

LORD, I DON'T DO PLAYS!

The origin of Behold Jesus – an Easter Drama



Alice Darroch

Spokane Dream Center

© Copyright 2012 Spokane Dream Center. All Rights Reserved. This book is protected under International and Federal Copyright Laws and Treaties, and as such, any unauthorized reprint or use of this material is strictly prohibited.

This special Behold Jesus 15th anniversary edition of, *Lord, I don't do Plays!* may be shared with others in its current format. If you are interested in a larger distribution of the story in print form, please contact Spokane Dream Center at 509-924-2630.

Introduction

Her passion is contagious. With her smile and the sparkle in her eyes, you are instantly caught up in the excitement of her dream. Not just her dream, but God's dream, that's the important difference.

If Pastor Alice had created this drama out of her own imagination, it would have withered and died many years ago. But this is not just a 'good' idea, it's a God idea.

As you read of her journey, you will see that God planted the dream of acting in her heart as a young girl and then when the time was right, He shared His vision with her, a woman with an obedient heart.

When God gives you a vision, a dream, it may seem impossible. Not everyone will understand God's mission for you, but on the path to its fulfillment, God will nurture the idea and provide the encouragement you need.

I invite you to read this testimony with an open mind and an open heart. This story is not only about Spokane Dream Center's Behold Jesus! drama, but it's an invitation for you to open your heart to God's dream for your life.

Our God is a BIG God! His vision for you may be something small or something big. Behold Jesus! is one of God's BIG visions. We did not seek this pathway, but God chose us to carry this dream. Our goal is to bring honor and glory to Him and be an example of salt and light in this world. We have no delusions of grandeur, but our only hope is to obey Him without reservation wherever that may lead us.

Come and Behold! Jesus, your life will never be the same.

Barbara Hollace, Communications Director
Spokane Dream Center

People ask me, how did it all start? That is a very interesting question. How did it all start?

For years I have always started by sharing how the Lord spoke to me through a vision of portraying scenes of the life of Jesus. As I sat down to write this testimony, I realized that it all started a long, long time ago when I was just a little girl.

I have always loved acting. As a child in Malta, I loved reading and I loved movies. I would get lost in a story and imagine myself there. For example, making up a story of my childhood pretending I lived in another country and telling my best friend how I spent my time there. We both knew that it was just a story, but for a moment, I almost believed it.

While attending school, I took every opportunity to participate in amateur dramatics. I remember my role in Shakespeare's play, "The Merchant of Venice". I played the part of Bassanio. It was an all girl school, so even the male roles were played by girls. It was a lot of fun.

Years passed and I got married and lived in England with my husband and children for a time. Dave was in the Royal Air Force (RAF). Somebody in the RAF hierarchy decided to do a play competition for all the bases who wanted to participate. The judges went around to every base in England and decided which performance was best. Our base was ecstatic!

We had a very solid amateur dramatics group and this was a perfect opportunity to try out our skills. We chose Peter Ustinov's play, "Half Way Up a Tree" and I was chosen to play the part of a Swedish au pair girl. It was not the lead role but a great supporting role. We practiced for months. The day came for the judges to view our performance and we won first prize! This spurred me on to keep acting.

A couple of years later, Dave was chosen to go on an Exchange Tour with the Navy to Whidbey Island in the United States. This was a dream come true. One of the first things I did was join a drama group. Big mistake! I did not fit in with the lifestyle and looks of the group, so I quickly bowed out. That was the end of my acting career, or so I thought.

Just a few months later, in March 1973, I was born again and my perspective on life changed. I totally put acting aside thinking that was the last of my involvement with amateur dramatics, but God had other plans.

The Lord led us to start a church in 1991. One day I was approached by a woman in the church saying, "I think the Lord wants this church to be involved with drama."

She proceeded to write and direct a small but powerful Christmas play. We gave our blessing and let her get on with it. This happened a few more times. Again, I never

thought I would get involved except to encourage people and sit down and enjoy their efforts. Until one day, out of the blue, I had a dramatic experience in my living room with the Lord.

Dave and I take turns preaching on Sunday. It was Saturday night and it was my turn to preach the next day. I prayed and sought the Lord but no inspiration came. “Lord, I need to know what you want me to share with the people tomorrow!” Suddenly I began to receive a download from the Lord.

I saw the little town of Bethlehem crowded with people. Then I saw Mary, heavily pregnant with child, and Joseph, her husband, beside her making their way through the crowd. I felt like I was there watching it all happen. Then I saw them make their way to a stable away from the crowds. There Mary had her baby.

At the same time, I saw a hill where the shepherds were looking after their flock by night, when all of a sudden, the sky was lit up with a heavenly choir. I could see both pictures at the same time but at a distance from one another. I thought, “Lord, what is going on? What is this I am seeing?”

From there I was taken to the place in Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old and He was left behind when his parents came to celebrate Passover. I saw it all unfold before me.

Scene after scene, I saw highlights of the life of Jesus: Jesus being baptized in the river Jordan; Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead; Jesus on trial before Pilate; Jesus’ death and crucifixion. And then, finally, I saw an empty tomb with an angel standing by it saying to the women who came to anoint Jesus with their spices, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

It was seven scenes out of the life of Jesus. It unfolded like a movie in my head. I was puzzled and bewildered, as I again said to the Lord, “Lord, I need a sermon not a movie!”

I felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit that I was to share what I saw with the congregation the next day. This did not make any sense to me, so I tried to shake it off, thinking I was dreaming or something, but it did not go away and the feeling only got stronger.

I went downstairs to the basement and switched on the TV to a Christian channel. I remember thinking, “Lord, you are going to have to confirm this if you really want me to stand up and share it with the people!”

When the TV came on, it was in the middle of a program and a man was obviously sharing his testimony. The first words I heard were these, “You do not have to pontificate. Just get up there and share it!” I could not believe what I was hearing. This

man was speaking directly to me. You don't need to sermonize, just get up there behind the pulpit and share what I have shown you! "Okay, Lord, I get it."

The next day, I stood behind the pulpit and shared exactly what happened the night before and started my message with 'Scene One' and described what I had seen of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, then I went on to 'Scene Two' and described the next scene. On and on I went, until I came to the empty tomb. Then I stopped. That was the end. I had nothing more to share. I had no idea why I was asked to share this vision but I was obedient, that is all I knew to do.

Two years went by and the Lord did not say anything more about it. One day, as I was sitting on the couch reading my Bible in Revelation 5, the voice of the Holy Spirit came to me loud and clear, "I want you to do a play."

"A play? Lord, I don't do plays! What can I do?"

"I want you to do Revelation 5 and Scenes 1 & 2 from what I showed you."

I looked at Revelation 5 and knew exactly what I should do and how to go about it. There was no question in my mind or my heart. I got excited about it and immediately started to enlist my kids from the children's class I was teaching every Wednesday night.

Then I had a brilliant idea of enlisting the teenagers as well. Before you know it, I had about 50 people recruited along with a small number of adults.

I approached one of the ladies in the church to design and sew the costumes. Dale, our son-in-law's mother, agreed to sew theatre curtains for the set. The curtains were to separate 'heaven from earth'. Someone else would paint clouds on the curtains.

Excitement was in the air. We planned to have this play on the Sunday before Christmas. The night before the performance, we were still figuring out a way to hang up the curtains on the stage, which was no easy task, and finish painting the clouds on them, too!

We finally managed to get it all done and breathed a sigh of relief. I was thankful that all the prep work was done but suddenly I started feeling a little apprehensive since this was the first time I had tackled anything like this. We should be ready. After all, we had beautiful costumes and we had a full costume practice. Why should I feel nervous? One practice should do it since there was so much narration involved, right?

We practiced the Saturday before the Sunday performance, a day I shall never forget. It was a nightmare! I had no idea working with children on such a project would be so grueling. But the die was cast and the show must go on!

Sunday morning came, the day of the event, and the phone rang. It was one of the adults who was supposed to lead the singing in the play. "Alice, I'm so sorry but I cannot make it this morning. I am sick." "What! Are you sure you can't make it?" "I am sure." Then the phone rang again and again, four more times after the initial call. They all had the same message. I cannot make it. I am sick.

By this time, I was feeling a little 'sick' myself. By now, the people were taking their seats waiting for this big performance. I quickly tried to enlist people to help but it was too late. I ended up being the narrator, the lights operator and song leader rolled into one. The children did their best and I can honestly say that I felt His anointing on it but I could not wait for it to end. I was a nervous wreck!! I thought, "Never again will I do this. Thank God it is over."

For two days I allowed myself to have a pity party, and then the voice of the Holy Spirit spoke again. "Get up and do it again and this time, do it right! And add another scene!" I knew exactly what He meant. I understood that I had taken it too casually. One practice?!!

You would think that I would be discouraged and perhaps a little upset at the reprimand but I felt energized! I saw it all. I knew who to enlist to help me and what I needed to do to get the church involved. It was crystal clear.

This time, the church was solid behind me. They caught the vision and we were on our way. I asked Lu Jensen, a lady in our church to help me with setting up a rehearsal schedule and help direct it. She came up with a 'perfect' schedule which was Holy Spirit inspired, I am sure of it! I still use the same schedule today, only with more rehearsals. I've made no changes except to expand it.

Christmas passed, and just a few months later, we did the play again at Easter and we have never missed a year since. 2012 is the 15th year of this amazing production.

Year after year, we added a new scene until all seven scenes, which I was shown, were performed. The cast continued to grow. It started with mainly children and a few adults, and then it slowly changed to an adult performance with several children included.

We now have a cast of over 150 people and make our own costumes and all our own props. It took weeks to build a paper mache tomb for Lazarus! I remember the hours spent dipping my hands, along with many others, in glue and newspaper. We now have a more practical, lightweight tomb.

The finances for the drama are a testimony in itself. Year after year, as finances were needed for materials, props or costumes, the finances for that period of time came in without us asking for help, and then it would fall again when it was no longer needed. This happened every year.

For seven years, we did the drama at the church and would rent bleachers to accommodate more people as word went out that our church was putting on an Easter Drama. After seven years and many additions to our church platform, we decided it was time to move the drama to a bigger location.

Looking around, we could not find anything suitable that would accommodate us especially with our last scene, the Revelation 5 'Throne Room' scene in heaven.

We took the plunge and rented The Met (now called Bing Crosby theatre) for a couple of nights. This would cost \$2,000 more, which we did not have, but we felt Holy Spirit led, so we went ahead. Finances are never an object with God! The money needed came in at exactly the right time without any problem.

It was all so very exciting! There we were at The Met!! We took a picture of The Met sign advertising our drama. This was big time for us. The Lord laid it on my heart to call Mary Anderson to be our Stage Manager and she very graciously accepted and has been our Stage Manager ever since. She does a great job!

We stayed at The Met for two years, and then the voice of the Holy Spirit came again, "You can stay here if you want to, you will not sin, but if you want to grow, you need to take a leap of faith." I took a deep breath and we began to search for a larger location for the Easter Drama.

At this time, some friends, who knew nothing about the word that the Lord had spoken to us regarding a leap of faith, gave us a beautiful picture of a mountain goat leaping over a crevasse thousands of feet in the air. The picture was called 'Faith'. The Lord has a way of confirming His voice to us so there is no doubt at all about what He wants us to do.

We searched and searched but could find nothing that was large enough to accommodate our expanding drama except for the Opera House (INB Performing Arts Center).

Talk about a leap of faith! Lord, you were not kidding! I got our crew together and we went to look at the place. As we stood on the stage, I thought what on earth are we doing here? This is the big league! This is where major performances are done! I remember looking up at the curtains, and I felt smaller and smaller as my gaze continued to go up and up. I knew how the Israelites felt when they said, "Lord, there are giants in the land and we are like grasshoppers in their sight."

I wish I could say that my first thought was that of Joshua, who saw the beauty of the land and not the challenge of the giants. Our group was a little subdued as we talked afterwards, except for Craig, who thought we could do it. I, too, could not let it go in my heart. Still, I kept going back to the drawing board and asking the Lord over and over again if this is the place we were to go to next. He was gracious and continued to

confirm it over and over again. Now we had to come up with not an extra \$2,000, but \$10,000 to make it happen.

God was faithful, as He always is, and the extra \$10,000 came in right on time. This wasn't just my dream. It was God's dream for Spokane Dream Center. All we had to do was trust and obey.

It has been and continues to be an exciting journey. A few months before we started rehearsals for the 2012 drama, the Lord spoke to me to share the vision again with the congregation. He told me to cast the vision far and wide, as far as I can and as wide as I can. So I did. I spoke about the next step being at the Spokane Arena. I spoke about having our own theatre and also about an outdoor theatre where we could have the stories of the Bible come alive in a natural setting. On and on, I spoke of what was in my heart. The people listened and were energized by the vision the Lord had laid upon our hearts.

So what is the purpose of all of the above? I believe that it is in the heart of God for us to prepare a spiritual banquet, the best that we could possibly offer and to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in. It is an invitation to come and feast on God's goodness, eat of the Bread of Life.

I believe that in the not too distant future, people will come from all over the States and even plan their vacations to Spokane around the drama, because they would have been drawn to come by the Spirit of God.

We are believing God for thousands of people to get saved and healed by and through the power of the Gospel as portrayed in the drama. Where it takes us beyond that? I do not know. But who can limit or outguess God? He is a God of surprises.

This year's drama will be at the INB Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 31 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Please come and join us and invite your friends. This spiritual banquet is free to all who would attend. Let us come and celebrate the life of Jesus together and let it enrich our lives as we Behold Jesus!

- Alice Darroch

Feeding on His Faithfulness



If you're interested in more information about Pastors Dave and Alice Darroch, their book, "Feeding on His Faithfulness" covers nearly thirty years of the lives of Dave & Alice Darroch. It speaks of God's faithfulness as the Holy Spirit led Dave to leave his career in the Royal Air Force, emigrate from England to the United States and go into full-time ministry.

With no backing, no income, no savings, no job and two young children, the Darrochs' embarked on their spiritual journey that took them through several countries and two continents. This book was written as a memorial to God's unparalleled faithfulness to lead, guide and provide as we step out in obedience to His call.

Feeding on His Faithfulness is available through Spokane Dream Center's website, www.spokanedreamcenter.org