

# Wing and a prayer

Children and Mission workshop & drama by David Pollendine

A Partnership between



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General Secretary - The Revd Canon Tim Dakin

Mid-Africa Ministry is part of CMS.

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## 1. Introduction to using the resource

### **The aim**

This resource is geared to engage children and young people in the theme of Children and Mission, especially focusing on wrong attitudes towards children and the gift of Prayer. The performance is put together through improvisational workshops designed to last about 1hr 30 minutes, where all the ideas are created and performed by the cast.

### **The role of the Teacher/Leader**

Is that of facilitator, but some directional skills are needed and a knowledge of good stage- craft practice. The case studies used in the performance are all real life people who serve as Mission Partners with CMS. (See below and [www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org))

### **The medium**

Mime and physical theatre techniques are the focus and can be juggled around. Techniques such as group freeze frames, individual Mime, and physical story telling are all used. In addition song can be done live if there are talented singers or any appropriate track can be used. Big Intent has written a track specifically for this show and it can be ordered by email at [bigintent1@aol.com](mailto:bigintent1@aol.com)

### **Create the Performance in two easy steps.**

1. Start by referring to the, **“Outline for workshops”** to take the group through the creational process of creating the mime and movement.
2. Then referring to the **“performance script”** add the scripts to the performance with a run through rehearsal

The performance can take anything from between 15 to 30 minutes

## Outline for workshops

### **1. Warm up with everybody (15 mins to teach first scene)**

Walking around the room shout out the following commands. These images will be physicalised by the group or individuals in the performance and will be set as you run through the script. In this workshop you can start to identify suitable candidates.

1. Army Manoeuvre – run in group of 5 to a space and freeze
2. Church fete prep – Sweep, clean, hammer, dig, write, polish, blow up/put up balloons
3. Alpha course – Greet very enthusiastically
4. The Cook's ill – Mix, taste, collapse
5. My leg hurts – grab leg and hobble
6. Coronation street – Pour a pint and drink
7. PCC – Yawn
8. Cup cakes – Eat cake and rub stomach
9. The loop system – Bang ear
10. No flower arrangers – smell flowers, grab them and throw them
11. Ridicule – All point and make fun.

### **Run through first scene with script**

### **2. Group scenes – 15 mins**

- Split in four groups or two. Give each group the title and explanation below but encourage them to come up with the movement/scene. Give a brief background to the case studies to set the scene for them. Refer to script. (15 mins)

- A. Flying bird – Stand group in a line facing the front and cause a wave affect by each person bending forward first and coming back up, starting with the middle person and moving outward in both directions. (This gives the illusion of 2 giant wings).
- B. Pakistani scene – Prison visiting (one man reaching out to prisoner (see [Nadeem Sadiq](#))
- C. Sudanese scene – Group walking with cross (See [Sudanese pack](#))
- D. Palestinian scene – Having fellowship, dancing, sharing communion (See [Musalaha](#))

NB With speaking characters, run through script (See script) while others are working

### 3. Teach song (Finale) – (15 mins)

Break 10 mins

### 4. Run through – (20 mins)

Run Performance

#### Performance script

##### Scene 1

Mission impossible: Simulate an army manoeuvre with group led on by Actor (to mission impossible music). Stop in an army pose and say the line. Then another group enters in similar fashion. (Idea is through this scene we see the church involved in mission)

Text:

**Sergeant 1:** “Church fete preparation going well, but we still need volunteers for the tom bola, send in some reinforcements!” (Group run into another space)

**Sergeant 2:** “ Alpha course starts tomorrow, but Doris the cook is ill, send in Alfie to help”

**Alfie** “ No please not me, my leg hurts, I’ll miss Coronation Street!!”

**Sergeant 2** “ Move it Alfie or they’ll be none of Mrs Parkers Cup cakes at PCC”

**Alfie** “ Yes Sir!” (Alfie moves forward into position)

**Sergeant 1** “Hearing from HQ that Gladys our Mission partner has fallen ill, the loop system in church has packed up and we can’t get any flower arrangers for Sunday. Who will volunteer

**Soldier 1**“ But Sir we have no more spare men”

**Soldier (girl) 2** " Or women"

**Soldier 3** " What about the children" (Every one looks at Soldier 3 and soldier 3 looks down, embarrassed and puts thumb in mouth. Every one leaves stage ridiculing Soldier 3 until he is left alone on stage)

### Scene 2.

Soldier 3 kneels down and says prayer

" LORD who am I? I am just a KID, how can I be of any use to the church, especially mission. I can't drive, I've only got £2 50 and I'm still not allowed the communion"

**Angel appears: (Just voice)**

"Do not worry "KID" I am your Angel just put your hands together, close your eyes and I will show you what you can do"

**Bob (Apprentice Angel)** "What about me? What do you want me to do?"

**Angel** "Sorry! Yes (said embarrassingly) this is Bob an apprentice Angel; he will be tracking us as he's trying to earn his wings."

Bob smiles and eagerly waves at everybody.

### Scene 3

The kid is taken by giant bird on a prayer journey. (Play song or could have live singing here)

Arrive in Pakistan

Music plays and bird becomes group of children in Pakistani dress holding an active pose to represent the country.

**Angel**

"This is Nadeem Saliq, He is a CMS Partner who gives his time to visiting Prisons in Pakistan to share God's Love."

**Bob** eagerly presents Nadeem like he is a prize to be won on a game show.

**Angel** "Bob what do you think you're doing this isn't a games show, now sit over there in the corner and watch."

Bob says "but", but the Angel points and says go, so Bob goes to corner with tail between legs

**Angel**

Sorry where was I, Yes, Nadeem provides a listening ear, comfort and support to prisoners and loves praying for them. But he needs your prayers. Many prisoners are suffering to find hope, which we know Jesus has. You don't need a car or a plane to get here, but just close your eyes put your hands together and travel by the wings of Prayer. Go on try again

KID kneels and prays and the bird is erected behind. He then realises and flies again (song). This time African drums are heard on arrival

Children walk on with a Sudanese cross in a parade.

**Angel** "You've brought us to southern Sudan KID, CMS works in partnership with this amazing church helping to develop community life".

Angel notices Bob is walking in the parade with the children again.

**Angel** "Bob I would prefer it if you supported in a more back stage way, now leave the procession and come and watch from over here."

Bob eagerly nods and comes over to stand by the Angel

**Angel** "That is the Sudanese cross, which they have made from the gun shells of the country's civil war. Kid you're prayers can break through the hatred that fuels this war. You really are making a difference"

KID " Hey I'm getting the hang of this, come on Angel I've thought of another prayer need" The boy sets down to pray and the bird appears again (Yo sings)

The music of Palestine is heard on arrival and children dressed in headscarf's, dancing with Jews.

**Angel** " Can you believe your eyes Jews and Palestinians sharing communion together, they are on a Musalaha desert encounter. CMS supports this amazing ministry, which provides a witness to the whole country. They come together on these trips united by one thing only".

**Random child** "I know the answer!!"

**Angel** "Go on"

**Random child** Prepares to say the answer

But Apprentice Angel shouts out "Jesus"

Angel " Right that's it, go on leave the stage you have blown it. You can forget about getting your wings"

Apprentice Angel leaves the stage

**Angel** "See Kid, Musalaha really need your prayers, as one worker said:

"We try to be bridges, but when you do, sometimes people walk on you."

KID you really can get involved in mission, If God can use you to pray for the world then just think what a difference he can make in your church or in your community."

What is your name KID?

**KID** my name is Tom

**Angel** You are no longer Kid, Tom go back to your church and show them what you've learnt.

Everyone leaves the stage

**Angel** "What are we going to do? We've got no bird to take you back Tom. Who can we use? (Ask audience) Have you got any ideas? (Bob appears with some wings)

**Apprentice** "Angel I could take him back"

**Angel** "You! Yes and Pigs can fly"

**Apprentice.** Yes go on Angel give me another chance

**Angel** "Shall I everybody?" "OK go on, but don't drop him, he's on a very important mission"

Tom exits stage flying on Bobs back

#### Scene 4

The soldier's enter like before to mission impossible. They stop and look.

Do Italia run (means speeded up) of first scene

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Every one looks at Tom

TOM “ The Children will lead this Mission under my command. We are the front line, we are the Prayer warriors.”

Fly/Prayer song to finish with bird built in back ground and Tom flying it