

Because You Are Young

By Chris Stoker

A monologue from a Senior Soldier prospect just asked to give his testimony.**Summary:** *A young soldier is asked to give his/her testimony. Struggling with this task, the character is forced to move beyond his/her lack of experience and to proclaim in faith what God is going to accomplish in his/her future.***Notes:** *This monologue should be performed in "almost" uniform. Uniform pants, untucked shirt and a clip-on tie stuffed in your pocket. Character begins on a chair, with head folded in his arms. Frustration is apparent right from the beginning.*

What am I going to do? I don't even know what **that word** really means, except they use it in court cases...and that's serious. My mom watches Law & Order, so if they use it in court cases one of two things is going to happen. You are going to jail, or you get whacked because you opened your mouth and ratted Slim Jimmy out to the cops.

I am (enter age here) years old. That's far too young to know anything about anything as far as the pulpit is concerned. But I'm supposed to give my testimony. This is what happens when you sign up for Senior Soldier classes. You learn about all 11 doctors and you read articles about war and then you have to give your testimony.

I can just see the Corps Sergeant Major looking over his glasses with those beady little eyes and watching every word. Going through that old bible with his red felt-tip pen and marking down the verses I quote wrong.

My mom says it's not that big of a deal. I'm just supposed to write down what "God has done in my life" and then read it to everybody. We'd be better off watching concrete dry, or watching grass grow. I AM BORING.

It's not like I'm a modern day Moses or Abraham with some huge job to do or some important place to go. I've never had a dream where anybody wrote on the wall or anything. I'm certainly no David or Daniel. Nobody ever sang a song that goes "Dare to be a (insert your name here*)."

* If your name is David, or Daniel or some other biblical hero name, use another one...like Herbert, or Reginald)

What am I going to do about this? Last year I had to pray in church and now this.

You know what it sounds like to me...Officer practice. Like maybe they're running out and scouting for replacements or something. Maybe the Officer Union is going on strike soon and us almost-senior soldiers are going to take over everything. That could be fun, but I really need to stay focused here...

What if I don't have a good testimony?

Well, I was born (age) years ago...in a hospital. And I joined the Salvation Army at the age of (appropriate age) when I started (**pick one:** playing in the Youth Band, going to camp, attending Sunday School, going to Youth Programs). And I've gone every Sunday since...sometimes twice...and that's about it.

Yeah, that sounds good, except for the fact that even the people with broken hearing aids would be asleep.

I don't know what to do about this...we could always try the random bible verse method. I think that's how they pick their scripture every Sunday anyway.

Ahh. Here we go. Judges 1:7.

"Then Adoni-Bezek said, 'Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off have picked up scraps under my table. Now God has paid me back for what I did to them.'"

Ok. Maybe another verse. Eccleeeez.....Ekleeezi...This one, with more syllables than verses. Chapter 1:2

"'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher. 'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'"

Next.

Oh, here's one. Hosea 1:2

"When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, 'Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of

the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD.'"

Whoa. Mental note. Read that later, sounds better than Law & Order.

Let's look at one more...if it's like the others, I don't know what I'll do.

This looks good...I think this one might work...

1 Timothy 4:12. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

(Mimes writing down the verse and getting lost in thought for a few seconds. Folds up papers, clips on a tie and changes staging position entirely to deliver this last line as if it is the opening of the testimony.)

"Good morning everybody. I'll be honest with you...I don't think there's much about my story that's very spectacular...or even all that interesting. But I don't think this testimony should focus on a boring past. So let's talk about my future..."

(End by holding the moment "about my future" for a second or two and then bowing your head and placing both hands behind your back.)

Writer's Notes: Throughout the script there are places where you can personalize it. Options have been written in for you to pick OR if I've left something out that makes your Salvation Army experience your own, feel free to add a line instead of picking one written already. Avoid the temptation to ad-lib any more than the short line provided.