

# Yes Lord

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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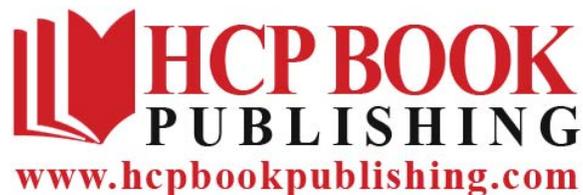
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## Characters

**PASTOR LEROY JOHNSON** – Mid 30's, male role - A young intern Pastor who is given a church in a garrison community to pastor

**VANESSA JOHNSON** – Mid 30's, female role – Leroy's wife and mother to Prim & Julie. She is in no way supportive of her husband's first job

**PRIM** – Leroy & Vanessa's daughter. Very assertive and idolizes her father

**JULIE** – Leroy & Vanessa's younger daughter. All the innocence of a child

**KAY** – 25-year-old gang leader. His only weakness is his daughter Kaynisha

**RAY** – Gang member

**JAY** – Gang member

**CALVIN** – Youth director, married to Nicole

**DOREEN** – Church treasurer

**SOPHIA** – Church Secretary

**KAYNISHA**– Kay's young daughter

**NICOLE**- Calvin's wife

## Setting

The stage is split in two. SL (Stage Left) is an apartment, SR (Stage Right) is inside and outside a Church.

## The Story

The Bible Belt Way Tabernacle Congregational Fellowship AME of North Sacramento Church of God has been without a pastor for three years. It is a small church in a bad neighborhood, a very bad neighborhood, and no pastor in his right mind would take on such a church.

The mother church has devised a plan to get a pastor down there. Find one fresh out of school and keep him in the dark. In other words, don't let him have any idea what he is walking into. Pastor Leroy Johnson is assigned the church.

He is robbed and beaten on the first day, and he finds only three members still faithful to the church, each having their own story. Pastor Leroy also has his hands full at home with a wife who wants him to quit pasturing this church and being a pastor, so he can spend more time with his two daughters.

## Play Details

**Length:** 45 Minutes

**Cast:** 5 Males, 7 Females, Plus Extras

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Contemporary Drama

# THE SCRIPT



## SCENE 1

### LIGHTS UP

SETTING: Apartment.

*Pastor Leroy Johnson is getting ready to leave for church.*

*His wife is behind him bickering him as usual.*

**VANESSA:** You still haven't answered my question. When are we moving?

**LEROY:** Baby, we just moved here yesterday.

**VANESSA:** So what? There's no rule that says you can't move out the day after you moved in.

**LEROY:** What's your problem?

**VANESSA:** Oh, where do I begin? You know sometimes I really don't think you listen when I talk.

**LEROY:** I try, but you say too much.

*Pause.*

**VANESSA:** That's very insulting.

**LEROY:** You always said I should speak the truth.

*Leroy reaches for his wife, she pulls away. He backs up and continues getting ready.*

**VANESSA:** When are we leaving?

**LEROY:** We're back to that again?

**VANESSA:** You don't expect to raise our daughters in this ghetto? They are already a handful.

**LEROY:** It's not a ghetto.

**VANESSA:** Weren't you paying attention?

**LEROY:** Are you coming to church with me or not?

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**VANESSA:** I don't even know where the church is. I am in no mood for a long walk.

**LEROY:** So, I'm going alone?

**VANESSA:** I am not leaving this house. I don't want to get shot, and the girl's are not leaving either. I don't want them to get raped.

**LEROY:** No one is gonna get shot or raped.

**VANESSA:** How do you know that?

**LEROY:** Because --- this is a pg-13 rated play.

*Pause.*

**VANESSA:** You have jokes, huh?

*Pause.*

**LEROY:** Baby, listen to how quiet this place is.

*Pause.*

*On the outside two men are arguing and pointing in each others face.*

**LEROY:** This is a very peaceful place, I can tell.

*One of the men pulls a knife, and the other one takes off.*

*The one with the knife chases after him, through the exit.*

**LEROY:** I have never seen any incident on the news about this place. I know it don't look all that, but we can do this.

**VANESSA:** I don't like it here, Leroy. We have two daughters, think about them. You want them walking through this kinda neighborhood to go to school?

**LEROY:** Baby, we finally have a home.

**VANESSA:** I don't like it. And besides, they just gave you this house so could take this job.

**LEROY:** Even so, we have a home.

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**VANESSA:** I don't like it. I think they were very hasty in handling all this, have you ever thought about that. Why were they so willing to find you a place to stay?

**LEROY:** I don't know, but I can't question God's choices for me.

**VANESSA:** You really believe God wanted you to be here?

**LEROY:** Yes, I really do.

*Pause.*

**VANESSA:** When you told me that we would be spending Christmas in our own house, I was so excited. I was happy, Leroy. But now I'm scared. *(a beat)* There is so much that you can do, why'd you choose to be a pastor?

**LEROY:** Nothing else has any true value for me.

**VANESSA:** Do what you have to do. Just know I won't be happy as long as this is where we live.

**LEROY:** Van ---

**VANESSA:** No. No more talking. I'm gonna go check on the girls.

*Vanessa exits.*

*Leroy fixes his tie and puts on his jacket.*

**LEROY:** Nobody told me, that the road would be easy, but I don't believe you brought me this far, to leave me.

*Leroy takes up his Bible.*

*He looks for a piece of paper in the Bible, and finds it.*

**LEROY:** Now, to go find my church.

*Leroy steps out and walks Stage Right. He looks at the sign which reads Norwood Terrace.*

**LEROY:** Norwood Terrace, great. So, South Norwood Terrace should just be a few blocks from here.

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*He starts to walk stage right. Of course, the audience already knows where South Norwood Terrace is.  
Leroy exits the stage.*

*A beat.*

*He backs up and looks at the sign he just passed. He looks at the piece of paper in his hand and then up at the building standing right next to his apartment, being separated only by an alley running up the middle.*

**LEROY:** You have got to be kidding me. *(Calling loudly)* Vanessa.

Vanessa comes out.

**VANESSA:** What is it?

**LEROY:** I think I have some good news and some bad news.

**VANESSA:** What's the good news?

**LEROY:** We don't have to walk far to go to church.

**VANESSA:** What's the bad news?

**LEROY:** We live next door to the church.

*Pause.*

**VANESSA:** I am still not going.

*Vanessa goes back inside.*

**Name of church is:** *Bible Belt Way Tabernacle Congregational Fellowship AME of North Sacramento*

**LIGHTS OUT**

## SCENE 2

### LIGHTS UP

*SETTING: Church*

*Sophia, the church Secretary, is present, and she is having a mimed conversation with Doreen, the Church Treasurer.*

*Pastor Leroy Johnson enters, and the women stop talking and stare.*

**LEROY:** Good morning. Praise the Lord.

**SOPHIA:** You must be the new pastor.

**LEROY:** It's that obvious.

**SOPHIA:** Yeaah.

Leroy shakes their hands.

**SOPHIA:** I am Sophia, the Church Secretary and this is Doreen, your Treasurer.

**LEROY:** I am Leroy, the new Pastor. Happy to meet you.

**DOREEN:** So, just need to clarify something. Are you on drugs?

**LEROY:** No *(surprised by the question)*.

**SOPHIA:** And you are in your right mind?

**LEROY:** Yes. I don't understand the relevance of your question.

**SOPHIA:** You are here. You actually took this job.

**DOREEN:** Which means you're either high, insane or extremely brave.

**SOPHIA:** And considering that we ruled out the first two, welcome to the Bible Belt Way Tabernacle Congregational Fellowship AME of North Sacramento Church of God, thou fearless one.

**LEROY:** Aw, the what?

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**SOPHIA:** You will get it eventually.

**LEROY:** Okay. It's not so bad here.

**SOPHIA:** I assume you haven't met Kay, Ray or Jay.

**LEROY:** Who are they?

**DOREEN:** Dear Pastor, you cannot live here and not know, but we don't have to tell you because you will find out.

**SOPHIA:** And I hope you can run, really fast!

*Pause.*

**LEROY:** Okay then.

**SOPHIA** (*now smiling*) So Pastor. Are you ready to have church?

**LEROY:** Well, I don't mind waiting till everyone gets here, if that's okay with you.

**DOREEN:** Yeah. That's fine.

*Enter Calvin.*

**CALVIN:** Good morning.

**LEROY:** Good morning brother.

**SOPHIA:** Now can we start church.

**LEROY:** Why are you so hasty? Let's just sit tight till all the members are here.

**DOREEN:** All the members are here.

**LEROY:** What? I mean, excuse me.

**SOPHIA:** This is it. I am the secretary, Doreen is the treasurer and Calvin here is the Youth Director, and we are the Bible Belt Way Tabernacle Congregational Fellowship AME of North Sacramento Church of God.

*Pause.*

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**LEROY** (*starts to laugh*): Okay. I must say you have an excellent sense of humor.

**CALVIN**: What she said is true.

**LEROY**: Is not.

**DOREEN**: Is too.

*Pause.*

**LEROY**: Okay, nice to meet you Calvin. Are you married? Do you have any children?

**CALVIN**: Yes, I am married, but no children.

**LEROY**: And you are the Youth director?

**CALVIN**: Yes.

**LEROY**: So, where is your wife?

**CALVIN**: She hates it here. She actually goes to another church. Where's yours?

**LEROY**: Uhm!

*Pause.*

**LEROY**: And this is the church? Three members?

**EVERYONE**: Yes!

*Pause.*

*Leroy sinks into a seat.*

**SOPHIA**: I knew something was up.

**DOREEN**: What are you talking about?

**SOPHIA**: Isn't it obvious? Our dear new pastor had no idea what he was saying yes to. Did you?

**LEROY**: No, I didn't.

**DOREEN**: Makes sense. It's the only way anyone in his right mind would take this job.

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**CALVIN:** Are we gonna have church?

*Before anyone can respond, Kay is standing in the church.*

*Ray and Jay are not too far behind.*

*Doreen signals Sophia and they grab Calvin, and they suddenly go missing.*

**KAY:** Well whadoyouknow. The rumors are true.

**RAY:** New face in town.

**JAY:** Can I hurt this one? Please?

**KAY:** Relax, let me handle this.

*Walks over to Leroy.*

**KAY:** Are you afraid, man?

**LEROY:** Fear not he who can kill the body but he who can kill both body and soul.

**KAY:** Nice. I like a pastor man who can stand on his own two feet.

**LEROY:** What do you want?

**KAY:** I want to make sure you know who is in charge here.

**LEROY:** God is in charge.

**KAY:** You think God can protect you from us?

**LEROY:** You can't touch me, unless He gives you permission to.

**KAY:** Oh, really?

*They attack Leroy and beat him to the ground.*

*They search him and take his wallet. They look through it at some pictures.*

**RAY:** Nice family.

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**JAY:** Can I hurt them?

**KAY:** Relax. I am a family man, you know that. I respect a man's family. *(takes money from the wallet and throws the wallet at Leroy)* We'll drop by later for dinner. Say hi to the wife and kids, you know.

**RAY:** Nice meeting you, pastor man.

*They exit as quickly as they came. Calvin re-enters the room. He looks a little shaken up and very concerned for Leroy.*

**CALVIN:** Are you all right, Pastor? I am sorry to run out on you like that, but they gave me a beating once, and it kept me in the hospital for a few days. No reason to have both of us beat up.

*Calvin helps Pastor to his feet.*

**LEROY:** No problem Calvin, I understand. Thanks for helping me up. You know Calvin, with God on your side, you have nothing to fear. He will take care of our enemies, and in a way we least expect. God got this.

**CALVIN:** Yeah, we just need to continue to pray.

*Calvin walks Leroy home.*

**LIGHTS OUT**