

The Kirton Drawn Back - Artistic Outreach

Tips for Directors

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“How To Stage a Make-Out Scene”

That Won't Destroy It.

Take 5

by Sherry L. Kirton

1. Pray before you arrive at rehearsal. Then pray with the team before rehearsal starts. If you don't ask God to be there for each of you and you don't ask for His help then you are already asking for trouble.

2. Keep it “safe”. Make sure the guy and girl are able to “be close” to each other physically without one of them upsetting the other.

A. Tell everyone in the group to: shower, use “deodorant,” and to gargle with mouthwash prior to rehearsals and performances... use no perfumes or heavily perfumed toiletries: often someone can be allergic to scented things and that can cause problems of its own.

B. Trust between these actors is key, so:

1. Block out all physical contact to be made in advance and keep checking to see if both of the participants are ok with it. [Sometimes, even close friends can get into a bit of a mess and bring it with them into a performance. If that happens, you'll need to do some counselling and prayer time. It is usually best to get this all done prior to picking out people for these parts. And you may need to do what my director once did: she told us, “you guys are actors (we weren't professional actors, but we were doing this for God) so start acting like you are happy and if you let God work on you, you will eventually start being happy.”]

2. Tell them all in advance (and keep reminding them) that it is their responsibility to make sure that they don't mess with someone-else's trust (faith) in them. “If I expect you to trust me, and then I tease you a bit, I, then, cannot expect you to continue to trust me.” Remind them of this each time you start to rehearse so that no one feels that it is ever ok to tease during “make out” rehearsals.

3. Also tell all of them in advance that touching each other's bodies outside of the specified parameters is not ok. It, again, is not funny (even tickling) and it destroys trust/faith (which, since it is also a fruit of the Spirit, needs to be cultivated not just expected to sprout up wildly).

3. Teach them how to fake it. The two never really have to do any kissing. Example below:

Running on stage holding hands and looking at each other while smiling tends to give the audience all they need to start using their imaginations. He might pick her up (she does a little jump and lifts her knees up so that he can cradle her) and spin around once before placing her back down on the ground. Then she should turn toward him making sure that her back is completely facing the audience. Her hair needs to be down so that their faces are covered somewhat. He can put his hands behind her head like he is pulling her to him without really having to do any pulling. If she bends one knee a little after he puts his hands

“ ...tell them all...it
is their
responsibility...
trust/faith... a fruit
of the Spirit,
needs to be
cultivated... ”



behind her head it looks like he's pulled her close to him. Then she can tilt her head from side-to-side a couple of times and if his head is directly behind hers it looks like they are kissing each other very passionately. Then they can turn toward the audience with her on the inside and put their heads close together (cheek to cheek) smiling and looking upwards like they are looking at the stars. He can even point upwards a couple of times like he is showing her a star or two.

[specifically used in the human video script HV-Testify]

4. Remind them regularly. Moses told the people what God had told him again and again and again. And when Joshua came on he reminded them (about what Moses had told them) again and again and again. It wasn't until after Joshua had died and the stories (INSTRUCTIONS) stopped being repeated that they 'forgot what God had done for them and required of them' so they fell into great sin. Do not be afraid of repeating yourself hoarse or feeling like the "bad guy" for enforcing rules. All it takes is one person to let things slide and soon the whole group is in trouble.

5. As a team, check in with God again. When rehearsal is over, pray with the team again before sending them out into the world.

A. Ask God to be there with each of them and to return them to the next rehearsal having had some deeper time with Him. I like to ask God to continue gifting them since I usually see great improvement after each rehearsal.

B. Give them, also, a chance to thank God and ask for Him to supply their needs. If there has been unwanted contact between teammates, then speak to them separately, then, together, then with the whole group as a prayer leader, giving them chances to seek God's forgiveness and each other's.

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“How To Start using the KDB Human Video Scripts”

by Sherry L. Kirton

“Tip #2”

SO YOU JUST GOT YOUR SCRIPT...

The scripts will all look pretty scary at first to everyone, but what is easy is usually determined by how determined your group is... I mean: each of these scripts follows the lyrics to a song... if the actors want to learn that song, then it becomes fairly easy, and if they understand that they could reach even their most hardend friends, then it becomes pretty easy, and if they are ready to try and ask God for help all along the way, then it becomes great fun.

All of the scripts are flexible enough to accomodate all levels of acting abilities. It usually takes at least three rehearsals for the actors to feel comfortable doing their parts.



WHERE TO GET THE MUSIC...

I try to get a downloaded copy of the song from a legal place like www.itunes.com (my favourite), www.downloaditfirst.com, www.mp3.com, or another pay-to-listen site (the artists get their royalties etc.). Plus, you only pay for what you download. Then you can get inexpensive copies for your all of your actors so that they can practice or at least listen to the song until they memorize it (and for teens that is just a few listens). Musicmaker.com is no-longer in business, but you can also purchase the CDs from www.christianbook.com (Christian Book Distributors Wholesale-- which has joined with www.musicforce.com).

“Some scripts have props
you’ll need to collect”

THEMES...

One thing most people don’t realize is that the concepts for these human videos are broad enough to work with most any theme (which wouldn’t be true if all we did was act out word for word what the singers lyricize). The HV, Hands, is great for sermons with these themes: missions, missions/outreach, witnessing, evangelism, relationships with God, God’s power in His children, being obedient - even when afraid, and as an introduction to the story of John Mark in the New Testament. But the concept is broader than that and even little children would get something out of it. The HV, Testify, carries some of the same themes, but also: intimacy before marriage, family relationships, miraculous intervention, and on the simple side it is a modern-story of the Bible showing Creation, The Fall, redemption, resurrection, etc. I am amazed at how God has put these scripts together so that they can be used for many sermons/events. See the suggestions listed in the scripts for the themes to each one.

“All are flexible enough
to accomodate any abilities”

PROPS?

Some scripts have props that you’ll need to collect (pantomiming the knife and gun in Testify doesn’t work well) and in Hands getting the group to learn to reset the “benches” into chairs on time while on stage can be scary. However, if you (I am assuming you’ll direct) take the time to learn the script well (including the song) before you teach



it, you'll have an easier time.

NOW TO TEACH IT...

Break the teaching time down by choruses/verses. And start by explaining the storyline. I even choose some of my actors before we start even though I remind all of them that the people playing those parts now may not be doing so every time. Therefore, they all need to learn each other's parts keeping them alert and my headaches down when we need to make cast changes.

Hands has lots of musical repetition which is always good, but can be hard to teach when going over a section again and again. So, I usually run through all of the blocking all in one sitting before we start using the music.

ALSO [Why not provide a video tape?](#) from which to learn.
[tip 6]

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“How To Start a drama ministry”

by Sherry L. Kirton

“Tip #3”

Q “...I’m trying to get a drama ministry going for the adults, youth and children. How do I get started? I have in hand some drama & mimes which I printed from the net and I don’t really know what to do next. I would really appreciate your advice.”

Gods Mighty warrior,
Lin

A
Getting a drama ministry started:

- Pray (of course)
- Know your audience (cultures, genders, ages)
- Pick three short scripts that either speak to those groups or can be changed to do so.
- Find a few friends (or children) to present these scripts, and ask them to pray about helping you.
- Choose a regular time to practice with them (otherwise people get lazy and forgetful).
- Pray before and after every rehearsal with your team and remind them all that none of you are here to be performers/actors; you all are gifted ministers commissioned by God to reach His people with the Truth. [WHY? - tip 4](#)
- Make sure all of you have a goal (witness to pre-christians, illustrate the sermon, whatever).
- Pick a day to present your first script, a day for the second script and one for the third, but make sure that the days aren’t too close together or you all will panic and burn-out.
- Pray for yourself and your friends every chance you get, because the enemy will not like what you are attempting to do.
- Trust in God and just go for it no matter what the enemy throws at you.
- I keep in touch with my Pastor to let him know our plans and problems and to know his so that we can plan together and pray together. Having another warrior by your side makes it easier, so consider all this while you are praying and ask God to provide what you need and to let you know what He wants from you.

That should provide you a good start...

When your team has presented a script

- make sure you publically offer others the opportunity to join your team and have a handout announcing your regular rehearsal time with the goal of your group clearly listed.
- this would usually be a good time to pick out three more scripts.
- keep checking in with your pastor and more importantly, with God.
- if you know of any intercessors (especially ones

“ Pray (of course)...

Find a few friends to pray...

Pray **before** and after every rehearsal...

Pray **for yourself** and your friends every chance you get...

ask **God** to provide...

any intercessors... so they can **pray**.”

it isn't
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who have seen what your group has done) give them a list of your team members' names and any important information, let them know of any problems you may be having so that they can pray more specifically for all of you.

One more thing:

Try the [Free Artistic Outreach Weekend Workshop \[AOWW\]](#) if you have any team issues already plaguing your ministry or your team is yet to be seen this workshop is for you. Just choose "drama" as the practical project and let us know about your needs so we can be of service to you and you can be of service to those who have yet to hear the Gospel in your local area.

May this be a blessing to you and those you serve,

IJN~

Sherry Kirton

the Kirton Drawn Back - Artistic Outreach and Christian Youth Ministry

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“Assigning Parts”
in Outreach Theatre
by Sherry L. Kirton
August 2001

“Tip #4”

Assigning parts need not be as difficult as it usually is. Artistic Outreach actors are ministers who present the Gospel with their bodies and words surrounding it with prayer and preparation. This statement spins the team into an entirely different direction from the norm found in theatre. Usually, the job of an actor is to explore the many choices and feelings the character has and the director’s job is to find the best actor for each part. Instead, the actor’s job is now to portray the scripted character following the director’s lead and the director needs to find the best way to use all participants. To reach the lost with theatre use three principles.



Ability or Talent

I never hold auditions: they are counterproductive to ministry. The actors I serve, themselves, want to serve and therefore, as the director, I need to offer everyone a place of ministry. I trust that God will gift them and add strength to their abilities as time goes on, so I am more concerned about supporting these ministers rather than having them compete for attention.

Some actors are more gifted than the others, but in artistic outreach we are not showcasing our abilities, we are showcasing God’s love and sacrifice for the lost in order to bring reconciliation. Therefore, sometimes the “lesser talented” person gets the bigger part because the Lord, Himself, has commissioned that artist. This can be difficult for all, but it is crucial to follow the Lord’s leading here, directors and actors. Read a Biblical story that shows God choosing the underdog to bring a big victory (there are many of them; here I use 1Kgs. 17:7-16) and then ask, “Would you have chosen the widow and her son, to serve you a meal or some wealthy family of prominence?” to remind the team that God has a specific plan.

Stereotyping

It has been said, “There are no small parts, only small actors” and the actor’s complaint may be legitimate when a career is jeopardized, however, this term needs to be removed from the vocabulary of the artistic outreach actor. We minister not showcase our talents for awards. And too often, talented actors lose their focus in this type of ministry. Phil. 4:7-9 applies here.

Directors: be careful when you hear these complaints. Be in prayer to discern legitimate complaints from the need to discipline a member in the team toward refocusing on their ministering part in this ministry. Consider casting a “Mary before her marriage to Joseph”; a grandmother, a woman, or even a boy gives the people the wrong “information”. Therefore, if you have a group with only one man in his 30s to 40s he should expect to play a father when the script calls for one without complaint. If an actor is tired of the roles given pray with him/her asking Our Father to supply new

“ ...I am **more** concerned about **supporting** these **ministers** rather than **having** them **compete** for attention... or **awards** ”



members to carry the load, and then offer him/her a three month release period to recharge his/her spiritual batteries.

Regularity of Attendance

What good is it to have regular rehearsals if members will not arrive prepared and on-time regularly? Once again, the team needs to rely on each other to function properly.

Sometimes a director will need to assign a part to a person who will struggle to successfully present it simply because that person is reliable in their attendance and sometimes a director will need to re-assign a part for the same reason.

Conclusion

Explain ahead of time that you search for scripts that use all of the participants as much as possible and that as ministers you need to be able to count on having them available, mentally, spiritually, and physically in order to choose scripts with the right message and parts. Keep in mind the final goal: ushering others into the Kingdom of God. If Directors explain these principles to the team in advance there should be less chance of grumbling, confusion and discipline problems, to God's Glory.

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Director's Copy

by Sherry Kirton

15 December 2001

“Tip #5”

Q

Why are they labeled “Director’s Copy”?

“they

were **written**
to **open** the door
for the **lost...**”

A

I wanted it to be clear that copies of the scripts aren't to be given to the actors:

- The director needs to “see” the plan and “share” with the actors the overall vision.
- The actors need to connect with the characters and “be” their own part so that individual “congregation members” will be reached.

[If you are presenting during a worship service then the audience is God and the congregation is also participating in His worship by connecting with at least one character, hopefully, the main character, so that their own life may begin to change. If you are presenting during an outreach event then the audience is the audience and, we pray, lives are changed toward Kingdom entry. It is just a distinction to some, but I believe Jesus has been pointing this out to us for some time and therefore, it is crucial to our understanding as Directors/leaders.]

Consider presenting your work not at other congregations so much as out in the world. Be of Faith and present The Gospel at parks, schools, secular events... wherever the Holy Spirit leads your team... just make sure that you have warriors praying for your team members and know that God prepares the hearts to be affected/changed way ahead of time so long as you are all praying. Then, take some warriors out there with you to pray for the people as they will come looking for Our Hope. Congregations will benefit from the presentation of any of these human videos, but they were written to open the door for the lost [some of which may still be found in the congregations].

A purple rectangular box with white text that reads: "it isn't outreach if it's done IN-HOUSE". The text is arranged in four lines: "it isn't", "outreach", "if it's done", and "IN-HOUSE".

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Why No Video Tapes?

by Sherry Kirton
15 October 2002

“Tip #6”

Q

Why are the human video scripts not offered in a video tape format?

“actors
will feel required
to give the same
presentation
as the one they are
viewing...”

A

Two things would be jeopardized if we did: the quality of your presentation and the freedom of the price of these materials.

When Directors use a video tape of another team's presentation of a script their own actors will feel required to give the same presentation as the one they are viewing and, therefore, never really connect with their own feelings or their own ideas about how their character should respond. These scripts are flexible and they work best when each actor uses his/her own life experiences (even when only six years-of-age) to understand why the characters feel and respond the way they do. This includes Biblical characters, in which case I expect team members to research the actual stories from which these scripts are derived.

Your actors need to connect with the characters they will portray and “be” their own part so that individual people watching the presentation will be reached by connecting with at least one character, hopefully, the main character, so that their own life may begin to change toward God. This doesn't happen very well when actors mimic someone-else's presentation of a character.

Plus, the KDB intends to keep all of our materials free and effective, and that would be jeopardized if we added a focus to produce/mail cassette tapes. We will answer any script questions you have, so, please feel free to email your script questions to the author.

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“The Youth Pastor’s Favourites”

by Sherry L. Kirton

“Tip #7”

Q “I would like to get more ideas and some new songs right now. I have done I wish we’d all been ready by Ray Boltz, One Drop of blood by Ray Boltz, Where I met Jesus by Ray Boltz, I will wait for you by Jason Upton and I have been working on another one. But I would really like to get more ideas from you guys...”

God Bless starr_fire
Waukon, IA

A
... My usual advice is:

use material that means something to your target group.

for you that would probably mean: use updated material for your updated crowd:

Ray Boltz wrote some effective material, but try using an updated version if you can’t possibly find new artists to use. DCTalk covered, “I Wish We’d All Been Ready” on a recent-enough album. I would skip the other songs and find some artists that inspire your youth group, unless the Holy Spirit tells you otherwise.

[you like]...Jason Upton... sounds like he writes contemporary worship music. That is great! I would use a song that talks about what He wants for the world and show the actors/dancers finding out what His Love does for them in various problems/situations. I would also use a more uptempo song, again, unless the Holy Spirit tells you otherwise.

I say that [“unless the Holy Spirit tells you otherwise”] not only because God may have a specific plan for you that He has not shown me, but also because He has made each of us with a unique voice and [given each of us a unique] way of delivering that message... if we only stick to stuff that affects ourselves, then we will only reach those who are like us and leave the rest of the world out in the cold.

These HV scripts work well for worship services, but their reason for being truly is for outreach, practice them [a final rehearsal can be at worship services] before going out to parks, community events, campus events, etc. to reach the lost with the Truth, “God loves You!” If your team sees how they affect their own congregation with them [such humble work] they [the team] will be inspired to share them [the work] with the lost, the weary, those in pain and looking for love.

Why did I bother to say this with that title? Because way too often, the leadership [of youth ministries, adult ministries, senior ministries, etc.] tries to evoke an emotional/rational response in their flock by using their own favourites whether from music, dress, food, entertainment, whatever subjective art form is out there.

“ again **unless** the **Holy Spirit** tells you otherwise.

we will only reach those like us **leaving** the rest of the world out in the **cold.**”

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Missionaries do **not** force
your
congregation to change
it’s culture and
now **worship** their
tribal way
from **now on...**



Missionaries were affected by the mission in which they were involved and they try to bring that experience back home to you hoping that sharing their stories will affect you in the same ways. This, of course, should never be stopped. However, they do not force your congregation to change it's culture and now worship their tribal way from now on. That would be ridiculous, because your culture and theirs are both being redeemed; neither is fully perfected. Missionaries realize that if all they do is bring a "tribal culture/worship service" without its historical context and the translations of the songs, readings, and testimonies then they have only brought a foreign show home and leave only an "interesting but barely a surface-like impact" to the people. Yet, this is exactly what happens when Youth Ministers expect youth to listen to the music that changed their own lives "back in the day". Instead, let each culture be redeemed by The LORD in The LORD's way and in His time.

The Apostle Paul said in 1Corinthians 9:19-23 "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

Lastly:

Try the [Free Artistic Outreach Weekend Workshop \[AOWW\]](#) if you have any team issues already plaguing your ministry or your team is yet to be seen this workshop is for you. Just choose "drama" as the practical project and let us know about your needs so we can be of service to you and you can be of service to those who have yet to hear the Gospel in your local area.

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Sherry Kirton

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“Prayer Warriors Prep.”

how to give your next mission/outreach trip the crucial backup needed

by Sherry L. Kirton

My favourite mission’s tip is to have each mission member fill out their own info. on an index card... including name, approximate age, approximate number of times he/she has been on a mission, what he/she hopes to accomplish, his/her concerns, and even the names of their immediate family members... so that you can randomly pass out the cards at a worship service. Your assembly’s members who wish to pray for a specific member of your team may take a card and pray for the mission member on the card during the trip.

Since I work mainly with youth, I make sure all of the information is on one side of the card and the only thing viewable on the other is the gender which is face up on a table. I also hand out some ideas about how to pray for the team, including your team’s goal and general information about this trip. I explain the offer for prayer warriors to take a card based on their own gender: women for women; men for men, and then I let God do the rest. Oh, have everyone on the team fill out a card... including all leaders and others (we had a couple who travelled with us just to cook for us, and the Youth Pastor made sure their cards and his own were on the table along with the Driver of the bus).

After your team has returned, let a few of them speak at the next worship service and even at small group meetings/services to give a “short experience report” that helps your assembly understand why and what you did and do as well as to thank the prayer warriors for their part of the mission: unseen battle.

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“Tip #8”



“ ...index cards with their own info. ...[warriors] take a card including the cook...”

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“Team Member Downturn”

by Sherry L. Kirton

“Tip #9”

Q --- leader1@aol wrote:

“ Hi... We have just began a drama team. I am really excited because I truly want our youth to see how God can use them. I believe doing drama is a great tool the Lord can use to inspire them. My concern is that there are a couple youth who are on this team who's christian walk is very questionable. I'm not really sure how to put it. They just are not living it out. There is one in particular who has great potential but has a horrible reputation. I love this person yet we know [he/she] is not living Christ like. I feel as the Leader I need to tell this person to step down. I do not want [him/her] to bring reproach upon the team. We are ministering and we should be held to a different standard. Am I wrong and how would you go about handling this? Thank you ahead of time for any insight on this matter.”

“ Always, the goal is to restore them gently...

...do take the time to study before coming to a conclusion.”

A

Wow, you are in a tough position right now and God is going to require much time from you to keep you in a right spirit as you work through this...

1. continue in prayer.
2. continue in study.
3. following your time with Him consider the different ways Paul and Barnabas dealt with younger ministers... use a concordance to see more.

it isn't
outreach
if it's done
IN-HOUSE

Paul and Barnabas took a green John Mark with them on a missionary journey and JM got home sick. Paul gave up on him... P needed no distractions... B knew that he should nurture JM and so, P & B split up. JM eventually worked as a secretary for Peter and ended up writing the Gospel of Mark using Peter as a witness to events he hadn't witnessed himself. This was a case of a new minister who simply needed nurturing and time.

Paul also wrote extensively on how to address sin in a member in order to correct him/her. Always, the goal is to restore them gently. 2Corinthians 1:1-11 is one part.

Matthew 18:10-35

- 10-14 keeping yourself in a right spirit/reaching out to the lost one.
- 15-20 how to reach out.
- 20-35 forgiving the brother as we want to be forgiven by God.

[most often people leave out verses 10-14, but it really sets up the attitude for the rest of the section... see for yourself]

you'll need some alone time with your young minister to ask him/her what is going on in their life and why he/she has chosen to live the way he/she has. you'll also need to ask him/her WHY he/she has chosen to minister. and ask him/her to consider what he/she feels and thinks is his/her commitment level. explain your desire for him/her to continue in ministry, but more importantly to continue in a

growing relationship with God (relationship is paramount to ministry). If you both talk it out hopefully you BOTH will be able to come to a conclusion about what you BOTH need to do: you as the leader of many ministers, and your young minister as a Christian first and a minister second.

If you need to study more of God's answers concerning his/her problem areas then do take the time to study before coming to a conclusion. It has taken me many years to build up my 'Word bank' so that I can pull up God's answers to problems as they come... I still need my concordance to look up the addresses, but the Holy Spirit does pull up pertinent phrases and text from my memory as I encounter the problems... I wish I could memorize addresses, but my learning disability keeps me from doing so very well.

Since I do not know what the particulars are I am giving you the general way I would go at this. Of course, your role as a leader is to keep the team heading toward the assignments God has given you as a team, but, more importantly, you are to lead each member of the team heading toward an intimate relationship with God, Himself. If you spend your time trying to inspire them to become more intimate with God knowing that that will make them more effective in their ministry then you are on your way.

Here is something I use. You can use it, completely redo it, or ignore it. It is a [commitment form](#).

There will be times when you must ask a member to choose: either they must accept God's instruction and help/grace to restore his/her relationship with God with some discipling in the problem area, or step-down entirely from ministry until he/she can show some spiritual fruit in that area and commit to the ministry again.

More on our job/purpose:

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear - hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

One more thing:

Try the [Free Artistic Outreach Weekend Workshop \[AOWW\]](#) if you have any team issues already plaguing your ministry or your team is yet to be seen this workshop is for you. Just choose "drama" as the practical project and let us know about your needs so we can be of service to you and you can be of service to those who have yet to hear the Gospel in your local area.

May this be a blessing to you and those you serve,



IIN~
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Please send donations to [Gospel For Asia](http://www.gfa.org) to help me support a missionary. <http://www.gfa.org>

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