

7 Days Left to Witness

A novel that will have a lasting effect on your
Christian Witness!

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11/1/2009

7 Days Left To Witness is the “what if” story in which the key Characters, Jim Russell, Sharon O’Brien and Marcus Thompson have received a personal message from God. “He is coming back to Earth in 7 days. While he has revealed the time of his coming to each, they are precluded from revealing the day of his coming. “7 Days Left To Witness”, Is the story of the trials they face as they try to lead others to God!

Main Characters

Jim Russell-Age 45:

Successful Businessman-Married to wife-Janet for 22 years-3 Children-David ages 18 Donna age 15 Tyler age 6. Both are active in the church. Jim sits on the building committee. He is a building contractor with his own firm. He employs 25 people of various beliefs and background. While his employees are aware Jim attends the local Baptist Church, he has chosen to minister only when approached by someone in need. He is keenly aware to be careful in dealing with others in a business setting. While he would like to do more for Christ, his position as a leader in the local business and his dependence on public contracts is always in the back of his mind. Janet sings in the church choir, teaches a Sunday School Class, participates in neighborhood witness groups, participates in the Church' Soup Kitchen and is first to volunteer when anyone needs a hand. To say the least if the church door is open, or there is a need Janet is there. Their Son, David attended church at every turn until recently. He considers himself to be a Christian, yet he is confused by feelings he has regarding attending church on a regular basis. He was voted "most popular" student at the local public High School and has friends inside and outside the church. He has come to realize many friends outside the Church are good and decent people. One in particular, Naomi, recently transferred to his high school. She is outgoing and shares David's concerns for other student, but she and her family do not attend church. Donna sings in the youth choir, is on the Cheer Squad at school and has a close circle of Christian friends at the public school as well. Several in the group are active in various school activities and they all use this platform to share their faith. Tyler has not yet come forward. While he is constantly at his Mother's side and participates in many church related activities, he is shy by nature and Janet prays this all thing that is holding him back.

Sharon O'Brien-Age 25:

Sharon is single and does not attend church. She works as a teller at the local bank. Sharon has a close circle of single girlfriends, they spend their evenings and weekends going on outings looking for 'that special someone'. Through the years some have married and have fallen away from the group, some have remained single and a couple have been divorced and returned to the single scene. Sharon feels fortunate to have these close friends in her life.

Marcus Thompson-Age 55

Marcus is evening news anchor a local Television Station. He has attended church on an occasional basis. While he considers himself to have lead a Christian life, he does not have an ongoing relationship with God. Marcus is not married, as his focus has always been on career. He prefers to be alone when not on the job and does not have close friends. He has a variety of workplace acquaintances and avoids religious discussions at work.

Sharon's Story-Scene 1: Contact with God

Scene: Bank interior, end of day. Last customer of the day being let out by Sara Johnson, Branch Manager

Sara says to Sharon, "Good work today Sharon, I have a couple things to wrap up in my office. When you finish balancing your drawer, please come and get me, so we can leave for the day". Sharon says, "No problem Sara, by the way, a couple of my friends and I are stopping by Tommie D's for a drink tonight. Care to tag a long?" Sara responds, "No thanks, I'm kind of tired tonight and have to be here early tomorrow to open the branch." Sara walks toward her office. Sharon begins to count her till. The light appears. A voice comes from the light, "Hear my voice!" Chills run through Sharon's body. She keeps her eyes transfixed on her till and

waits, thinking, “Am I hearing voices?” The voice repeats, “Hear my voice!” Chills run through Sharon’s body once again, slowly she raises her head and gazes on the Lord. She is unable to move. She calls out, “Sara?” The voice comes from the light, “No Sharon, it is I”. Sharon’s mind races back to her childhood, seven years old, tagging along to church with Billy. She thinks to herself, “What a sweet boy he was. She recalls the pastor’s voice, “For those who hear, will know my voice”. Sharon reaches toward the light, she cries out, “Yes Lord?”

“Sharon, I have come to let you know a wonderful and terrible secret...I have come to let you know the rapture is near.” Sharon gasps, “Why me, Lord?” From the light Jesus speaks, “Time is short, Sharon. You will be a beacon to all who know you. They will see the change and listen to your voice, many will be saved”. Go out to all you see and tell them of my coming. Tell them I am coming soon.” “This is wonderful news, “Sharon exclaimed! “I don’t have much time, just 7 days. I must tell everyone what I have seen.” Jesus speaks from the light, “NO SHARON, you cannot tell anyone you have seen my face, you must not tell the moment of my coming. For only by faith can man be saved.” Sharon is overwhelmed at what she has witnessed and bows her head in prayer, “Only 7 days? Lord. Who should I tell? How can I tell them?”

From the presence, Jesus speaks, “Tell all that you know, share with all that you meet who will listen, share the story of my coming as taught in the scripture. For those who seek my face, shall find.” Sharon bows her head, overcome with emotion she gathers herself and raises her head. The spirit is gone, she is now alone. Her hands shaking, she balances her till and places it in the safe. As she walks towards Sara’s office she asks herself, “What do I say to Sara?” As she walks toward Sara’s office she notices the clock on the wall, 6:35.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 2: Sharon’s Encounter with Sara

Setting: Bank interior, Sara’s office, Sharon pokes her head into the door.

“Sara, did you hear anyone talking?” Sara looks up from her desk puzzled, “What are you talking about Sharon?” “Voices, Sara, did you hear voices, just now?” Sara shakes her head, “No Sharon, maybe you better pass on the night on the town tonight and get a little rest!” Sharon feels doubt wash over her, “Did I imagine it all?” she thinks. Suddenly she feels the presence once again. She hears his voice, “You will be a beacon to all who know you. They will see the change and listen to your voice, many will be saved”. Sharon is relieved to hear the voice again. It is real! She looks at Sara and says, “It’s alright Sara, I need to go see the girls tonight. I have so much to tell them. I have to tell them of my Lord.” Sara looks up from her desk. She is startled at the look on Sharon’s face. It is the look of someone who has had a profound experience. Sara smiles and asks, “Your Lord?” “Yes Sara,” Sharon responds, “Tonight I have found the Lord and I want all my friends to know his love. I want you to know his love and to know that he is coming soon.” Sara smiles and says, “I know Sara, Jesus loves us all.” Sharon realizes Sara is saved. She can hear it in her voice and see it on her face. She knew Sara went to church but did not realize the depth of her conviction. More importantly, she realized she needs to tell her friends, her message was not for Sara. “I need to get to Tommie D’s,” she thinks to herself. “Sharon, can you let me out the front so I can go over to Tommie D’s. Boy, do I have something to tell the girls!” Sara smiles and grabs her keys, “Sure Sharon, hope all goes well!” They walk to the door and Sara unlocks the door.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 3: Sharon’s First Witness to her Friends

Setting-interior of typical Singles Bar-modern music playing just loud enough you have to shout or talk directly into your partners’ ear. As Sharon walks to her favorite table she can see all the girls are there. Jen, Janice, Tara and Denise, “Four of the best friends a girl can have,” she thinks to herself. As she approaches the table, she can’t help but wonder how the girls will react to her

good news. As she sits down a waitress approaches. “The usual”, she asks? Sharon takes a deep breath, “Not tonight, can I just get an iced tea instead?” Jen and Janice crack up laughing, certain she is kidding. As the waitress walks away they realize Sharon was serious, Jen speaks first, “What’s up?” The band is just finishing with their song and the lead singer speaks, “time for a short break, we’ll be back in 10.” “Perfect timing”, Sharon thinks to herself. “Ten minutes that will forever change my relationship with my friends.” she thinks, “Ten minutes, to tell them about God.” Right at that moment the waitress returns with the Iced Tea. Sharon takes a long, slow, drink. Then she begins to speak, “Jen, something wonderful has happened to me, Jesus has come into my life!” For a moment all the girls are silent, finally Tara speaks, “You’re putting us on, right? “Please don’t tell me you’re going to be one of those, Holy Rollers.” Sharon speaks deliberately, “Tara, I don’t even know what a ‘Holy Roller’ is. What I do know is Jesus has come into my heart and I want each of you to know he can come into your heart as well. I also want you to know that we don’t know how much time we have to come to him.” She stops to allow the message to sink in. There is silence at the table for several seconds. Sharon’s heart aches for her friends as she tries one more tactic. “Girls, I am going to go to the Baptist Church on Fairview on Sunday and ‘Go Forward’, you have always been my best friends. It would mean a lot to me if you came to be with me that day. The service starts at 10:30 AM. I hope to see you there.” Sharon is saddened by the empty stares that look back at her. She realizes she has done all she can for now and gets up to leave. “Please God,” she prays, “please touch their hearts.” She feels lonely and confused. What can she do tomorrow, who can she tell? She heads to her car.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 4: Sharon Prepares for Tomorrow

Setting: Sharon’s Car

Sharon gets into her car. She draws a deep breath and starts to pray. “God, who would you have me tell tomorrow?” She hears the voice again, ““You will be a beacon to all who know you.

They will see the change and listen to your voice, many will be saved.”

Sharon thinks to herself, “I see so many people each day at the bank. I will try to talk to any who will listen. I’ll come back here, again, tomorrow. I won’t give up on my friends. God did not give up on me!” She starts the car and heads for home.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 5: First Prayer

Setting: Sharon’s bathroom-she looks into the mirror

“What do I do today?” She bows her head to pray, “God, show to me the way today. I have never done this before.”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 6: Sharon Arrives at the Bank

Setting: Bank Parking Lot-Sharon gets out of her car. Her co-worker Tina has just arrived and is getting out of the car next to her.

Tina speaks, “So Sharon, another big night at the bar? Meet the man of your dreams?” she asks sarcastically. For just a second Sharon hesitates. She never did like the way Tina treats her and her friends. For a second, she wants to respond in kind, but that is not God’s way. Sharon takes a deep breath, “No Tina. I stopped by for a few minutes, but I only had a glass of tea.” Sharon stopped and waited for Tina’s response. Tina responds, “Sure you did,” her voice heavy with sarcasm. “No Tina, I really did just have tea. I had something important to tell the girls and wanted to be sure to be precise in my message.” As they walk toward the entrance of the bank, Tina asks, “So, what was so important?” “Tina, I found God last night. He has changed me!” Sharon responded. Tina stops walking. Sharon stops, too. They look at each other. Tina is searching Sharon’s face. She thinks to herself, “She does look different this morning.” Then she

says to Sharon, “Well Sharon, if it’s not one crutch I guess it’s another for you,” not hiding her sarcasm as she turns again to head toward the door. Sharon thinks to herself, “this, Christian stuff is tuff!” “Help me God,” she prays to herself as she follows Tina into the bank.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 7: Sharon Witnesses at the Bank

Setting: Teller Window-11AM

Sharon has been working diligently at her window all morning. She has not had opportunity to share her story with others. She is starting to doubt the impact she can have in the coming days.

She prays to herself, “God, show me what to do.” Her next customer steps to the window.

“Good morning Sharon!” As Sharon looks up to respond, she realizes she’d know that booming voice anywhere. “Good morning, Tommie D!” she booms back. Tommie hands her his morning deposit. As she opens the bag to begin the count he asks, “What happened with you, last night?”

The girls could not stop talking. Said you had, “Found God!” Sharon looks up at Tommie and smiles. This is her opportunity for the morning. “That’s right, Tom. Yesterday I found God. I

hope you will find him, too.” There is silence for a moment as Sharon begins to count. Finally,

Tommie speaks. “Sharon, I don’t know what happened to you, but you sure do sound different.”

Sharon responds, “Tom, God came into my life yesterday and I am changed, forever. I pray you

will let him do the same.” More silence as she counts. As she completes the count and reaches

to hand Tommie the deposit receipt, Tommie speaks, “Sharon, I don’t go to church anymore.”

“Tom, all you need to do to accept God is to ask him to come in. You don’t have to go to a

church to find him. He will come to you wherever you are.” She responds. “Why don’t you

come to the bar tonight and tell me all about it?” Tommie asks. Sharon can hear the challenge

in his voice. “If she wants to witness to him, it will be on his terms,” she thinks to herself. “Fine

Tommie, I'll see you there. I wanted to talk to the girls again tonight anyway.” Tommie just shakes his head as he walks away. He didn't think she'd take him up on his offer.

Sharon's Story-Scene 8: Sharon Goes to Lunch

Setting: Tina's Ye OldeTowne Diner-Interior is traditional local Diner Setting-Sharon sits at the corner booth with Sara and Tina. Their food arrives at the table as they have been making small talk about life. Sharon closes her eyes for a moment and prays to herself.

“Lord, bless this food and thank-you for blessing me with your Word. Please help me to lead others to you.” Tina speaks, “So, Sharon is it safe to eat now?” Sharon looks toward Tina, smiles and says, “Tina, no one is going to force God on you. I just wanted to let you know what he has done to change my heart. I just wanted to share Him with you. Let's enjoy our lunch.”

Sara looks at Sharon with amazement and says, “Sharon, the change I see in you is amazing. You are right, let's enjoy this lunch together.” They begin to eat.

Sharon's Story-Scene 9: Sharon Goes to Tommie D's Again

Setting: Interior, Tommie D's Bar-The Girls, are gathered around the table. Sharon approaches to sit down. Tara sees her approach and speaks, loudly, “If you are going to start preaching about God again, Sharon, I don't want to hear it!” Ignoring Tara's warning Sharon takes her usual seat. She waits patiently, and let's the tension settle. Then she says, “Tara, I came back tonight because you are all my nearest and dearest friends. I did come to tell you once again, what God has done for me and what he can do for you. I was just hoping you would listen.”

Angrily, Tara shoots back, “Look, Christian, I think you ought to just go about your life and leave us alone to go about ours!” Before Sharon can respond, Tara gets up and walks toward the dance floor. Sharon is sad for Tara. Then she realizes the others are still there. She says, “I would like to invite you all again to come to church on Sunday. It would mean a lot to me if you

were there. I would like you all to believe in God.” She searches their faces. They almost seem mad! Shaken, she gets up to leave. “Sharon!” booms Tommie D, from behind the bar, “I didn’t think you’d come! Come on over here and have a drink. Sharon can feel the eyes on her as she approaches the bar and takes a seat. “Iced Tea, please,” She said to Tommie. Sharon is shocked by the look on Tommie’s face. He is genuinely happy to see her. She begins to speak, “Tom, why did you ask me to stop by tonight?” Tommie hesitates for a moment. He leans close to her over the bar and speaks in a whispering voice, “Sharon, I used to go to church a long time ago. But when my wife was killed I gave up. My wife was like you are now. You could see God in her face. Why did he kill her?” Sharon could feel the desperation in him. She could hear it in his voice. “Tom, I don’t have any idea why God would let someone as wonderful as her be killed. My heart aches for your loss. All I can tell you is that he does love us and he wants all of us to trust him.” “Trust him!” Tommie interrupted. After a moment, Sharon speaks again, “Yes Tom, we have to trust him, like your wife did. I am sure she would say the same to you if she was here right now.” She looks at Tommie, he is sobbing. “I miss her so, much.” Sharon says, “Tom, you can be with her again in heaven.” There are a several seconds of silence. Tommie slowly raises his head and looks around. Some of the patrons have heard the conversation and are looking toward him. They are waiting to hear what he will say. “Sharon, I will come to church on Sunday. This is the closest I have felt to her in a long time.” Sharon is ecstatic as she leaves the bar. “Maybe?” she thinks to herself, “just maybe, I can reach a few.”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 10: Sharon’s Last Payday

Setting: Bank Interior-8:45 AM-Sara’s Office-Sharon walks in and speaks

“Good morning Sara,” she says. Sara looks up from her desk and smiles. She can feel the presence of God, surrounding Sharon. She smiles back and says, “It’s always a good morning,

In the Lord, Sharon, but Friday comes with paychecks!” Sharon laughs. She smiles at her new friend in God and says, asking, “That’s right, Sara. But this time, I’m going to spend this like it’s his money, right?” “That’s right, Sharon,” responds Sara, “all we have is his.” Sharon is elated as she leaves Sara’s office and walks toward her window. She is elated to have a friend in God at her workplace.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 11: Sharon’s day at work

Setting: Bank Interior-Sharon’s Window-Sharon is joyous, as she works-Tara can’t help but notice.

Tara speaks, “Sharon, would you please just tone it down a little!” she exclaims. Sharon looks to the next window and smiles at her co-worker and says, “Tara, I have never felt more at peace than I am right now. I know I’ve changed and I know you don’t understand. I just want everyone I meet to be able to feel the presence of God in my life.” “Just try to tone it down! Will you!” said Tara, almost pleading. Sharon couldn’t help but wonder to herself. “Am I getting through?” “Tara, I really do hope you will come to the church on Sunday.” She said, as the next customer stepped up to their respective windows.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 12: Sharon’s First Friday without Tommie D’s

Setting: Outside the Bank-Sharon is getting into her car-Sara approaches and speaks

“So Sharon, back to Tommie D’s tonight?” she asks. Sharon suddenly realizes she has no idea what she is going to do this evening. She turns to her friend and asks, “Sara, what does a Christian do on Friday night?” Sara smiles at Sharon. She thinks for a moment then responds. “Sharon, it really doesn’t matter. Whether you attend school events, as I often do. “Whether you go to a movie or, if you simply go home to rest God will be with you.” Sharon hears the wisdom in her words. She will stop by the church and say a prayer. She will go home and study

his word. She will prepare herself for tomorrow. She will tell others on the way home. “Gotta get gas for the car, anyway,” she thinks to herself, “might as well tell Julie at the gas station about God! It’s the least I can do to pay Him back for what He has given me this week!”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 13: A Saturday like No Other

Setting: Sharon’s bedroom-7AM-Sharon has just awoke-She sits up in bed and sees the time. “Seven O’clock,” Sharon thinks, “I haven’t been up this early on a Saturday in 5 years!” Sharon gets out of bed and enters the bathroom. As she reaches for her toothbrush she looks in the mirror. She is wide awake! She smiles and prays aloud, “Good morning God! Thank-you for this glorious day! Please help me to be productive for you. You see, I have no idea what to do this early on a Saturday.” As she begins to brush her teeth Sharon can feel God in her heart. She can feel his guidance. First, she is going go to an early breakfast at the Olde Town Diner. She is going to talk to Lucy. It’s been 3 years since Lucy got married. Since Lucy started working the early shift on weekends, Sharon rarely sees her. Sharon is going to share the story of God with her. Second she is going to find her old “Little Red Book,” the one with all her friends from the past and call as many as she can and invite them to church and offer to tell them her story. “I’ll have to call them later in the day,” she thinks to herself, “Saturday is meant for sleeping,” she recalls their old joke. Then it’s back to Tommie D’s one last time. “I have to try again,” she thinks to herself, “Jesus is coming on Wednesday!”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 14: A Saturday like No Other-Sharon goes to See Lucy

Setting: Interior Olde Towne Diner-Sharon walks in and takes a seat at the counter-Lucy is busy with others-Sharon places her order with another worker and waits for her friend to see she is there.

As she sits sipping her coffee, Sharon thinks to herself, “Wow! I’ve never seen so many families together at the diner. It really is a different world God has led me to!” “Sharon!” exclaimed Lucy, “It’s so good to see you!” Lucy rushed across the floor and gave her old friend a big hug. Sharon hugged her back. They lingered that way for a moment. Then Lucy pulled away and asked, “Is something wrong? Are you in Love? Did someone die?” When she finished her rapid fire questions, Sharon smiled at her friend and responded, “No Lucy. Nothing is wrong. Far from it! Yes, I am in love! I am in love with Jesus. I am in love with Jesus, because he died. He died for us all. I wanted to come here today to tell you that. I want to let you know he loves you, too.” Lucy stepped away from Sharon and walked behind the counter. As Sharon returned to her seat, Lucy approaches from the other side. She leans close to Sharon over the counter and speaks, “Look Sharon, it’s great to see you again. I just wish I could believe that God is real. But things have been tough, lately. My husband has lost his job, my Father died a few months back and I have cancer. If there is a God, why does he let this happen?” Sharon could see tears in her friends’ eyes. She took a deep breath then said quietly, “Lucy, all I really know is what God has done for me and that he wants us to live with him in heaven. I know he is coming. He may be coming soon! Our life on earth is short. He wants us to be with him forever!” As Sharon stopped talking she searched her friends’ expression. She could see the pain in her eyes. Finally, Lucy spoke, “Sharon, can God really take this pain in my heart away?” Sharon knew this was the moment of truth. Sharon knew, this was the moment to share Salvation! “Lucy,” she started, “If you ask Him, God will come into your heart and wash away your sins and give you a peace that passes our ability to understand. The horrors of this world will still be there. But you will know that you have a place in heaven and can be with him forever. If you ask Him, his love will help to take away the pain and give you peace. This is what he has done for me!”

Lucy was crying quietly now. She lifted her head slowly and spoke to her old friend. “Can you help me to ask him?” Sharon reached across the counter and took her hand and said quietly, “Let’s pray to God.”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 15: A Saturday like No Other-Sharon goes to Tommie D’s

Setting: Interior-Tommie D’s-All the girls are at the table when Sharon enters-Tommie D’s is sitting in Sharon’s usual chair-the band is on break-as Sharon approaches the table she can hear Tommie speaking.

“Can one of you girls tell me which church Sharon is going to tomorrow?” he asks, “I think I’ll stop and see her?” “I couldn’t care less!” exclaimed Tara. Just then she sees Sharon approaching. She points over Tommie’s shoulder and says, “Why don’t you ask the holy roller yourself?” Tommie turns to Sharon and says, “I’m sorry you heard that Sharon.” Sharon steps close to the table and responds so all can hear, “Tommie, I’m going to Fairview Baptist on the Hill. The service is at 10. I am going forward tomorrow to declare my faith. I hope you and all of my friends will join me.” For a moment there is silence. Then Tommie speaks, “Sharon, I just might be there.” Sharon realizes she has done all she can to reach her closest friends. As she leaves Tommie’s she knows she must reach out to others.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 16: First and Last Sabbath-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Interior-Fairview Baptist-Sharon has just been baptized-As the pastor concludes the service he invites the congregation to come to the front to greet the “Newly Baptized” and to welcome them into the church. As she shakes each hand Sharon is searching for familiar faces. She can see the line is dwindling. Tommie has not come. Lucy has not come. Sara has not come. Finally, a familiar face stands before her to shake her hand. “Tara,” Sharon exclaimed with a huge smile, “It’s wonderful to see you!” Tara looks her straight in the eye and says, “I

couldn't believe you would go through with this unless I saw it for myself! You really are a Holy Roller now!" Sharon looked at her friend and with compassion in her voice said, "Tara, I am grateful you have come. Through thick and thin you have always been a friend. I know you don't understand, but I am glad to see you here today." Tara just shakes her head and walks away. Sharon knows that God is working. She wonders, "Is there time to reach Tara?"

Sharon's Story-Scene 17: First and Last Sabbath-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Sharon's apartment-Sharon arrives back at her apartment-the message light on the answering machine is blinking. She looks at the console-3 new messages. Sharon hits the play button. The familiar introduction plays.

"Message One, Today 8:15am, Hi Sharon, It's Lucy, I wanted to let you know I can't make it this morning. I got called into work. Please stop by and see me at the Diner if you can. I would like to hear how things went for you at church." "Message 2, Today 8:25AM, Hi Sharon, it's Sara from work. I just wanted to let you know I can't make it to your baptism today because my little one is sick. We can talk all about it tomorrow before work. Have a blessed day!"

"Message 3, Today, 9:45am. Hi Sharon, it's Tommie D. Guess what? That's right! I overslept! I would like to talk to you some more if you don't mind. I am going to be out of town til Tuesday. Can you stop by the bar that night?" As Tommie's message finishes playing, Sharon is confused. She was certain it was time for her to move on and try to witness to others. "Why is God leading me back to Tommie's?" she wonders.

Sharon's Story-Scene 18: First and Last Sabbath-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Interior-Fairview Christian Church-the evening service has just concluded. Sharon rises from her pew and lingers for a few minutes talking with others. As she turns up the aisle she looks toward the back of the church. She can see Tara! Tara is exiting the building. She has

come back to church! Sharon picks up her pace to catch her. Before she can reach her friend she is stopped by another member. She pauses for a moment and wishes them a God Blest week. By the time she exits the building, Tara is gone! Sharon determines she will try to talk to her tomorrow.

Sharon's Story-Scene 19: Rainy Days and Mondays

Setting: Sharon's Bathroom-Sharon is about to leave-she looks in the mirror

Sharon is eager to get to work today in order to try to talk to Tara. She closes her eyes for a quick prayer, "Lord, if it be your will help me to reach Tara and others today." As she finishes her prayer and starts to leave the room her cell phone rings.

Sharon's Story-Scene 20: Rainy Days and Mondays-Sharon O'brien

Setting: Sharon's Bedroom-her purse is on the bed-she reaches into her purse for her cell phone-she glances at the incoming number before answering-it's her boss and Christian friend Sara She opens the phone and answers, "Good Morning, Sara! It's a beautiful day in the Lord!" There is a moment of silence on the other end. Then Sara speaks softly, "Sharon, I have sad news. I just got a call from Tara's Mother. Tara had a car wreck last night and was killed!" Sharon staggers to the bed and sits down. "What time last night?" she asks. Tara responds, about 11:30, she was on her way home from Tommie D's." Sharon's heart sank. She couldn't help but think if things might have been different if she had caught up to Tara before she left the church. "Sara, I may be a few minutes late for work this morning, if that is alright?" I want to stop by the church and say a prayer." "No problem," responded Sara, "it's raining cats and dogs out this morning anyway. Business will be pretty slow." "I'll be in by 9:30 or so, then," said Sara as she hung up the phone. Sara got up from the bed. She moved slowly as she left the house. Sara was right, it was pouring outside. "God's tears for the lost!" she thought to herself.

Sharon's Story-Scene 22: Rainy Days and Mondays-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Interior, Fairview Baptist-Sharon sits alone in a pew at the front-we hear her pray aloud

“Lord, please forgive me for not being a stronger witness to Tara. If I had only tried harder. Her voice trails off and she begins to cry, softly. After a time she feels a hand on her shoulder. Pastor Dave speaks softly to her, “Sharon, what has happened?” She looks at him. With tears in her eyes she says, “My friend I was telling you about yesterday, was killed in a car wreck last night! I don't know that she ever got saved!” Her pastor took a moment. Then he spoke, “Sharon, God does not judge us by the result of our witness. Only he can save man. Rather, he judges us by the effort we make and our willingness to be a witness for him.” “But, Pastor, I could have done more, I could have been more insistent.” “Perhaps,” responded the Pastor, “there are times when I ask myself, if I have done enough. People I have met in church or on the street. Times I wonder if my preaching and teaching about God have been sufficient. But what I always try to remind myself is that He is in charge. I know you wanted to lead her to God. I saw the result of your effort. I saw you chase after her last evening. We won't know if she was saved until we are in heaven, Sara. But we do know she did come to church on the evening before she died. We know your efforts were not in vain.” As she left the church, Sara felt some relief. She had tried. She would find out on Wednesday, if her effort was in vain. As she stepped outside the church it was still pouring.

Sharon's Story-Scene 23: Rainy Days and Mondays-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Interior of Bank-The mood in the bank is somber today. There is a note at each window to let the customers know of Tara's passing. We see Sharon working. We see the sadness on her face. The clock on the wall shows it's almost closing time, when Tommie D-steps to Sharon's window. Sharon looks up and their eyes meet. Tommie speaks first. “She didn't even have a

drink!” He said. “Last night, Tara comes into the bar and doesn’t even have a drink! Then she gets killed driving home! I will never understand, God!” “She didn’t drink, Tommie?” she asked. “What did she say?” Tommie took a deep breath and wiped a tear from his eyes. Then he spoke, “Sharon, she came in about eight last night and said she wanted to talk to me. She had a cup of coffee. She told me she came to your church last night and sat in the back. She told me she slipped out before you could talk to her. She said she wasn’t sure, but she might talk to you today about more of the change in you. I told you before, I don’t know about all this Christian stuff, but she sure sounded different.” In her heart Sharon could only pray God had reached Tara. In the moment she knew there was still time to reach out to Tommie. “Tommie, when I found out this morning, I couldn’t help but think the rain was, ‘God’s tears for the lost’, but maybe the rain is God’s way of making everything new. Would you pray with me for Tara? Would you pray with me we see her in heaven?” As she finishes speaking, Sharon reaches across her window and takes Tommie’s hand. They close their eyes for a moment and we hear soft prayer. When they are finished, Sharon completes Tommie’s business and he makes his way toward the door. Sharon looks around. She sees that some of the others have been watching.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 24: Last Full Day to Witness-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Outside the bank-Sharon encounters Sara as she exits her car

Sara speaks, “Good morning Sharon,” she says solemnly. “Good morning to you as well,” responded Sharon in a sad voice as well. “Sharon,” continues Sara, “I’d like to talk to you for a few minutes after you are set up for the day. Please come to my office when you have a moment.” “Can you tell me what this is about?” asked Sharon. “Let’s wait til we get together,” said Sara as they headed into the bank.

Sharon's Story-Scene 25: Last Full Day to Witness-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Bank interior-Sharon arrives at Sara's office and knocks on the door.

"Come in," said Sara as she looked up from the work on her desk. "You said you wanted to talk to me?" queried Sharon. "Yes Sharon," continued Sara, "I wanted to talk to you about Tara's funeral. I have been contacted by her family. The service is going to be at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon at Lakewood Funeral Home. They asked me if there was anyone at the bank that might like to say a few words at the service. I hope it is alright with you. I gave them your name." "Sure," said Sharon quickly. As she walked away she thought to herself, "What do I say?" She stopped for a moment in the hallway and raised her eyes toward the Lord, "Lord, please help me with this. Grant to me the words that you would have me say."

Sharon's Story-Scene 26: Last Full Day to Witness-Sharon O'Brien

Setting: Tommie D's Bar-Sharon enters to see who may be coming to Tara's Funeral-as she walks inside the group is there. Jen, Janice and Denise, "Three of the four of the best friends a girl can have," she thinks. Sharon is sad. She can see that Jen and Denise have been crying. Janice quietly nurses her drink. She speaks, "I didn't know if you'd show up here?" Sharon is a little stunned by the directness of her query. She responds, "Girls, my life has changed in the past few days. But you will always be my sisters!" Sharon sits down at her seat and begins to cry softly. She wants to say more to the girls about God, but knows they are too deep in their grief to hear. After a while the girls all join hands. As they sit together, lost in their grief, Tommie D approaches and asks, "Girls, do you know what time the funeral is for Tara?" "Four o'clock, at Lakewood." said Sharon. "Well, don't expect to see me, I don't do funerals!" exclaimed Janice. "I'll be there," said Tommie. After a moment, Sharon spoke. "I'll be there as well. I hope you all will come. We were her closest friends." "Like I said," said Janice, "you

can count me out.” “I wonder who is going to speak?” asked Jen. Sharon took a deep breath and said, “The family has asked me to speak on her behalf. I was hoping to share a few stories of our time together as friends. What do you think would be a couple of stories to tell others how much she meant to us?” After a moment, Jen begins to speak, “Well, remember that time we all went to Florida and....” As we leave the scene we see the girls beginning to talk among themselves.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 27: Judgment Day-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Interior of Sharon’s apartment-we see her asleep at the kitchen table-a note pad and pen next to her-we hear the alarm sound in the bedroom-Sharon raises her head slowly from the table Sharon gets up from the table and goes into the other room to turn the alarm off-she re-enters the room and sits back down. She raises her head and we hear her pray, “Lord, I have been unable to find the words to share with Tara’s friends and family, today. I cannot find a way to share with them all the joy Tara had in her life and to also tell them of you. Today is this last chance they will ever have to come to you! Help me Jesus!” We see the sadness on Sharon’s face as she rises from the table to prepare for work.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 28: Judgment Day-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Bank Interior-Sharon knocks on the door to Sara’s office

“Come in,” says Sara without looking up from her work. Sharon enters and speaks, “Sara, I have been up all night and cannot find the words to say today. I want to tell Tara’s family and friends how much she meant to me and to my friends. More importantly, I want to tell everyone that God loves them and that Tara had reached out by coming to my church that last evening. I want to warn them that we don’t always have more time to come to God! What would you say?” Sara took a few moments to think then asked, “Sharon, have you asked God?” “I was up all night at the kitchen table trying to write down the words to say, I prayed constantly. I fell asleep at the

table and still have not written a word!” Sara responded, “In times like these, I try to simply ‘let go and let God’. I know that sounds rather simplistic, but if you let go and let Him. He will guide your words. I can see Him working in your life. Trust he will lead you and he will.” With that said, Sara went back to her work. As Sharon left her office she still did not know what she would do or say. She was scared.

Sharon’s Story-Scene 29: Judgment Day-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Interior, Lakewood Funeral Home-We see Sharon sitting at the front-The pastor has just announced that Sharon will give the Eulogy and introduced her. Her eyes are closed as she says one last prayer asking God to guide her words. She stands up and walks toward the podium. As she turns back toward the audience she feels the presence of God wash over her. She smiles, she is at peace! His peace!

She begins to speak, “Good afternoon everyone. While it is a heartbreaking day for us all, heartbreaking to no longer have Tara share our lives, it is still a good afternoon. It is a good afternoon to remember the happy times. It is a good afternoon to remember her smile. It is a good afternoon to remember all the joy she brought us by simply being in our lives. So, let me share with you a few stories her friends and family have shared with me about her.” (The scene fades for a few moments as we see Sharon continuing to tell of her friend. We pick up the eulogy at the end). “Finally, let me share the story of Tara’s last evening. On her last evening Tara came to church. She came to the church I just started attending. She reached out to be with me on her last day. I pray she reached out to God as well. I pray for each of you to reach out to God today! Jesus said, “I come quickly!” Tara reached out to him in her final hours. I pray you all will reach out to him today.” Sharon walked away from the podium. She could see the clock at the back. The time was 5:30. She thought to herself, “None of the girls from the bar showed

up. Tommie was here. God is trying to reach him. As soon as I can excuse myself, I am going to try one more time!”

Sharon’s Story-Scene 30: Judgment Day-Sharon O’Brien

Setting: Interior-Sharon’s Car-The time on the radio shows 6:33-Sharon has been caught in traffic. She realizes she will not make it to the bar on time-we hear her desperate prayer.

“Lord, just give me fifteen more minutes! I’ll be there in ten. Please just give me fifteen minutes?” she pleads. As the clock moves to 6:34 Sharon stops her pleading. She prays a thankful prayer instead, “Lord, thank-you for coming into my heart and saving my soul. Thank you for the opportunity to share with others, your love.” She closes her eyes and waits for Him to come. When the clock moves to 6:35 the light appears inside the car. From the light, His voice, “Sharon, as it is written, no Man or Woman knows the moment of my coming. You have been given a gift and burden. You have seen the light. You are a child of God. You know that time is short. You know that no one is promised tomorrow. You must go on with your witness. You must continue to try to reach the people I place in your life. Eternal Life is your Gift! A life of service in telling others is your Burden! Go! Tell!” With that the light disappears and Sharon is alone in her car once again, but she can still feel His presence. While she is sad Jesus is not coming today. She knows she has time to reach others. As she pulls into the parking lot at Tommie D’s she smiles!

