

Moving With Intent

by Rod Belt

Theme Most of us fear change and find new situations unsettling, but we need to keep things in perspective. We need to be honest and share our fears. This humorous sketch, set in a tent, might just help those who are troubled to laugh at themselves. It could be particularly useful in a church going through change, perhaps used in conjunction with “A Little Light Map Reading”

Cast: JONATHAN
DEBBIE

Notes: The sketch opens with a small tent centre stage. JONATHAN and DEBBIE are inside the tent, unseen by the audience. It is night, so if you have the luxury of a theatre with lighting then you may attempt to reproduce moonlit conditions.

(an owl hoots offstage, twice)

JONATHAN *(inside tent, startled from sleep)* Yeagh!

DEBBIE *(asleep)* mmmnnnghh.

(owl hoots again)

JONATHAN *(louder)* Yaaaarrrhh!

(the tent is hastily unzipped and JONATHAN's head peers out. He holds the flaps together as if to keep out danger, so that only his head is visible)

JONATHAN *(nervous, alert)* What was that?

DEBBIE *(slowly waking)* Mmmnnnn? What?

JONATHAN *(peering into the darkness all around)* What was that? There's something out there!

(sound of sleeping bag rustling inside the tent. DEBBIE's sleepy head appears below JONATHAN's. The flaps are still all held together above, below and between their heads, so that all we see are the two heads)

DEBBIE I can't see anything.

JONATHAN There is definitely something out there.

DEBBIE *(looks wearily round, then up at JONATHAN)* Yes, there is, Jonathan. It's called the world.

JONATHAN Well, I don't like it! There are strange bugs crawling all over, the ground is cold and damp, the tent flaps about all the time, and there are odd noises out there!

DEBBIE Go back to sleep Jonathan.

(DEBBIE disappears back inside. JONATHAN now shuffles outside the door and stands up. He is in a sleeping bag. He looks all round nervously. He whistles a few bars of a hymn, then stops, and looks thoughtful, then starts singing nervously)

JONATHAN *(singing)* It's a happy happy day, and I thank God for the weather, it's a happy...

DEBBIE *(from inside tent)* Shut up!

JONATHAN How can you be so calm at a time like this?

DEBBIE *(yawns)* At two o'clock in the morning I find it difficult to get too excited about anything.

JONATHAN Well, it's alright for you. You got us into this mess.

(DEBBIE shuffles out of the tent and stands up next to JONATHAN. She also is in a sleeping bag)

DEBBIE *(indignant)* I beg your pardon?

JONATHAN Well, one day I'm an assistant manager and I live in a two bedroomed "Luxury Apartment", the next I'm in a tent in the back of beyond!

DEBBIE And that's somehow my fault is it? We discussed this at great length! You agreed it was time to move on.

JONATHAN I thought that moving on would mean moving into somewhere bigger, maybe even a house! Somewhere with carpets on the floor *(looks down)* not grass!

DEBBIE I'm sure this is only temporary.

JONATHAN But you don't know that. We've sold our home, given half our money to charity, given most of our belongings to friends...

DEBBIE Don't exaggerate.

JONATHAN We've both given up our jobs, moved to a new town... *(looks around)* well, somewhere on the edge of a new town *(shivers, pulls his sleeping bag closer round his neck)*. I want to go home.