

GOD IS . . . OUR HOPE

by Cathy Spurr
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CHARACTERS - PEOPLE

SUSIE
TAMMY
VOICE OF GOD
ABRAHAM
SARAH
SNOOPY

CHARACTERS - PUPPETS

PAUL
CREW MEMBER #1
CREW MEMBER #2
JAMES

PROPS

PARK BACKDROP
BENCH
WISHING WELL
PENNY
LIMOUSINE
BABY IN BLANKET FOR PUPPET SARAH
SHIP
SAILOR ATTIRE
RAKE
BUCKET

SOUND EFFECTS

WHISTLING SOUND FOLLOWED BY SPLASH
SNOOPY THEME SONG
BABY CRYING
RUSHING WIND, CRASHING WAVES

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LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - ROCK THE WORLD

WORSHIP LEADER: Opening prayer & introduction.

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON HOUSE & SINGERS, UP ON CENTER STAGE

Susie is sitting on bench at playground, talking to herself (one potato, two potato) when Tammy enters, stage left. She doesn't see Susie sitting there and walks to wishing well.

TAMMY: *(talks to herself beside wishing well)* O.K. THIS IS MY LAST PENNY. I'VE BEEN COMING TO THIS PLAYGROUND EVERY DAY AND MY WISH HAS NEVER COME TRUE. THIS IS IT! IF SOMETHING DOESN'T HAPPEN SOON, I'M GONNA GIVE UP ON MY WISH. . . . HERE GOES . . . *(throws penny in, peeks down as it falls, and then splashes)*

SOUND CUE - FALLING WHISTLING SOUND FOLLOWED BY SPLASH

SUSIE: BUT YOU CAN'T GIVE UP . . .

TAMMY: *(sadly looking down the well)* WHY NOT?

SUSIE: YOU NEED TO KEEP ON HOPING!

TAMMY: *(pointing finger at top of well)* LISTEN, I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR A REALLY, REALLY LONG TIME NOW AND I'M . . . I'M . . . *(makes a face)* I'M TALKING TO A WISHING WELL! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

SUSIE: *(in sing-song voice & waving reluctantly)* YOO HOO, . . . I'M OVER HERE . . .

TAMMY: *(looks at Susie)* OH HI! I KNEW THAT.

SUSIE: HI, MY NAME IS SUSIE.

TAMMY: HI SUSIE, I'M TAMMY.

SUSIE: HEY, WHAT ARE YOU WISHING FOR?

TAMMY: WELL, I CAN'T TELL YOU RIGHT NOW. AND BESIDES, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT IF I TELL YOU MY WISH IT WON'T COME TRUE. ANYWAY, WHY DID YOU SAY I SHOULDN'T GIVE UP HOPE?

SUSIE: WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT HOPE IS, DON'T YOU?

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TAMMY: (*hesitatingly*) NO . . . NOT REALLY.

SUSIE: WELL, HOPE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET.

TAMMY: (*ponderingly*) I DON'T GET IT.

SUSIE: OHHHH! (*puts hand to brain to think for a minute*) SHE DIDN'T GET IT. LET ME THINK A MINUTE. . . . I KNOW COME WITH ME, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A TRIP. LET'S GO OVER HERE . . .

LIGHT CUE - UP ON STAGE RIGHT

TAMMY: (*very excited*) OH, A TRIP, I WANNA GO, I WANNA GO. . . OH, HOW FUN, THIS IS REALLY, REALLY NEAT!

SUSIE: I KNOW, LET'S NOT OPEN THE WINDOWS, LET'S OPEN THE . . .

SUSIE & TAMMY TOGETHER: THE SUN ROOF! (*make cranking noises*)

SUSIE: LISTEN, I THINK WE SHOULD TURN ON SOME MUSIC. HERE'S MY FAVORITE SONG, IT GOES LIKE THIS - "KEEP HOPING IN HIM, KEEP HOPING IN HIM (*Tammy joins in*)

LIGHT CUE - DIM SLIGHTLY CENTER STAGE, LIGHTS UP ON SINGERS

SONG CUE - BLESSED HOPE

LIGHT CUE - LIGHTS DOWN ON SINGERS, UP CENTER STAGE

TAMMY: OH, THIS IS SO MUCH FUN! LOOK, IT'S A CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CAR, IT'S A LIMOSINE! WOW! THIS IS TOO MUCH FUN. WE MUST BE GOING SOMEPLACE GREAT!

SUSIE: YUP, WE'RE GOING TO . . . KNOTTSBERRY FARM . . .

TAMMY: (*excitedly*) KNOTTSBERRY FARM! OH, I LOVE KNOTTSBERRY FARM! I LUV IT, I LUV IT, I LUV IT! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THERE . . . I WANNA GO TO CAMP SNOOPY . . . ARE WE THERE YET?

SUSIE: LOOK AT YOU! SEE, YOU'RE HOPING!

TAMMY: YUP, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING THERE

SUSIE: YOU'RE HOPING FOR WHAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET . . . BUT YOU

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BELIEVE WE WILL GET TO KNOTTSBERRY FARM, SOONER OR LATER.

TAMMY: ARE WE THERE YET?

SUSIE: WE . . . ARE . . . HERE!! (*Susie runs out from behind car*)

TAMMY: WAIT! . . . WAIT A MINUTE! ARE YOU SURE THIS IS
KNOTTSBERRY FARM? IT'S NOT KNOTTSBERRY FARM UNTIL I SEE
SNOOPY . . .

SOUND CUE - SNOOPY THEME SONG

TAMMY: WAIT! I HEAR . . . WHERE'S SNOOPY? WHERE IS HE? (*etc. - finally she pretends to see Snoopy*) AAAAAGGHHHHH! IT'S SNOOPY!
KNOTTSBERRY FARM! OH, WE'RE REALLY, REALLY HERE!

SUSIE: LOOK, YOU DON'T NEED TO HOPE ANYMORE ABOUT
KNOTTSBERRY FARM BECAUSE WE HAVE ARRIVED. . . WE'RE HERE! .
. . NOW WE CAN JUST ENJOY IT AND RIDE THE ROLLER COASTER
AND GO TO CAMP SNOOPY . . .

TAMMY: (*interrupting*) SUSIE, SUSIE, MY WISH ISN'T AS EASY AS JUMPING
IN A CAR AND GOING TO KNOTTSBERRY FARM (*gets sad and hangs
head*) IT SEEMS LIKE MY WISH IS IMPOSSIBLE . . .

SUSIE: IMPOSSIBLE? YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK YOU NEED TO HEAR A
STORY. LET'S SIT DOWN. . . A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A MAN
NAMED ABRAHAM AND HE HAD A WIFE NAMED SARAH. BOY, THEY
WERE REALLY OLD. . . LET'S LISTEN . . .

LIGHT CUE - UP ON PORTABLE

Abraham is coming down center aisle, raking, when the voice of the Lord begins to speak to him.

VOICE OF GOD: ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM: (*begins looking around*) YES, LORD?

VOICE OF GOD: I AM GOD ALMIGHTY; AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH
YOU: YOU WILL BE THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS. AND AS FOR
YOUR WIFE, SARAH, I WILL BLESS HER AND WILL SURELY GIVE YOU
A SON BY HER.

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Sarah comes to well to draw water.

ABRAHAM: *(begins to laugh and says almost to himself)* WILL A SON BE BORN TO A MAN A HUNDRED YEARS OLD? CAN SARAH BEAR A CHILD AT THE AGE OF NINETY? I DON'T THINK SO!

VOICE OF GOD: GO AND SHARE THE NEWS WITH SARAH.

ABRAHAM: I WILL LORD.....BUT SHE'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME!! *(he approaches foot of center stage)* SARAH! SARAH!

SARAH: *(approaches edge of stage)* YES ABRAHAM, WHAT IS IT?

ABRAHAM: THE LORD HAS PROMISED US A SON!

SARAH: *(unbelieving)* DID THE LORD SAY WHO WILL GIVE US THIS SON?

ABRAHAM: SARAH, IT WILL BE YOU!

SARAH: *(laughing)* THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY THIS WILL HAPPEN. I AM MUCH TOO OLD TO HAVE A CHILD! YOU'VE BEEN IN THE SUN TOO LONG, OLD MAN!

ABRAHAM: *(ascends stairs stage left)* WHY DO YOU DOUBT, SARAH? THE LORD HAS PROMISED THAT YOU AND I WILL HAVE A SON. IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD? *(both exit stage left)*

SUSIE: *(getting up)* TAMMY, IT TOOK MANY YEARS FROM THE TIME THAT GOD FIRST PROMISED THEM A SON, BUT ABRAHAM AND SARAH NEVER GAVE UP HOPE.

TAMMY: YAH, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR A LONG TIME TOO, AND JUST BECAUSE WE HOPE DOESN'T MEAN WE GET WHAT WE HOPE FOR!

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SUSIE: WE NEED TO KEEP HOPING IN GOD BECAUSE HE'S OUR FATHER AND FATHER KNOWS BEST. . .

TAMMY: DID THEY EVER GET THEIR SON?

CUE SOUND - BABY CRYING

SUSIE: LOOK.....(*points at Abraham & Sarah*)

Abraham and Sarah enter - Sarah is carrying a baby in a blanket.

SARAH: OH ABRAHAM, ISN'T HE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY IN THE WHOLE WORLD?

ABRAHAM: YES HE IS. GOD HAS CERTAINLY ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS...AND WE SHALL CALL HIM....ISAAC.

SUSIE: SEE, GOD DOES ANSWER PRAYERS.

TAMMY: WELL...MAYBE THEY WERE JUST SPECIAL. YOU PROBABLY CAN'T SHOW ME ANYONE ELSE...

LIGHT CUE - UP ON STAGE LEFT

SUSIE: OH, BUT I CAN. THERE'S THIS GUY NAME PAUL & HE'S GOING FROM TOWN TO TOWN TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. BUT THEY THROW HIM IN JAIL & PUT HIM ON A SHIP TO GO FAR AWAY . A BIG STORM CAME UP . . .

SOUND CUE - RUSHING WIND, CRASHING WAVES

PAUL: (*to crew*) MEN, YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MY ADVICE NOT TO SAIL FROM CRETE; THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SPARED THIS DAMAGE AND LOSS. BUT NOW I URGE YOU TO KEEP YOUR COURAGE, BECAUSE NOT ONE OF YOU WILL BE LOST; ONLY THE SHIP WILL BE DESTROYED.

CREW MEMBER 1: HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THIS?

CREW MEMBER 2: ARE YOU GOD?

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PAUL: NO, BUT LAST NIGHT AN ANGEL OF GOD STOOD BESIDE ME AND SAID TO NOT BE AFRAID, THAT GOD WOULD SPARE ALL THE LIVES THAT SAILED WITH ME. SO KEEP UP YOUR COURAGE MEN, FOR I HAVE FAITH IN GOD THAT IT WILL HAPPEN JUST AS HE TOLD ME.

CREW MEMBER 1: (*almost hysterical*) BUT WHAT IF HE'S WRONG! WE MUST ABANDON SHIP WHILE WE STILL CAN!!! (*acts as if he's going to jump off the ship. Paul holds him back*)

CREW MEMBER 2: HE'S RIGHT. IF WE STAY HERE WE'LL SURELY DIE!!

PAUL: (*to entire crew*) UNLESS YOU MEN STAY WITH THE SHIP, YOU CANNOT BE SAVED.

CREW MEMBER 2: I WILL STAY...

SOUND CUE - LESSENING OF WIND

CREW MEMBER: (*points at audience*) I SEE LAND!! WE'RE SAVED!!

PAUL: PRAISE GOD! (*all begin to rejoice and sing "Allelujah"*)

LIGHT CUE - DOWN STAGE LEFT

TAMMY: OH, O.K. NOW I GET IT. WE NEED TO HOPE IN GOD AND LET HIM WORK IT OUT.

SUSIE: THAT'S IT! HOPE IN HIM!

TAMMY: BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T NEED TO HOPE ANYMORE!

SUSIE: WHY'S THAT? HEY, AFTER ALL WE JUST TALKED ABOUT, HOW CAN YOU NOT WANT TO HOPE?

TAMMY: BECAUSE MY WISH, ACTUALLY MY PRAYER, HAS COME TRUE.

SUSIE: YEAH? WHAT WERE YOU PRAYING FOR?

TAMMY: I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR A SPECIAL FRIEND. SOMEONE WHO COULD TELL ME ALL ABOUT GOD . . . SOOOO PUT IT THERE FRIEND! (*shake hands*)

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SUSIE: I WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT JESUS. I HAVE AN IDEA, LET'S ASK YOUR MOM IF YOU CAN GO WITH ME TO HARVEST ON SUNDAY. WE CAN GO TO "ROCK THE WORLD".

TAMMY: WHAT'S THAT?

SUSIE: WELL, IT'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND WE SING PRAISE SONGS TO JESUS AND THEY HAVE PUPPETS AND PLAYS THAT TEACH US ALL ABOUT JESUS AND HOW MUCH HE LOVES US.

TAMMY: THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN. LET'S GO ASK.

JAMES: (*comes up*) GOOD MORNING BOYS AND GIRLS. OUR SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY IS FOUND IN THE PSALMS. WILL YOU PLEASE REPEAT IT AFTER ME:

FOR YOU ARE MY HOPE,
O LORD GOD,
YOU ARE MY TRUST FROM MY YOUTH.

PSALM 71:5

WORSHIP LEADER: WHAT IS HOPE? HOPE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET. WHO DO WE HOPE IN?
(*kid's respond - JESUS*)

Closing prayer

CUE SONG - BLESSED HOPE, GOD IS FAITHFUL
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