgive those who sin against me
- b) Winston Peters
- c) Me for everything
- d) What have I done wrong?

6) For you are:

- a) The Power and the Glory
- b) The Big Guy
- c) The highest qualified engineer I know
- d) Somewhere over the Rainbow...

7) Until:

- a) Forever and ever
- b) Forever and ever plus one
- c) Until I've got everything I want including that nice red Porsche
- d) We meet again

8) Finish:

- a) Amen
- b) Cheers
- c) Yeah, whatever
- d) Or else!

Grace University

2005

Characters Employer and two employees, Mr Jones and Ms Smith

Compares Grace to being given a university degree rather than having to work for exams which can be a better way of learning but has socially unacceptable implications.

Overhead up - Reliable Engineering Ltd, we follow well proven engineering rules to your design challenges.

Ahh Mr Jones , welcome to Reliable Engineering Ltd, please take a seat. Now you're applying for the design engineer position. I'll just take a quick look at your CV. Hmm went to Riccarton High School, very good grades in Maths and science – excellent, president of the toothpaste appreciation society in your younger days, then to Canterbury university and graduated last year – a fine institution Canterbury – went there myself many years ago. A very high standard of scholarship I can tell you. You can be sure of a fine quality of graduate if they make it through Canterbury with good marks. Tell me Mr Jones how was your time at Canterbury

Well I err I had to do a lot of study for the exams – it was pretty hard work really, I mean I got good marks and all, but sometimes it was a bit hard to see how relevant the material was – couldn't quite see how to apply it. There were some really interesting things here and there in the courses - I was hoping to work on them a bit more but had to spend most of my time swotting for exams so didn't get much chance.

I see you got particularly good marks in signal processing – maybe you could explain the Fourier transform to me.

The Fourier transform... yeah we learnt that for the final exam – had a classic question on it, derived it from first principles I seem to remember, got me an A+ it did. Now let me think... ummm.... Something to do with frequency right? Errr I'm afraid some of the details might have slipped my memory a little after the exam – it was almost a year ago now, but I did get a good mark at the time.

Well I'm sure it would come back to you when needed. If Canterbury gives you a good mark you must know your stuff. Thank you Mr Jones – next candidate please.

Ahh Ms Smith , welcome to this interview, please take a seat. Now you're applying for the design engineer position. I'll just take a quick look at your CV. Hmm went to Riccarton High School, average grades in Maths and science, then to Grace University – I haven't heard of that one – could you tell me a bit about it.

Well it's a bit different from most other universities where you spend so much time cramming for exams that you don't have much time to learn what you're really interested in. So at Grace uni they give you your degree when you first enrol, then you can study whatever you're interested in for as long as you want.

Sorry – they give you your degree when you first enrol – it's not one of these dodgy 3rd world universities who print you a degree for a few dollars with no work is required?

No no it's not like that at all. It's a fantastic way of learning –when I was free from the pressure of exams I found I was a lot more creative and motivated. I spent 5 years there after getting my degree and took all sorts of papers – started getting into GPS navigation systems for mountain biking. I constructed a super robust LCD screen to give a graphical display of upcoming obstacles along the path. I'm working on a virtual reality helmet too. I reckon it's a product your company could develop really well and it would make you heaps of money.

Hmm that's all very well, but lets get back to this degree of yours. How can I be sure you've done any study. It appears you don't have a single exam grade from your time there

Nope – no grades – I did a couple of voluntary exams just for fun – did quite well too, but they had no effect on my degree.

So what was to stop you spending all your time at university up the mountains tramping and skiing, or fraternising with the opposite sex, or reading trashy novels

There was nothing to stop me doing those thing – I already had my degree so I could slack as much as I wanted, but I don't think you understand – there were SOO many interesting things to learn there – the teachers were very

encouraging. Most seemed to put a surprising amount of effort in. Some people slacked off - did barely any work for a few months then just left.

I trust those people who did no work had their degrees revoked

No they still had exactly the same degree as me. One friend of mine even came back and got a second degree with even less work.

So, Ms Smith ... how on Earth can I tell whether you're a good engineer or not?

Well take a look at my GPS system I brought it along to show you – here put the headset on. It's got a unique frequency modulator I designed myself using a variation of the fourier transform.

Maybe another time Ms Smith, I've got no way of knowing whether you've built this yourself or whether you brought it in some junk shop in singapore

But I can explain how it all works – I spent years learning the theory behind it and I know it backwards

Look I'm afraid I just can't accept this degree as being reliable. Our board of directors insist on a well documented academic background and this just isn't up to scratch Good day ms Smith

(Walking out) Mr Jones Mr Jones could I have a word... yes we'd like to offer you the position, can you start next week.

Epilogue on overhead

Mr Jones went on to work with Reliable Engineering Ltd for 5 reliable years making minor changes to existing products.

Ms Smith formed her own company and created revolutionary new products that put Reliable Engineering Ltd out of business.

God interested in small things of life

Bloke driving around looking for a park getting frustrated. God speaks in depressed voice like Marvin the paranoid android

Bloke	Get out of my way.... you idiot don't you know double parking is illegal. This Christmas traffic is just unbelievable. I can't find a car park anywhere. GET A MOVE ON WILL YOU. I knew I should have brought the bike trailer. God can you pleeeeee help me find a carpark, I'm desperate. God do you hear me, are you there?
God	yes of course I'm there. It's one of the hazards of being God. You're always there . Always everywhere in fact. Bit hard to get away from it all when you're omni-present . Now whats the problem here
Bloke	Umm well – this is a bit of a surprise, I mean I didn't actually expect you to... oh well now that you're here, I've got to find a present for Carolyn, I've got no ideas – maybe one of those omnipresent things you mentioned – sounds like it's got potential. Anyway I can't find a carpark anywhere. Can you help me, I've just got to get a park so I can start looking for this gift
God	Let me see, I'll just check my list shall I? 35000 children starving to death every day, 10 million aids orphans in Africa, 4000 species becoming extinct every day due to deforestation, 10% of the worlds population consuming 90% of the worlds resources, and (sugary voice) Steven wants a carpark – sure I'll get an angel onto it right away – top priority.
Bloke	Ummm look I know it looks bad in the face of all that big picture stuff, I mean a carparks not that important, but you are interested in the little things of life too aren't you
God	Sure sure I like to encourage people to pray for little things. They're easier to answer than when they pray for big things. Then I can tick them off my 'to do' list. Makes me feel like I've actually achieved something for the day – you know job satisfaction and all that.
Bloke	Yeah – I really appreciated it when you answered my prayer about my fly getting stuck down just as I was about to meet the Chinese ambassador. That would have been so embarrassing – I might even have lost my job over that
God	Lost your job? Actually we almost had a world war on our hands over Stevens little trouser zipper. That was a bigger prayer than it looked. Saved myself a whole lot of trouble though answering that one.
Bloke	Really? A world war? Well thanks anyway
God	No trouble, no trouble at all. That's certainly not the smallest thing you've ever asked for
Bloke	Is that right – out of interest what was the smallest thing I've ever asked
God	Well that pimple on the end of your nose when you were 16. Why you didn't just squeeze it like everyone else does I don't know.
Bloke	Hey that pimple was there for three whole weeks. I was paranoid about getting a scar on the end of my nose AND I had a big date coming up. That was a huge answer to prayer when it disappeared overnight
God	Didn't do you much good though did it
Bloke	No it didn't – actually what happened there. I prayed it would go well, she was sooo nice, and it was a disaster. I got soaked biking over in a completely unexpected rain storm, then after five minutes she wanted to leave and go home again
God	Now let me see I'm just trying to remember... oh that's right, it was your body odour, you should have showered before you left but you wouldn't listen to your mother bless her she tried. I did my best to wash it off with the rain, but I'm afraid your armpits were completely beyond redemption.
Bloke	Really? Well I suppose it's worked out for good in the end for those who love you – that's right eh?

God	Yeah that's right - always look on the bright side of life – good on you
Bloke	Anyway it's been very inspiring having this little chat God. You know what I feel my heart has been completely changed, I've been filled with generosity to my fellow humans and a great sense of connection with your beautiful world. Look just forget about the carpark. Now you've reminded me about all the evil in the world I know just what I'm going to do. I'm not going to buy her anything from these materialistic temples of consumerism. Instead I'm going to get her one of those cute animals from the tear fund gift catalogues, maybe a pig in cambodia or a cow in China – what do you think?
God	You don't think getting her a pig or a cow might be sending her the wrong message. Some women are a bit sensitive about that kind of thing. You might want to reconsider, maybe some earrings or some shower gel
Bloke	No no she'll love it I'm sure, a pig that's a great idea
God	I don't think so.... (feigned surprise) Oh look theres a carpark coming available just over there
Bloke	Oh yeah, why are they towing away that other car?
God	No reason, no reason at all
Bloke	Well seeing it's there I might just pop in and have a look and find a little something to go with the pig. Thanks a lot God – much appreciated
God	No problems, see you later – have a nice day and all that. (bloke drives off) Whew – just avoided a very nasty domestic incident there, getting the wife a pig can give some nasty mixed messages
sound	Start playing 'always look on the bright side of life' ramping up volume slowly
God	Now do I need to get that car towed back again, no lets just drop a pamphlet about making your own bike trailer on the footpath – yeah they could do with a bit more exercise to avoid that heart attack. I love this job, now what's next? Toothache in Turkey or dandelions in the lawn in Yorkshire? hmm let me see, I feel like some dandelions I think, where are those aphids gone

Famous five environment skit

Dick Oh I say Julian, this is an absolutely wizard idea to go camping

Julian Yes disk, isn't it such a spiffing day

George And timmy the dog is having such fun

Anne Ah yes, nothing quite like getting out in the wilderness to rejuvenate your spirit and make you feel close to God. I reckon God must really like those trees to make them so beautiful

Dick Oh Anne you are so *spiritual* sometimes. The only reason God made those trees was so we can cut them down for firewood or build some jolly good shelter out of it.

Julian Yes and don't forget they also produce oxygen for us to breathe.

George Hey listen I can hear people talking over there, I'll bet they're up to no good.

man1 Housing development blah blah blah

man2 cut down the forest blah blah blah

man1 endangered birds blah blah blah

man2 big profits blah blah blah

man1 look it's a vicious dog coming to attack and maul us.

man2 Don't worry, I'll take care of it with this poisoned meat.

George Oh look Timmy's eating something.... Oh look he's fallen over.... *Oh no hes dead!*

Julian Don't worry George, animals don't have eternal souls so they don't really matter in the long run.

George Yes I suppose you're right - we'll just get another dog tomorrow.

Anne I say what do you think about their evil plan

Dick Well I don't think it's that evil, I say we need more houses so people don't have to live next to those jolly Catholics, and think of the evangelism potential of all those new people.

Anne Well I think it's a terrible thing to do - cutting down those magnificent trees and threatening the lives of those endangered birds - we must do something.

Julian Yes I agree but we don't want to look like we're part of any new-agey environmental group.

Anne Oh Julian you're so mature - yes that would be terrible

Dick Maybe we should just go and buy some icecream, which is typical of our high consumption lifestyle

George Oh yes - those ham and turkey sandwiches with bags of lettuce,

Julian buckets of tomatos (those genetically engineered ones are my favourite),

Dick mountains of hard boiled eggs (not that we can afford the free range ones),

George and gallons of ginger beer on the side

Anne Maybe we could recycle the bottles - that would help the environment wouldn't it

All RATHER!!! lets go.

Chaplain song

Steven Muir 2004

chorus

If it weren't for your chaplain where would you be
They're great for you to talk to, and best of all they're free
Go and see your chaplain when your head is in a spin
You'll feel so much better seeing your chaplain

Chaplains they are wonderful, Chaplains they are swell
If you should wonder whether or not your life is going to hell
If you're feeling very morbid and you just can't find a grin
Why don't you call up your chaplain

Well there's questions of philosophy and science questions too
Your chaplain has perspective and can help you sort them through
For questions of religion, eternal life and sin
You really should consult with your chaplain

If your boyfriend dumps you, or your girlfriend does depart
The chaplains understanding in matters of the heart
If you need to sort your life out but where do you begin?
You begin but checking out the chaplain

Should you ask what life's about, and what I'm doing here
Your chaplain is a person who can help to make it clear
If anything should bother you, or get beneath your skin
Why not tell it to your chaplain

Alternative chorus

If it weren't for your chaplain what would you do
When life has turned to custard and you find you're in a stew
Look up your chaplain when your head is in a spin
You'll feel so much better seeing your chaplain

The dead messiah sketch

Steven Muir 25/3/03

Aim - get people to think what it would be like if there had not been a resurrection?

Lights off

Disclaimer displayed, Funeral music playing,

Image of crosses displayed

mannikin brought in by pall bearers and laid on table at front, pall bearers go to back again.

A brief pause then lights on, OHP off

a sign passes by '5 days later'.

On other side of church Mary rushes up to other disciples

Mary - Peter John, come and look Jesus has risen!

Peter - What do you mean he's risen, You mean his corpse is getting a bit bloated after 5 days in that tomb.

Mary - no no come and see he's alive, he's alive, just like he promised, I've been to the tomb and seen him, come and look. - look there he is in the tomb - he's alive I tell you

John - (pause and looks at Peter) but his body is still there, he looks pretty dead to me.

Mary - umm, well he's just having a short siesta - I'm sure it must be very hard work rising from the dead. He was up and walking around just half an hour ago.

Peter - oh yeah Mary, lets see if he'll wake up then, HELLO Jesus wakey wakey. There you go Mary not a flicker - (singing) "this little light of mine it no longer shines" it's been totally snuffed out I tell you.

Mary - no no (bumping the mannikin) look there he moved

John - no he didn't you shoved him

Mary - no I didn't

John - yes you did

Mary - no I didn't

John - yes you did

Mary - (bumping the mannikin again) look there he moved again

Peter - Mary you've got to accept reality, all that talk about God being his Father, that sign of Jonah stuff, giving his life like a ransom, none of it makes any difference now, death has the final say, he's just like all the other messiahs who had to be got rid of cause they were too much trouble, that meek inheriting the earth talk didn't work at all.

Mary - I'm sure he's just pining for a bit of fresh mountain air.

John - Pining for a bit of fresh mountain air!

Mary - yes he always did like a walk in the mountains, lets just take him outside for a bit, it's far too stuffy in here, he'll be up and about in no time.

John - Now that you mention it Mary there is a bit of a smell here - smells like a rotting corpse to me. A risen saviour wouldn't smell like that would he.

Mary - Beans!

Peter - Beans?

Mary - he just had breakfast a while ago, look heres the tin on the floor - must be a bit of flatulence

John - wait on Mary what about the grave clothes - if he's been up and about wouldn't he have got changed or at least taken the cloth off his eyes or something.

Mary - I told him to leave them on for a bit, he can't get around too well with them on and I wanted him to stick around for you to see, if we took those grave clothes off VOOM he'd be out of here preaching and healing all over the place like he used to, then you'd never find him.

Peter - Mary this body wouldn't vroom even if you put 10000 volts across it. I'll show you (shakes Jesus and pulls an arm off then begins to scratch back, pick nose etc with it for rest of skit)

Mary - Ohhh well I never

John - How do you explain that then Mary?

Mary - ahhh... That's not his arm - it's probably belongs to that bloke with leprosy he was trying to heal just before you arrived.

Peter - he's all cold and hard

Mary - He must have been on a skiing holiday for the last five days. Bit too much snow.

John - Look Mary (knocking on mannikin) No response - he's a karked Christ, he's a munted messiah, a stuffed saviour.

Mary - Well he might have risen in the metaphysical sense.

Peter - what do you mean?

Mary - Well he lives on in our hearts, you know, I am the vine and you're the branches I'll be in you and you be in me and all that.

John - The only thing that's going to be in him now is the maggots

Mary - well can't we just pretend he's risen, we'll hide the body and tell everyone he's gone off to heaven - there's just no hope without some sort of resurrection, all those dreams of love overcoming evil and the last being first, it has to be true doesn't it?

Peter - Mary we want it to be true as much as you, but if Jesus is still here cold and dead, then we'll never know whether he was on the right track or not. I'm not going to risk meeting the same fate as him. I'd need a real resurrection to show Jesus was more than a ordinary bloke with a knack for faith healing.

Thomas- (running in) Peter John Mary thank goodness I've found

all - Hi Thomas, giddyay, hows it going etc

Thomas- Hey guys have you heard the news Jesus is risen!

John - Thomas, of all people I would have expected you to have a bit more sense. How can Jesus have risen when his body is lying here dead as dead.

Thomas- No no you've got the wrong tomb. Jesus is third on the left, this is only second on the left. He's down at the beach having a bit of a cookup with some fish and bread come and see for yourselves.

(walking out and bantering)

Peter -Wrong tomb I don't believe it. How many times did Joseph tell you Mary? 3rd on the left and you still manage to lead us into the wrong one

Mary - Well I didn't notice you stopping to ask directions did you. I only hope he remembers to put salt on the fish. Me and Martha were always telling him it tastes much better with a bit of salt.

Annointing Jesus with oil at Bethany

martha	Giddy mary
Mary	Hi there Martha
martha	(flat) Hey you heard Jesus is coming to town pretty soon
Mary	Great – it'll be so good to see him again... whats wrong with you you're not looking too excited
martha	Ohh its nothing
Mary	Go on tell me, I'm your best friend after all, we always do lots of girly talk
martha	Nah I'm just being silly don't worry about it
Mary	I know you're worried that Bartholomew's going to make another pass at you aren't you
martha	NO that's not it at all
Mary	Must be the food bill then – they cost a small fortune to feed that lot.
martha	No no it's its Jesus B.O. He smells bad. I mean most blokes fart and are a bit smelly under the arms, but Jesus is worse than lazarus was when he'd been dead for 4 days. How can I concentrate on his amazing words of wisdom about the flowers of the fields and all that stuff, when he reeks to high heaven
Mary	I know what you mean – maybe we could convince him to get baptized again. That was the last time I remember him having a decent wash. I suggested to John that he hold him under for a bit longer but that voice from heaven thing put him off a bit.
martha	Hey what about that pool where the water bubbles up and people get healed, maybe I could pretend to be sick and get Jesus to take me there and we both get in?
Mary	Nah last time Jesus didn't even need the water – hes more likely to spit on you than take you in the water. He even walks over the water to avoid going for a swim
martha	Hmmm I think you're probably right – what am I going to do
Mary	Clothespeg?
martha	Naah don't be silly
Mary	All it'll take is a bit of perfume – you still got that huge jar of Nard stuff around
martha	Yep
Mary	Just stick a bit of that in his hair and that'll cover the smell for a bit
martha	You know how much that stuff costs – that's my retirement fund you know
Mary	It wouldn't take much though would it
martha	I suppose you're right - I'll give it a go
Mary	Ohh look there they go on there way to Simons house – ooh look theres Bartholomew out in front, grab that jar and lets go.
martha	Hi there Jesus – had a good journey (trips over and breaks jar)
Jesus	Hi Martha I see you're just about to anoint me in preparation for my impending death
martha	I am? Oh yes that's right I am
Jesus	A whole jar of perfume, that's a beautiful act that will be remembered down the ages
martha	Really, actually I didn't mean to... oh what the heck here you go then
Disciple	Scuse me Jesus do you realize we could have sold this perfume, invested the money and live off the interest. Even taking into account inflation and Roman taxes ...we could all be paid a good rate for the next 30 years.
Disciple 2	Or we could give it to the poor
Disciple	Yeah I was just about to say that
Jesus	The poor will always be with you, she seems to be the only one taking my impending death seriously
martha	I am? Yeh that's right –look I'd better slip off now see you all later.
martha	Well that didn't work quite as expected did it?
Mary	It definitely improved the smell though – a whole jar

RSA Anzac day skit

Anzac day service with theme of remembering those who have gone before us or made an impact on our lives. Howard and George hobble in with sticks dressed in op shop jackets and ties, dragging mannikin which stands up the back.

Howard Giddy George

George Hi there Howard – like a drink (opens a bottle)

Howard (Looks around) Lots of people here at the RSA today eh?

George Yeah it's a great turnout. Shame old Fred couldn't be here to see it – I went to his funeral the other week

Howard Bah some excuse – that hasn't stopped old Tom here. He died 3 years ago but it was his dying wish that he still wanted come to Anzac day parades, and to the RSA after, so his mates bring him here every year.

George Really – how did he die then?

Howard It was an overdose of viagra they reckon?

George Oh – I was wondering why how he's managed to stay so STIFF after all this time

Howard Yep – they've started calling this little outing his annual res-erection

George Come on now that's a bit bad taste for such a solemn day as today. Lets talk about Fred – did you ever know him?

Howard Fred, Fred Smith wasn't it –yeah I remember him. Fought with him at Monte Casino I did

George Really now was that against the Germans or the Italians

Howard No I fought with HIM – flogged a pack of my cigarettes the blighter – he tried to deny it but boy did I let him have it. V always seemed to get stationed together. I had to put up with him all over the continent.

George Sorry? Incontinance did you say – yeah I've had to put up with a bit of that too lately. I always thought he was a great bloke Fred, taught me a lot about life he did

Howard What like how to get extra rations of fags

George No no important stuff, like civic responsibility and the priority of family and truth and honour – that sort of stuff. Taught me a lot about God too did old Fred.

Howard Ere I didn't know you was one of those religious sorts

George Yep in me own way I make my peace with my maker –Fred helped me look past all the religious mumbo jumbo and find God behind it all – changed the whole outlook on my life it did. Started me on the cycling church too – a great intergenerational experience it is, despite those noisy teenagers. That's right - he introduced me to my lifelong hobby to which I've spent countless hours in ecstatic joy pursuing

Howard What hobby's that then

George Peanut breeding

Howard Peanut breeding

George Yeah that's right – most people reckon they won't grow down here but Fred showed me the trick. You wouldn't believe how many varieties I've got growing now – each one truly unique and special – even developed some new species of my own – you must come around some time and have a look.

Howard I'll umm have to ahhh check my diary and get back to you on that one

George How about you then?

Howard No I'm not really into peanuts – I prefer almonds personally

George No no whos been an influence on your life there must have been some people

Howard Oh yeah heaps of people (pause)

George Such as.

Howard umm there was old whats his name down at the track and then there was ahh I remember now alfred – showed me this amazing party trick with fours coins and a match – boy did that open a few doors for me – almost made it onto stage with

that one.

George But surely there's been someone important, some great spiritual leader who's made an impact on you

Howard Oh yeah I suppose the pope, now you mention it, he made a big impact on me when he visited NZ recently.

George Howard the last time the Pope visited NZ was in the 80s wasn't it

Howard Yeah thats right, seems like just the other day

George So what happened – was it his deep spiritual insight into the nature of humanity that shed a light in the dark times of your life

Howard Well actually I was trying to cross the road when his huge cavalcade of cars went past. I made a run for it trying to get through but one of his security blokes must have thought I was going to have a go at him and tackled me from behind – what an impact – me knees have never been the same since.

George That's not what I mean - How about your own spiritual life – anyone inspired you to think about God and what life's all about

Howard Now that you mention it old Fred – he made me think about God once

George Really how was that

Howard Well when we got back from the war it turns out he'd been writing to MY girlfriend, can you believe that – they ended getting married. I remember thinking that if there was a God then he should direct a lightning bolt Freds way. First my cigarettes then my girlfriend. The lightning bolt never happened though so that's the last time I ever thought about God

George Really so Freds wife Maggie used to be your girlfriend

Howard Sigh maggie that was her name all right, what a girl

George You realise that's Maggie sitting up the back over there

Howard That's Maggie?? – I never realised

George Apparently she's got acute angina but she's aged pretty well really

Howard A cute everything if you ask me cute nose, cute legs, cute... (hands grasping over chest) hands.

George Cut that out ... Another thing you might find interesting – did you know how Fred died

Howard No I didn't catch up with that

George He was doing some whitebaiting on the west coast and a storm rolled in - lightning bolt blasted him they reckon. They found him lying beside the river with burn marks on his feet and gumboots half a mile away.

Howard Really – a lightning bolt you say.

George His whitebait copped a bit too – they reckoned it was the best cooked white bait they'd ever had.

Howard Well I never. A lightning bolt. George if you'll excuse me I think I'm experiencing a religious conversion – better late than never I always say. (Walking out) Maggie yoo hoo remember me, It's Howard, so sorry to hear about Fred, can I get you a drink.

Relativism

Two people waiting at a busstop
Sigh, Other person looks uncomfortable
SIGH

Uhh giddyay – pardon me for noticing but you’re looking a bit down there – is anything the matter.

Well yes now that you mention it – the worlds in a complete mess, I’ve got absolutely no friends noone understands me and I’m very lonely, sometimes I wonder whether life is really worth living at all.

Come on now, of course life is worth living, life is always worth living, life can never be completely without hope. I wonder if you believe in God at all?

Well yes I do

What a coincidence – so do I. Are you a Jew a Christian or a Muslim?

I’m a christian

What a coincidence – so am I. Are you Anglican Baptist, Presbyterian or miscellaneous pentecostal

I usually go to a Baptist church

What a coincidence – so do I. Is that a traditional baptist church, a charismatic baptist church or a post-evangelical baptist church?

A charismatic one I guess

What a coincidence – so is my church – we’ve got so much in common – I don’t believe it.

Now tell me do you believe in the inclusivist or exclusivist view of Christs salvation?

I’m an exclusivist for sure

What a coincidence – so am I. And what about hell? do you subscribe to the annihilation or eternal torment doctrine of hell?

I believe in eternal torment of course.

What a coincidence – so do I – eternal torment is just great isn’t it. What about the rapture do you believe there’s going to be a rapture then the 2nd coming of Jesus or just the 2nd coming.

Oh there’ definitely going to be a rapture before the 2nd coming without a doubt, I mean Tim Lahaye couldn’t have some sold many millions of books if there’s not going to be a rapture surely.

What a coincidence – so do I. And do you believe in the pre-tribulation rapture, mid-tribulation rapture or post-tribulation rapture?

I firmly believe in the pre-tribulation rapture.

Pause – You don’t

Yes absolutely – all scriptural evidence clearly points to a pre-tribulation rapture.

Die you heretical swine! (beating with foam bat) I’ve never heard such blasphemy in my life, just wait till I get my hands on you you’ll never live to regret those words, you’ll burn in hell forever I tell you.

King James

(tune of cocaine)

Steven Muir 1991

If you want to know God then read of his word in King James
It's the language God speaks, it's at the spiritual peak the King James
Latin and Greek no they just can't compete with King James
And praying as well must be with thees and thous like King James

You should read, you should read, you should read, you should read
The King James.

The NIV it's no good for me, King James
And compared to Good News I would always choose the King James
Gideons version won't lead to conversion, King James
The Revised Standard I would burn single handed, King James

John three sixteen it sounds so clean in King James
For accuracy it's just got to be the King James
Yes all of the rest are corrupt and the best is King James
It's a shame in the end that I can't comprehend the King James

The people in the church

Steven Muir 2006

The people in the church say I love you, I love you (x2)
The people in the church say I love you, all day long

Committees in the church all disagree, disagree (x2)
committees in the church all disagree, all day long

Charismatics in the church all want more songs, want more songs (x2)
Charismatics in the church all want more songs, all day long

Intellectuals in the church want to think real hard, think real hard (x2)
intellectuals in the church want to think real hard, all day long

The parents in the church say teach our kids, teach our kids, (x2)
The parents in the church say teach our kids, all day long

The students next door need to be reached, need to be reached, (x2)
the students next door need to be reached, all day long

The missionaries need more cash, need more cash, (x2)
the missionaries need more cash, all day long

The oldies in the church say turn it down, turn it down, (x2)
The oldies in the church say turn it down, all day long

The people in the church say I love you, I love you (x2)
The people in the church say I love you, all day long

Praise God for the things I suffer

Steven Muir 11/1/97

chorus

Praise God for the things I suffer
They all build my character
Praise God my agony
I know it's going to do such good for me

Thank you Jesus for each trial
I will greet it with a smile
I rejoice when things go wrong
My patience gets to be so strong

My personality it gains
With my torment and my pains
Of hardship I'm a great adherent
Cause it teaches perseverance

In hardships gym I show no anger
My spirits muscles grow much stronger
I'm going to be (if life gets harder)
A spiritual Swartzenegger

Disclaimer

The following skit has a PG censors rating
(Pastoral Guidance recommended)



Contains irreverent connotations
and bad taste humour.
Viewer discretion is advised.