

**Our Story – A story of growing and sharing together (Hebrews 10:24-25)**

*[Five narratives will be presented by the Narrator: Each narrative can either be “reacted” to by the character or, with a little modification, spoken by the character.*

***The Scene:** The characters are sitting with the congregation. They may need to sit close to the “stage” (ie the area in front of the alter) if they have a short introduction (ie cue). On the stage will be a coffee or card table, with some mugs on it (showing the Church’s label of course). Other effects could be a door bell, microwave ready to be fixed and a letter box on the way in needing some minor repair. Each character could develop their “persona” to whatever degree they see fit, together with “on stage” actions and effects. Be careful to avoid the number of props you use, though.]*

Narrator: The story you are about to hear uses purely fictitious characters and bears no resemblance to real life...mostly.

Have you ever thought about what strange folk we are. So different, each of us with his or her own story. And yet each of our stories is woven together.

When these stories are threaded with Christ’s love, then we are strong, we are community, we are church, we are brothers and sisters ...

And a funny bunch we are. Or a sad lot...or so many other things at other times.

*[The people should wander up from the congregation to in front of the alter (ie the “house”). The timing should be that they reach a couple that welcomes them into the house. The ringing of the door bell and opening of the door can be done in mime, or with perhaps a chime going off. The hostess greets them with a hug, coffee, etc. When the Narrator moves on to the next character, everyone in the house should freeze. They unfreeze when the doorbell chimes.]*

Narrator	Take Samantha: [ <i>Cue for Samantha</i> ]
<i>Samantha:</i> <i>[She could walk up looking anxiously through a family medical book]</i>	She is feeling very distraught – her father has just been diagnosed with Plummer-Vinson syndrome, a combination of severe glossitis with dysphagia and nutritional iron deficiency anaemia. [ <i>Samantha rings bell, house unfreezes</i> ]
Narrator:	She needs the comfort of friends, people who will listen to her and pray for her, and perhaps reassure her that his swollen tongue, difficulty in swallowing, and anaemia will soon be righted by prayer and a good dose of iron.  Then there is Susan, [ <i>Cue for Susan – house freezes</i> ] on top of the world because of her new baby daughter.
<i>Susan:</i> <i>[She could walk up with big doll in pram, making a fuss of the baby, using dummy, etc]</i>	The birth went well, baby Louise is healthy and putting on weight. Susan is thrilled at the miracle of life...but she is a single mum and needs some practical help from loving family. [ <i>Susan rings bell, house unfreezes</i> ]
Narrator:	And may be a nappy service for awhile.  Some claim George [ <i>Cue for George– house freezes</i> ] to be a workaholic, but he is simply trying to make the best of a stressful job. Not everyone can claim to be a highly successful, and accredited, Otis elevator repairman.
<i>George:</i> <i>[He could walk up in overalls labelled with Otis, carrying a bag of tools, fixing the letter box on the way to the house, etc. In the house, the host could draw his attention to a microwave in need of repair, which he carries out at the end of the skit.]</i>	He has his ups and downs like everyone else, and needs more than the occasional lift when his Magna is in for repairs. Always so busy, never enough hours in the day, days in the week – you know the sort of thing. He is continually getting floored by his achievements. But cut-backs are escalating (again) and productivity gains seem to be grounded on wishful thinking. Then there is the internal levy to help pay for salary rises for the high fliers...mmm...which might mean a bonus for him. [ <i>George rings bell, house unfreezes</i> ]

<p>Narrator:</p>	<p>Just as well George is going on holidays soon...I think he has brought some brochures too, so he must be starting to get excited. It will do him good to talk about it...but “15 days touring historic, neo-contemporary and post-modernist elevators in New York isn’t my idea of getting way from it all.</p> <p>And here comes Mary Turvy, [<i>Cue for Mary – house freezes</i>] or Topsy to her friends. And he is a bit topsy-turvy this evening having a slight shake-up of his faith today.</p>
<p>Mary: [<i>She could walk up with a large bible and cake for supper.</i>]</p>	<p>Did she really say the wrong thing today, sharing her faith with her friend, telling him about Christ and how Christ had worked a miracle in her life. Will her friend still be friends with her? Could she have said more? Did she say it the right way? And how do you respond to a challenge like that, anyway. It’s not God’s fault there is so much war and famine in the world, is it? [<i>Mary rings bell, house unfreezes</i>]</p>
<p>Narrator</p>	<p>Just as well Topsy can make tonight – she might be able to work through some of the issues raised by his friend with the others –the study is on “Is God relevant to today’s society post-September 11”</p> <p>And last but certainly not least (numerically, anyway) come the Smith’s [<i>Cue for Smiths – house freezes</i>] – keeping their heads above water by achieving an economy of scale in having 12 kids. If only they can get a bit of break every now and again to keep their own relationship in order. I know the Wesley’s mum had her apron but something a bit more substantial might be good too.</p>
<p>Smiths: [<i>They could walk up muttering how old they’re feeling after having to tackle the triplets about getting their homework done, the dog having to go to the vets, the booking of their holiday, etc.</i>]</p>	<p>Do you think the Teasedale’s will be willing to take Therma and Doreen, while the Jamison’s take the triplets, the Davies’ take Jack and Jill, the Gott’s Bill and Ben, and Bessy, Brian and Buck go off to camp? [<i>Smiths rings bell, house unfreezes</i>]</p> <p>Well, they’ve got the family sorted by the looks – now just the dog, two cats, three budgies, the goat and two guinea pigs have to find a temporary home.</p>
<p>Narrator:</p>	<p>A motley mob, eh? (The people, not the Smith’s menagerie). They are in the habit of meeting regularly together, with a few others, at the home of Joe and Josie Johns. An average couple with the average number of kids – 2.1 kids. (Josie is pregnant although she doesn’t know it yet.) [<i>Josie and rest of house looks at Narrator (Joe), then Josie and rest of house look at her stomach, then freezes</i>]</p> <p>They meet, they share, they strive to support each other by listening to the one another’s stories, praying for each other, hurting when the other hurts, rejoicing when the other rejoices. Encouraging one another with practical support, a hug or a note of love, or may be even a word of wisdom. They work together to get through discord, despondency and daily demands?</p> <p>They are brother, sister, family. They are a home group, warts and all.</p>
	<p>[<i>The house unfreezes: the grace is said &amp; people depart with hugs, etc</i>]</p>