

There's A Call Comes Ringing

Skit by Kaye Shipley

PARTICIPANTS: Two women (one as speaker, one to walk up the aisle with a light), one soloist, one choir or group of singers. Scene opens with woman center stage sitting in a chair, with a box full of items one might pack away in the attic or basement. She has taken several items out and has found a book, "Facets of a Diamond" by Inez Taylor. She begins to thumb through the book.

"Wow, this book belonged to Aunt Dorothy. Let's see ... it seems to be about WMU. Yes, it's a history of Illinois WMU from its beginning through its 75th anniversary way back in 1983. Guess that makes 2008 the 100th anniversary year! Hmmm ... here's Aunt Dorothy's name and, wow, here's my father-in-law's name!! Gee, I'm so proud to see that I have some deep roots in WMU."

(She pauses to read more.) "This is very interesting."

(She begins to sing softly, "There's a call comes ringing.")

(Just then, her cell phone rings. She answers, reacting to the ring with a start.)

"Hello."

"Oh, hi, Judy."

"Yes, you just caught me. I'm trying to finish going through this one last box before I head out to our Women On Mission meeting. You'll never guess what I've found - Aunt Dorothy's WMU history book, 'Facets of a Diamond.'"

"Yes, it's really interesting. Listen to what I've just come across in the book. There was this water pageant they used to do at Lake Sallateeska. You know, that's our camp in southern Illinois that was named after an Indian princess, whose name means 'Keep Looking Up.' Anyway, in the evening someone stood on one shore of the lake and would sing, 'There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave.' Then the group of campers would stand on the opposite shore in the dark and would answer, 'Send the light, send the light.'"

(At this point, the soloist sings and the choir or group answers in song.)

"Doesn't that sound awe-inspiring? At the very first pageant, a missionary, on furlough from China, dressed in a Grecian robe and carrying a brilliant torch, crossed the lake in a canoe to the far shore."

(A woman walks slowly up the center aisle holding high her light.)

“They would conclude the ceremony by illuminating a cross which represented the world being reached for Christ. I don’t know about you, but I can just picture it in my mind.”

(If possible, spotlight a cross.)

“Well, yes, I know I have an active imagination, but I almost feel as if I’m there. (Pause) Okay, I’ve got to run—it’s my turn to do the Prayer Calendar tonight. See you there!”

Conclude by singing together “Send the Light” and/or “We’ve a Story to Tell.” At this point, a delegated spokesperson might want to share with the congregation or audience about WMU in their church, association or state.