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**THE HEART OF A CHRISTIAN PLAYWRIGHT**

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Written by us, inspired by Jesus

THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER

by

Cleveland O. McLeish

CHARACTERS

GRANDMA	Maurice and Nikki's grandmother. She has recently been diagnosed with cancer. She has complete trust in God.
KENDRA	Maurice and Nikki's mom. She is worried about her kids and how they are handling the pressures of their grandmother's illness. She has total trust in God.
MAURICE	A teenage boy who is starting to lose his way due to the pressures of his grandmother's illness, school and basketball.
NIKKI	Maurice's sister. She is also having a hard time with the pressures of her grandmother's illness.
MR. STEVENS	A teacher at the school. He is concerned about Maurice and Nikki. He has full faith in God's providence.
MR. ALLEN	A teacher at the school. Non-singing part.
MR. JOHNSON	A teacher at the school who is always joyful due to his faith in Jesus.
MRS. WILLIAMS	A teacher at the school. She is very concerned about her students. She glorifies God in all she does.
TREVOR	A friend of Maurice's. He is a bit of a troublemaker.
JEREMY	Maurice's best friend. A faithful Christian.
MIKE	Maurice's friend. A faithful Christian.
MARCUS	A friend of Maurice's. Also a bit of a troublemaker.
ASHLEY	Nikki's friend. A faithful Christian.
KAYLA	Nikki's best friend. A faithful Christian.

SHAUNA

Another friend of Nikki's.

KRISTEN

Another friend of Nikki's.

## SETTING

The play takes place in two locations: Maurice and Nikki's living room and a classroom at the school. It is Christmas time.

## TIME

The present.

## SONGS

- Song 1            TRUST IN THE LORD by Jaci Velasquez
- Song 2            MADE A WAY by Travis Greene
- Song 3            JESUS YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY by Richard  
Smallwood
- Song 4            WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING by Whitney Houston
- Song 5            INTENTIONAL by Travis Greene
- Song 6            ADORE by Jaci Velasquez
- Song 7            STAND by John P. Kee
- Song 8            I SURRENDER ALL by CeCe Winans
- Song 9            YOU ARE GREAT by Juanita Bynum

## ACT I

## SCENE 1

(Maurice and Nikki's living room. The room is small and intimate. The furniture clean, but well worn. A couch sits in the middle of the room. A worn, yet comfortable looking recliner sits angled on one side of the couch. An armchair on the other side. A small, table-top Christmas tree sits on a banged up coffee table. A small fireplace is along the back wall. Four stockings hang on the mantelpiece.)

(GRANDMA, dressed in a nice pair of pajamas, with a warm robe and slippers on, is reclined in the recliner with a cozy looking throw blanket on top of her. She watches as KENDRA, her daughter, hangs tiny ornaments on their small Christmas tree.)

GRANDMA

(Pointing at spot on the tree.)

Right there's a bare spot, Kendra.

KENDRA

Where?

GRANDMA

To your left.

KENDRA

(Finds the spots. Hangs an ornament.)

Nobody would have seen it, Mom.

GRANDMA

But I'd know. And it'd bug me. It's my OPD.

KENDRA

OPD? What in the world is that?

GRANDMA

Ornament Placement Disorder.

(KENDRA laughs.)

GRANDMA

It's a very serious disorder, Kendra. You shouldn't laugh.

KENDRA

Sure it is. You're gonna drive your only daughter up the wall with it. Where'd you come up with that anyway?

GRANDMA

I found it on the Facebook.

(They laugh. NIKKI and MAURICE enter, dressed up. MAURICE wears a pair of dress pants with a button up dress shirt. NIKKI wears a green dress. She's fussing with her hair.)

MAURICE

What's so funny?

KENDRA

Oh your Grandma's been getting all sorts of ideas from Facebook.

MAURICE

Oh no, Grandma's on the Interwebs. That means its not cool anymore, you know.

GRANDMA

Are you saying I'm not cool?

(They all laugh, except for NIKKI, who is still fussing with her hair.)

NIKKI

You sure it looks fine?

MAURICE

Your hair looks fine, Sis. I don't know why you're so worried about it.

NIKKI

I don't know. I guess I thought if my hair looked good I'd feel better about going.

GRANDMA

Your hair looks lovely, Nikki.

NIKKI

Thanks, Grandma. How are you feeling today?

GRANDMA

Well, I woke up to a brand new day, thanks to God. So, I'm feeling great.

NIKKI

You're always so positive, Grandma. I wish I could be like you.

(To KENDRA)

Mom, can I borrow your pearl necklace? I think it'd look great with this dress.

KENDRA

If you promise not to lose it like you did my earrings.

NIKKI

I promise.

KENDRA

Still don't know how you managed that.

NIKKI

It's my special talent, I guess. Is it in your room?

KENDRA

Yep. In the jewellery box. Bring it here and I'll fasten it good and tight for you.

(NIKKI leaves the room. MAURICE goes over to GRANDMA.)

MAURICE

Have you heard anything from the doctors yet, Grandma?

GRANDMA

Not yet, Maurice.

(NIKKI enters, carrying a necklace.  
KENDRA helps her put it on.)

MAURICE

I hate that they take forever with these test results.

GRANDMA

Ain't nothing we can do about it, honey. Other than pray. We'll get answers when God sees fit to give them.

NIKKI

Are you sure you're alright with us going out?

KENDRA

Yes. We're sure.

MAURICE

It doesn't seem right. Not with you being so sick, Grandma.

NIKKI

Yeah. I'm not really in the celebrating mood this year. Cancer sucks. And this is going to be the worst Christmas ever.

GRANDMA

Don't say that. It's Christmas time. You should celebrate.

MAURICE

Why? What good is it?

GRANDMA

Because Jesus was born. That's always worth celebrating.

(MAURICE and KENDRA exchange doubtful looks with one another.)

KENDRA

One day you two will see it. And you'll be celebrating too.

MAURICE

I don't know how either one of you can feel like celebrating.

NIKKI

Aren't you sad? Or worried? Or anything?



KENDRA

Kids, all we can do is trust in God and pray.

MAURICE

I don't know how you do that when everything's been so bad lately.

**SONG 1      TRUST IN THE LORD**

KENDRA

TRUST, TRUST IN THE LORD  
 LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING  
 IN ALL, ALL OF YOUR WAYS  
 ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

HE'LL MAKE YOUR PATH STRAIGHT  
 YOU'LL BE MY GOD FOR LIFE  
 I'LL WALK BY YOUR SIDE  
 WITH YOUR HAND IN MINE  
 I'LL GO WHERE YOU LEAD ME

TRUST, TRUST IN THE LORD  
 LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING  
 IN ALL, ALL OF YOUR WAYS  
 ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

MY EYES CAN ONLY SEE  
 THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET  
 YOUR DREAMS ARE GREATER  
 YOUR WAYS ARE HIGHER

O LORD PLEASE SHOW ME  
 TRUST, TRUST IN THE LORD  
 LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING  
 IN ALL, ALL OF YOUR WAYS

ACKNOWLEDGE HIM  
 BLESS MY THOUGHTS  
 MY DREAMS MY IMAGINATIONS  
 STEP BY STEP  
 YOUR DELIGHT, YOUR CREATION

TRUST, TRUST IN THE LORD  
 LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING  
 IN ALL, ALL OF YOUR WAYS  
 ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

NIKKI

That's nice and everything, but it sure isn't easy.

MAURICE

No. It isn't.

KENDRA

You'll understand some day.

GRANDMA

Now go on to your party.

(NIKKI and MAURICE look as if they are going to protest. But GRANDMA gives them a look that they dare not argue with. They go to her, give her kisses goodbye, then hug KENDRA goodbye. They exit.)

KENDRA

I pray to God every day that they'll get it someday.

GRANDMA

Me too. And it will happen someday Kendra. They just gotta figure it out on their own. It will happen in God's time.

## ACT I

## SCENE 2

(School classroom. The desks have been taken out to make room for the party. A whiteboard is on the back wall. Festive Christmas drawings are on it. A large Christmas tree is at upstage center, partially decorated. There is table to the side loaded with party refreshments.)

(Christmas music plays lightly in the background as the lights come up. MR. STEVENS, MR. ALLEN, MR. JOHNSON and MRS. WILLIAMS are busy decorating the room for the party.)

MR. STEVENS

I wonder where Nikki and Maurice are?

MR. ALLEN

Yes. I thought they were going to be here to help us decorate.

MR. JOHNSON

I'm sure they'll be here soon.

MRS. WILLIAMS

They are going through a lot right now. With their grandma's cancer diagnosis and everything.

MR. STEVENS

They've taken it pretty hard.

MR. JOHNSON

Well, we'll just have to do what we can to cheer them up.

MRS. WILLIAMS

I'm really starting to get concerned about them. I've noticed such a change since their grandmother fell ill.

MR. ALLEN

So have I. They don't seem to care about anything.

(MAURICE and NIKKI enter.)

MR. STEVENS

There they are!

MAURICE

Sorry we're late. Nikki takes forever to get ready.

NIKKI

(Rolls her eyes.)

And you drive like an old grandpa.

MR. ALLEN

Well, the decorations are in these boxes here. Better get to it. The party will be starting soon and this room isn't going to decorate itself.

(NIKKI and MAURICE begin helping to decorate.)

MRS. WILLIAMS

How is your grandmother doing?

MAURICE

About the same.

NIKKI

We're waiting for some test results to come back, Mrs. Williams.

MAURICE

And then the doctors will figure out what they are going to do.

(The kids fall quiet.)

MR. JOHNSON

We're keeping all of you in our prayers.

NIKKI

Thanks, Mr. Johnson. I guess.

MAURICE

But what if those prayers don't work? They aren't like magic wishes, you know.

MR. STEVENS

No, they aren't. But you know what? God will always work things out the way He's going to work things out.

NIKKI

I just don't understand how all of you people keep  
faith in that.

MAURICE

Me either.

MR. STEVENS

Well, it's because God does everything for us.  
Everything is in His control. Everything. And if we  
have faith, He'll see us through anything.

**SONG 2      MADE A WAY**

MR. STEVENS

MADE A WAY  
DON'T KNOW HOW BUT YOU DID IT  
MADE A WAY  
STANDING HERE NOT KNOWING HOW  
WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TEST  
BUT HOLDING ONTO FAITH YOU KNOW  
THAT NOTHING CAN CATCH YOU BY SURPRISE  
YOU GOT THIS FIGURE OUT AND YOU'RE WATCHING US NOW  
BUT WHEN IT LOOKS AS IF WE CAN'T WIN  
YOU WRAP US IN YOUR ARMS AND STEP IN  
AND EVERYTHING WE NEED YOU SUPPLY  
YOU GOT THIS IN CONTROL  
AND NOW WE KNOW THAT

YOU MADE A WAY  
WHEN OUR BACKS WERE AGAINST THE WALL  
AND IT LOOKED AS IF IT WAS OVER  
YOU MADE A WAY  
AND WE'RE STANDING HERE  
ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE A WAY  
YOU MADE A WAY

NOW WE'RE HERE  
LOOKING BACK ON WHERE WE COME FROM  
BECAUSE OF YOU AND NOTHING WE'VE GOT  
TO DESERVE THIS LOVE AND MERCY YOU'VE SHOWN  
BUT YOUR GRACE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO PICK US UP

AND YOU MADE A WAY  
WHEN OUR BACKS WERE AGAINST THE WALL  
AND IT LOOKED AS IF IT WAS OVER  
YOU MADE A WAY  
AND WE'RE STANDING HERE

ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE A WAY [x2]

YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS  
 YOU CAUSE WALLS TO FALL  
 WITH YOUR POWER  
 YOU PERFORM MIRACLES  
 THERE IS NOTHING THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
 AND WE'RE STANDING HERE  
 ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE A WAY

YOU MADE A WAY [x4]

DON'T KNOW YOU DID IT  
 MADE A WAY  
 DON'T KNOW HOW BUT YOU DID IT  
 MADE A WAY

DON'T KNOW HOW BUT YOU DID IT [x4]  
 DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I'M GRATEFUL [x4]  
 DON'T KNOW HOW BUT I'M GRATEFUL

AND WE'RE STANDING HERE  
 ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE  
 AND WE'RE STANDING HERE  
 ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE A WAY  
 AND WE'RE STANDING HERE  
 ONLY BECAUSE YOU MADE

YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS [x4]  
 YOU CAUSE WALLS TO FALL [x4]  
 YOU CAUSE CHAINS TO BREAK [x4]  
 GIANTS FALL [x4]

'COS YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS  
 YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS  
 AND EVERYTHING IS EASY FOR YOU  
 'COS YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS  
 YES YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS

MOUNTAINS ARE MOVING [x4]  
 STRONG HOLDS ARE BREAKING [X4]

'COS YOU MOVE MOUNTAINS  
 YOU CAUSE WALLS TO FALL  
 WITH YOUR POWER [x4]  
 YOU PERFORM MIRACLES [x4]

MAURICE

I'm glad you've got that kind of faith, Mr. Stevens.  
Maybe someday I can have that. But I don't know. It's  
a lot to ask for.

## ACT I

## SCENE 3

(School classroom. Just a few hours later. The tree is now fully decorated and lit.)

(The party has started. MR. JOHNSON, MRS. WILLIAMS, MR. STEVENS and MR. ALLEN are standing back and watching the kids. NIKKI hangs out with her friends ASHLEY, KAYLA, SHAUNA and KRISTEN. MAURICE stands with the other teenaged boys, JEREMY, MIKE, TREVOR and MARCUS. Both NIKKI and MAURICE look troubled. Their friends try to cheer them up.)

TREVOR

Come on, Maurice. This is a party. Not a funeral.

JEREMY

Don't be rude, Trevor. Maurice has a lot going on right now.

MAURICE

I'm sorry guys. I just don't feel like partying. I feel like everything about my life is just going wrong right now. I can't focus on anything. My grades are slipping. Coach benched me. And my car keeps breaking down.

MIKE

I know your grandma is sick and stuff at home and school ain't going great, but you've still got a lot of good in your life, Maurice.

MAURICE

Like what?

MARCUS

Well, you got us.

JEREMY

And we all care about ya man. We want you to be happy.



MAURICE

I guess all this stuff with my grandma just leaves me feeling like I've got something missing.

(The boys continue to talk quietly amongst themselves as the focus shifts over the girls. NIKKI is wiping tears from her eyes.)

NIKKI

It just don't feel like Christmas this year.

ASHLEY

Aw, honey. I'm sorry.

KAYLA

You know, I know your grandma well enough to know that if she were here, she'd be kicking it up.

NIKKI

Oh, I know. Grandma doesn't let nothing bother her. Neither does my mom. I wish I could be more like them.

SHAUNA

Well, what's their secret?

NIKKI

I don't know. They're all religious and stuff.

KAYLA

What's wrong with being religious?

NIKKI

Oh, nothing I guess. I guess it's just like something that only older people do.

KAYLA

No, it's not. I'm religious.

NIKKI

You are?

KAYLA

Yeah.

NIKKI

Oh. I'm sorry, Kayla. I didn't mean to be offensive or anything.

ASHLEY

I'm religious too. You know, you can be too.

KAYLA

Maybe you'd feel a little better if you could turn everything over to God.

NIKKI

It's just not my scene you guys. Excuse me, I'm going to go get some more punch or something.

(NIKKI goes over to the refreshment table. MAURICE joins her. The rest of the boys and girls slowly drift together on the other end of the stage and quietly talk amongst themselves.)

MAURICE

I'm sorry we ever came.

NIKKI

Me too.

MAURICE

Think we should head out of here early?

NIKKI

And have to tell Grandma and Mom we left the party? Fat chance.

MAURICE

Good point. They'd be pretty upset with us.

(They talk to each other quietly.)

TREVOR

Man, Maurice used to be so much fun.

KRISTEN

So did, Nikki. I'm worried about them.

(The rest of the kids mumbles in agreement. From over in the teacher's corner, MR. JOHNSON notices NIKKI and MAURICE moping by themselves. He goes over to them.)

MR. JOHNSON

Hey, are you guys alright?

NIKKI

As good as we're ever gonna be, I guess.

MAURICE

I don't know. I guess so.

MR. JOHNSON

Anything I can do to get a smile from you guys? Or a laugh? Or some kind of party face?

MAURICE

How is it you're always so happy, even when you're having a bad day, Mr. Johnson?

MR. JOHNSON

Well, it's because I have Jesus.

NIKKI

Jesus makes you that happy?

**SONG 3      JESUS YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY**

MR. JOHNSON

JESUS, YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY  
ALL THAT'S GOOD AND PERFECT COMES FROM YOU  
YOU'RE THE HEART OF MY CONTENTMENT, HOPE FOR ALL I DO  
JESUS, YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY

WHEN I'VE LOST MY DIRECTION,  
YOU'RE THE COMPASS FOR MY WAY  
YOU'RE THE FIRE AND LIGHT  
WHEN NIGHTS ARE LONG AND COLD  
IN SADNESS, YOU ARE THE LAUGHTER,  
THAT SHATTERS ALL MY FEARS  
WHEN I'M ALONE, YOUR HAND IS THERE TO HOLD, OHH

JESUS, YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY  
ALL THAT'S GOOD AND PERFECT COMES FROM YOU  
YOU'RE THE HEART OF MY CONTENTMENT, HOPE FOR ALL I DO  
JESUS YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY

YOU ARE WHY I FIND PLEASURE  
IN THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE  
YOU'RE THE MUSIC IN THE MEADOWS AND THE STREAMS  
THE VOICES OF THE CHILDREN, MY FAMILY, AND MY HOME  
YOU'RE THE SOURCE AND FINISH OF MY HIGHEST DREAMS,  
WOAH

JESUS, YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY  
 ALL THAT'S GOOD AND PERFECT COMES FROM YOU  
 YOU'RE THE HEART OF MY CONTENTMENT, HOPE FOR ALL I DO  
 JESUS (JESUS) YOU ARE (YOU ARE)  
 THE CENTER (THE CENTER) OF MY JOY

JESUS (JESUS) YOU ARE (YOU ARE)  
 THE CENTER (THE CENTER) OF MY JOY

JESUS (JESUS) YOU ARE (YOU ARE)  
 THE CENTER (THE CENTER) OF MY JOY

YOU ARE EVERYTHING (JESUS), EVERYTHING (YOU ARE)  
 EVERYTHING (THE CENTER) EVERYTHING (OF MY JOY)  
 YOU'RE MY JOY (JESUS) IN MY SORROW (YOU ARE)  
 YOU'RE MY HOPE (THE CENTER) FOR TOMORROW (OF MY JOY)  
 WHEN I'M LONELY (JESUS), FEEL INSIDE (YOU ARE)  
 YOU'RE THE LIFTER (THE CENTER) OF MY HEAD (OF MY JOY)  
 YOU'RE MY MUSIC (JESUS), YOU'RE MY SONG (YOU ARE)  
 YOU'RE MY JOY (THE CENTER) ALL DAY LONG (OF MY JOY)  
 WOAH, JESUS, YOU'RE THE CENTER OF MY JOY  
 OF MY JOY

MAURICE

Wow, that sounds pretty amazing and everything. I don't think anything could ever make me feel that much happiness and contentment.

MR. JOHNSON

Oh, you'd be surprised, Maurice.

MR. STEVENS

Okay, guys. It's time for our annual retelling of the Christmas story!

(The kids groan, as if they are too old to take part in this, but it's obvious that they are still excited about it and look forward to it every year.)

MR. ALLEN

Go and get your costumes out of the box.

(The kids grab robes and props from the box. They play the following role:  
 ASHLEY is Mary. JEREMY is Joseph.  
 KAYLA, MAURICE and NIKKI are Wise Men.

TREVOR and MARCUS are Shepherds. MIKE is the angel Gabriel. SHAUNA and KRISTEN are dressed as angels and serve as the narrators. A doll serves as the baby Jesus. The teachers sit back and watch.)

SHAUNA

A long time ago, an angel appeared to the Virgin Mary.

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

Do not be afraid, Mary!

ASHLEY (as MARY)

Who are you?

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

I am the angel Gabriel. And I come to you with a message from the Lord.

KRISTEN

The angel told Mary that she would have a son, and she would call him Emmanuel, meaning God is With Us.

ASHLEY (as MARY)

But I can't have a baby. I'm only engaged to Joseph and I've never been with a man before.

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will conceive.

SHAUNA

Mary was very afraid. But she trusted the angel and the spirit of the Lord came upon her and she conceived.

KRISTEN

Joseph, Mary's betrothed, at first doubted. But the angel visited him in a dream and told him that Mary was telling the truth.

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

Joseph, why do you doubt what Mary tells you?

JEREMY (as JOSEPH)

I don't understand how she could possibly be pregnant. We're not married yet.

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

The Lord has caused her to conceive. And the child she carries will be the Messiah that has been promised. Believe her. And protect her.

SHAUNA

And so it was that she grew greater with child.

KRISTEN

One day, at the end of her pregnancy, Mary and Joseph travelled to the town of Bethlehem to take part in the census there.

SHAUNA

While she was there, she began to feel labor pains. They could find no place to stay.

ASHLEY (as MARY)

Joseph, I don't know what we're going to do. This baby is going to be here any minute now and we have no place to go.

JEREMY (as JOSEPH)

Don't worry, Mary. I have found an innkeeper who will let us use his stables.

ASHLEY (as MARY)

A stable?

JEREMY (as JOSEPH)

It will be warm and safe.

KRISTEN

There, in the stables, she had the baby Jesus. She laid him in a manger full of hay.

SHAUNA

Meanwhile, shepherds were watching their flock in the middle of the night, when suddenly angels appeared.

TREVOR (as SHEPHERD)

Look up in the sky!

MARCUS (as SHEPHERD)

What is that? Is it an angel?

MIKE (as GABRIEL)

The King of Kings and Lord of Lords has been born in Bethlehem. Go and adore him.

MARCUS (as SHEPHERD)

Could this really be the Messiah?

TREVOR (as SHEPHERD)

We should go to Bethlehem right now and worship him.

KRISTEN

The shepherds left immediately for Bethlehem, where they found Mary, Joseph, and the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

SHAUNA

Meanwhile, in a land very far away, wise men beheld a star shining in the sky.

KAYLA (as WISE MAN)

Look at that star! It's so bright and beautiful.

NIKKI (as WISE MAN)

Surely it must mean something.

MAURICE (as WISE MAN)

Do you remember the prophecies?

NIKKI (as WISE MAN)

That a great King will come?

KAYLA (as WISE MAN)

This must foretell of the King.

MAURICE (as WISE MAN)

We must follow this star wherever it may lead.

NIKKI (as WISE MAN)

And leave gifts fit for a King.

KRISTEN

And the three wise man travelled from afar to give their gifts to the Lord Jesus, where they worshipped their new King.

(The play ends with all of the students surrounding Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.)

#### **SONG 4      WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING**

ASHLEY

MOMMIES AND DADDIES ALWAYS BELIEVE  
THAT THEIR LITTLE ANGELS ARE SPECIAL INDEED A

AND YOU COULD GROW UP TO BE ANYTHING  
BUT WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING

A SHEPHERD OR TEACHER IS WHAT YOU COULD BE  
OR MAYBE A FISHERMAN OUT ON THE SEA  
OR MAYBE A CARPENTER BUILDING THINGS  
BUT WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING

IT WAS SO CLEAR WHEN THE WISE MEN ARRIVED  
AND THE ANGELS WERE SINGING YOUR NAME  
THAT THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT 'CAUSE YOU WERE ALIVE  
THAT'S WHAT HEAVEN STOOD STILL TO PROCLAIM

ONE DAY AN ANGEL SAID QUIETLY  
THAT SOON HE WOULD BRING SOMETHING SPECIAL TO ME A  
ND OF ALL OF THOSE WONDERFUL GIFTS HE COULD BRING  
WHO WOULD IMAGINE, WHO COULD IMAGINE  
WHO WOULD IMAGINE A KING

MR. STEVENS

Now everyone sit quietly and reflect on that.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Everyone can give something to Jesus. I'd like you all  
to think about what you can give to Jesus. What can  
you give to the Lord?

KAYLA

Your heart.

JEREMY

Your faith.

MIKE

Your life.

NIKKI

Gee, I don't know.

MAURICE

I don't have anything to give God.

NIKKI

Yeah, what would He want from us?

MR. STEVENS

Someday, you'll think of something.



## ACT II

## SCENE 1

(A little later.)

(MAURICE sits in a corner by himself. NIKKI is at the other end of the room with her friends. The rest of the kids are enjoying the party. JEREMY sees MAURICE sitting alone and goes to him.)

JEREMY

You okay, Maurice?

MAURICE

I don't know, man. This is hard.

JEREMY

I know it is.

MAURICE

Of course you do. You've lost people you love before, haven't you?

JEREMY

Yeah.

MAURICE

I just don't know how to deal with all of this. I don't know how you've dealt with the hand you've been given sometimes.

JEREMY

Well, you've just got to put your faith in God.

MAURICE

I've never been able to do that, bro.

JEREMY

How come?

MAURICE

I don't know. It's that letting go thing. I don't like things being out of my hands.

JEREMY

But Maurice, you can't control everything. Most things you can't control. I mean, ultimately, you've just got to let things go and know that God is there for you.

**SONG 5      INTENTIONAL**

JEREMY

ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
'CAUSE HE'S INTENTIONAL  
NEVER FAILING  
I KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
HE'S INTENTIONAL  
NEVER FAILING

ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
( 'CAUSE HE'S INTENTIONAL) HE'S INTENTIONAL  
(AND HE'S NEVER FAILING) NEVER FAILING ( ALL THINGS WORKING FOR MY GOOD)  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
(HE'S INTENTIONAL) HE'S INTENTIONAL  
(HE'S NEVER FAILING) NEVER FAILING

ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD,  
I KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
I KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD

ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD,  
I KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
I KNOW THAT ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
ALL THINGS ARE WORKING FOR MY GOOD

ALRIGHT, HANDS UP  
SING  
OH OH OH  
WE CAN SMILE 'CAUSE WE KNOW IT'S WORKING  
THROUGH THE HURT AND THE PAIN  
I KNOW IT'S WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
I KNOW IT'S WORKING FOR MY GOOD  
THIS WHAT WHAT

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY COS  
 IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 AND I BELIEVE IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 I CAN SMILE AGAIN  
 I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY COS  
 IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 IT'S WORKING FOR ME

COME ON SING THAT I WILL SAY THAT

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'CAUSE  
 (IT'S WORKING FOR ME YEAH) IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 (IT'S WORKING FOR ME) IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 (AND I CAN HOLD MY HEAD UP) IT'S WORKING FOR ME

GET YOUR CONFIDENCE BACK

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'CAUSE  
 (IT'S WORKING FOR ME) IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 (MY FAITH IS RISING NOW) IT'S WORKING FOR ME  
 (AND ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SEE HOW) IT'S WORKING FOR ME

HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 YES HE IS  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 HE'S BEEN DOING IT FOR A LONG TIME  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 HE'S BEEN DOING IT FOR A LONG TIME  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 I'LL BE GIVING MY TRUST NOW  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 I'LL BE GIVING MY PRAISE NOW  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 HE'S INTENTIONAL  
 AND HE'S NEVER FAILING  
 NEVER FAILING

MAURICE

It sounds like that's working out for you.

JEREMY

It is. And it's all for God's glory.

MAURICE

Do you think I could ever do that?

JEREMY

Sure you could. Anyone can.

(They talk quietly to each other while the focus shifts to NIKKI and KAYLA, who are having their own conversation at the other side of the stage.)

KAYLA

You know, earlier when you were talking about religious people--

NIKKI

I'm sorry about that, I didn't mean to be rude. I'm just a mess right now. I don't have any focus at school or anything. I mean, I even lost my mom's favourite pair of earrings a couple of weeks ago.

KAYLA

Don't worry about it. But I've been thinking. What is it that keeps you from God, Nikki?

NIKKI

I don't know. I guess it's just having that trust. And I don't really know what the point is, I guess.

ASHLEY

Well, the point is that God gave everything for you.

KAYLA

Jesus died for us.

ASHLEY

And everything in our lives is a blessing from Him.

KAYLA

Every day we have to live on this earth is a gift from God.

NIKKI

Really?

KAYLA

Yeah.

NIKKI

I guess I've just never known what you do with that kind of blessing. I mean, you can't repay that, can you?

## SONG 6      ADORE

KAYLA

FROM THE MOMENT YOU OPENED UP MY EYES  
 I HAVE SEEN THE WORLD IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT  
 FROM THE DAWN TO THE SETTING SUN  
 I AM OVERWHELMED  
 BY ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE

ADORE, ADORE, ADORE  
 JESUS I ADORE YOU,  
 ADORE,  
 ADORE, ADORE, ADORE, ADORE  
 JESUS, I ADORE YOU  
 AND I LAY MY LIFE BEFORE YOU, O LORD

THERE'S A UNION OF TWO BECOMING ONE  
 DEEP INSIDE MY HEART  
 I KNOW THAT I BELONG  
 YOU HAVE GIVEN EVERYTHING TO ME  
 THE LEAST THAT I CAN DO  
 IS GIVE IT BACK TO YOU

AND ALL I AM AND EVER WILL BE  
 IS FOR YOU, LORD  
 AND EVERYTHING WITHIN ME CRIES

ADORE, ADORE, ADORE  
 JESUS I ADORE YOU,  
 YES I ADORE YOU  
 AND I LAY MY LIFE BEFORE YOU  
 ADORE, ADORE, ADORE, ADORE  
 JESUS, I ADORE YOU

AND I LAY MY LIFE BEFORE YOU  
 I LONG TO LIVE AND ADORE YOU  
 I LAY MY LIFE BEFORE YOU, O LORD  
 I ADORE YOU

NIKKI

So you just give everything about your life to God?  
 That's it?

KAYLA

Yes.

(NIKKI wanders off by herself to think.  
 We go back to MAURICE and JEREMY.)

MAURICE

Jeremy, I want to have that faith that you have. I want to give everything to God. How do I do it?

JEREMY

You pray, man. Just pray to Jesus to forgive your sins and tell Him you're ready to give your whole life to him.

MAURICE

Will you help me?

JEREMY

Of course!

(The boys stand quietly together for a few moments as they pray. When they've finished, JEREMY gives MAURICE a hug, then turns to the other boys.)

JEREMY

Guys! Maurice has just given his life to Christ!

MIKE

That's great, Maurice!

(TREVOR and MARCUS look displeased.)

TREVOR

So?

MARCUS

I guess you're going to be like one of those lame people who never go out and have fun anymore?

MAURICE

That's not what being a Christian is all about.

TREVOR

Then you'll still come and party with us?

MAURICE

Well, not the kind of partying you guys used to do. Maybe a different kind.

MARCUS

See, lame.

MAURICE

Not cool, guys. I thought you were my friends.

TREVOR

This party is lame. Let's go have some real fun.

MARCUS

Last chance, Maurice. You coming?

MAURICE

No. I'm not going to party like that anymore.

TREVOR

Suit yourself.

(TREVOR and MARCUS leave.)

**SONG 7      STAND**

MAURICE

I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE A STAND (STAND)  
 NOT KNOWING I'D LOSE MY BEST FRIEND (STAND)  
 BUT I'D RATHER, I'D RATHER LIVE RIGHT (STAND)  
 THAN IN HELL, LIFT UP MY EYES  
 ALL GOD'S CHILDREN JUST STAND YEAH (STAND)  
 TELL SOMEBODY SAY YOU STAND  
 EH LORD EH

STAND FOR HOLINESS  
 STAND FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS  
 AND BE COUNTED AMONG THEM  
 THAT SHALL REIGN WITH HIM  
 YOU STAND  
 WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE GONE  
 STAND WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE  
 AND BELIEVE HE SHALL RECEIVE HIS OWN

I DECIDED TO TAKE A STAND  
 NOT BELIEVING I'D LOSE SOME OF MY FRIENDS  
 I WOULD RATHER; I'D RATHER LIVE RIGHT  
 THAN IN HELL LIFT UP MY EYES  
 ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN JUST STAND  
 STAND, EVERYBODY SAY YOU STAND

STAND FOR HOLINESS  
 STAND FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS  
 AND BE COUNTED AMONG THEM THAT SHALL REIGN WITH HIM  
 (I'M GONNA BE IN THE NUMBER)

YOU STAND WHEN FRIENDS ARE GONE  
 STAND WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE  
 AND BELIEVE HE SHALL RECEIVE HIS OWN (x3)

EVERYBODY STAND UP AND SAY  
 STAND FOR HOLINESS  
 STAND FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS  
 AND BE COUNTED AMONG THEM  
 THAT SHALL REIGN WITH HIM  
 YOU STAND WHEN FRIENDS ARE GONE  
 STAND WHEN YOU'RE ALL ALONE  
 AND BELIEVE HE SHALL RECEIVE (x3)  
 HIS OWN  
 (PEOPLE SAY) STAND (HELP ME OUT)  
 YOU GONNA DO IT  
 YOU GONNA DO GONNA DO IT NO  
 (POINT TO SOMEBODY SAY) YOU STAND

(MAURICE sits with JEREMY and MIKE. We  
 move back to NIKKI, who stands by  
 herself, thinking. MRS. WILLIAMS sees  
 that something is up and goes to her.)

MRS. WILLIAMS  
 What's going on, Nikki? You look very thoughtful.

NIKKI  
 I've been talking to Kayla and Ashley.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
 About?

NIKKI  
 God. And religion. And all that stuff.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
 And what are you thinking about?

NIKKI  
 Well, you said earlier that we have to give everything  
 to God. I don't have anything to give to Him.

MRS. WILLIAMS  
 You have yourself.

NIKKI  
 I don't know how to give Him that.



MRS. WILLIAMS

It's not always easy, but you devote your life to giving your heart, mind and body to the Lord. Just trust Him to take care of you and let His Holy Spirit fill you with His love.

NIKKI

That's all?

MRS. WILLIAMS

That's all.

**SONG 8      I SURRENDER ALL**

NIKKI

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER  
ALL TO HIM I FREELY GIVE  
I WILL EVER LOVE AND TRUST HIM  
IN HIS PRESENCE DAILY LIVE

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER  
HUMBLY AT HIS FEET I BOW  
WORDLY PLEASURES ALL FORSAKEN  
TAKE ME, JESUS, TAKE ME NOW

I SURRENDER ALL  
I SURRENDER ALL  
ALL TO THEE MY BLESSED SAVIOR  
I SURRENDER ALL

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER  
MAKE ME SAVIOR WHOLLY THINE  
MAY THY HOLY SPIRIT FILL ME  
MAY I KNOW THY POWER DIVINE

I SURRENDER ALL  
I SURRENDER ALL  
ALL TO THEE MY BLESSED SAVIOR

I SURRENDER ALL  
I SURRENDER ALL  
I SURRENDER ALL  
ALL TO THEE MY BLESSED SAVIOR

I SURRENDER ALL  
I SURRENDER ALL  
ALL TO THEE MY BLESSED SAVIOR  
I SURRENDER ALL

(MRS. WILLIAMS hugs NIKKI. MAURICE, the other students and the other teachers come over to rejoice with MAURICE and NIKKI.)

MR. STEVENS

Let's pray for Maurice and Nikki and their family.

MR. JOHNSON

Precious Jesus, we thank You for Maurice and Nikki. And we rejoice with You that they've both decided to give their lives to You. Lord, we ask that You take them under Your loving protection and grant them peace and understanding, that they may trust in You to provide them with all that they may need.

MAURICE

Lord, please be with my Grandma.

NIKKI

If it is Your desire, heal her.

MAURICE

Whatever You do, I trust that it is for the best.

NIKKI

And whatever happens we trust that You will always be there for us.

MR. STEVENS

In Jesus' name.

EVERYONE

Amen.

## ACT II

## SCENE 2

(Maurice and Nikki's living room.)

(The tree is lit. The lights are dim. GRANDMA is napping on the couch. KENDRA sits on the floor, wrapping gifts. The telephone rings. It wakes GRANDMA up. KENDRA leaps up to answer it.)

KENDRA

(Into phone.)

Hello? Yes, she's right here.

(KENDRA hands the phone to GRANDMA.)

GRANDMA

(Into phone.)

Hello?...Yes...Yes...Well sure, we can be there right away.

(She hangs up. KENDRA looks at her, worried.)

KENDRA

What was it, Mom? What did the doctors say?

GRANDMA

They said they wanted to see me right away. They have news.

KENDRA

Good news?

GRANDMA

I don't know. Let's pray to God that whatever it is, that His will be done.

(They bow their heads and clasp onto one another's hands.)

Precious Saviour, guide the doctors we are about to see in wisdom and truth. Help them as they deliver their news. And help us to have the strength to bear whatever news it may be. Give us assurance that no matter what happens, everything will be done according to Your will. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. Amen.

KENDRA

Amen.

(She grabs GRANDMA's coat and helps her into it. They hurry out of the house.)

## ACT II

## SCENE 3

(A couple of hours later.)

(Everyone sits around the Christmas tree, passing out gifts to one another. They are laughing and having a great time. The teachers sit back, watching the students have their fun.)

MR. JOHNSON

I'm so happy for Maurice and Nikki.

MRS. WILLIAMS

It really seems like the burden has been lifted.

MR. STEVENS

Putting things into God's hands has lifted their spirits.

KAYLA

(Unwrapping a book.)

Oh wow! I've been wanting this book forever! Thank you, Mr. Allen.

MR. ALLEN

You're welcome.

NIKKI

(Unwraps a small box. She opens the box. Inside are her mother's earrings.)

Oh my goodness, Mrs. Williams. How did you find them?

MRS. WILLIAMS

I found them on the floor of the classroom the other day. You must have taken them off and they fell off of your desk something.

NIKKI

Mom is going to be so happy!

(KENDRA and GRANDMA enter. Everyone looks up, surprised to them.)

MAURICE

Mom? Grandma?

NIKKI

What are you doing here?

KENDRA

We just thought we'd stop by for a few minutes to see how things were going.

KAYLA

Oh we have some wonderful news for you.

GRANDMA

What's that?

JEREMY

Tell them, Nikki and Maurice.

MIKE

Yeah, tell them.

MAURICE

We've been talking to everyone tonight.

NIKKI

About how bad we were feeling. How nothing seemed to be going right.

MAURICE

And how we were so worried about you, Grandma.

NIKKI

And everyone kept telling us to trust in God, to give ourselves and our worries and cares over to Him.

MAURICE

So we did.

GRANDMA

Praise God!

KENDRA

Oh I've been praying for this day for a long time.

NIKKI

And we found your earrings, Mom!

KENDRA

What?

NIKKI

Mrs. Williams found them. This is turning out to be the best Christmas ever!

GRANDMA

Well, we've got some news to share with you ourselves.

MAURICE

Did you hear from the doctors?

KENDRA

We did.

(Everyone comes in closer, anxious to hear the news.)

NIKKI

What kind of treatment can they do?

KAYLA

We've all been praying so hard for you.

KENDRA

I'll let your Grandma tell the news for you.

MAURICE

Well, Grandma?

GRANDMA

The doctors did their tests a few days ago. And, the cancer is gone. Completely and totally gone.

NIKKI

What?

GRANDMA

It's gone!

MAURICE

How?

GRANDMA

They don't understand what happened or how it was gone. But it's gone.

JEREMY

God is good!

GRANDMA

That's exactly what I said.

KENDRA

The doctors may not know how, but we do. God answered all our prayers.

(MAURICE and NIKKI hug GRANDMA. They are overjoyed.)

NIKKI

Thank you God!

MAURICE

He really does answer prayers.

GRANDMA

Yes, He does.

NIKKI

And this really is the best Christmas ever!

**SONG 9      YOU ARE GREAT**

GRANDMA

YOU DESERVE THE GLORY AND THE HONOR,  
I LIFT MY HANDS IN WORSHIP AND I BLESS YOUR HOLY NAME.

YOU DESERVE THE GLORY AND THE HONOR,  
I LIFT MY HANDS IN WORSHIP AND I BLESS YOUR HOLY NAME.

YOU ARE GREAT, YOU DO MIRACLES.  
SO GREAT, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE YOU,  
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE YOU.

YOU ARE GREAT, YOU DO MIRACLES.  
SO GREAT, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE YOU,  
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE.

THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE YOU.