

Horizons Skits

Originally performed at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky
July 7–11, 2006

Written by Scott Dowd

Horizons Skit #1

Enter a troupe of PW archeologists. They have just arrived in Louisville. The year is 2761 and they are dressed in the official uniform of Presbyterian Women: atomic visor with heads-up computer display, fanny pack, tote bag and sensible shoes. All of these items are either silver or gold and the visors are adorned with antennae.

#1: Wow! What a week!

#2: Jerusalem on Tuesday, Damascus on Wednesday, Rome yesterday and today . . . where are we now?

#3: (*Touching visor*) My trip computer says if today is Friday it must be Louisville.

#4: Louisville? Where's that?

Leader: Kentucky. The United States.

#5: What are we doing here?

Leader: We've nearly completed our PW Interplanetary Exchange of early church sites, and now we are going to look for artifacts and information from the Middle Church period.

#3: (*Touche visor, appears to be reading from invisible heads up computer display*) The Middle Church extended from approximately 1455 to 2280. Its unifying element was the explosion of communications technology beginning with the Guttenberg printing press and extending through the creation of the Internet, culminating with development and expansion of early nanotechnology.

Leader: Right.

#6: But why Louisville, Kentucky?

Leader: In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries this was the site of several important gatherings of Presbyterian Women. In fact this very spot is where plenary was held.

#2: Right here?

Leader: Yes, in this very room thousands of women from all over the world came together to learn more about each other, themselves and discuss how they should work together to accomplish God's mission in the world . . .

#4: Look over here, I've found something.

#1: What is it?

#2: It appears to be an early form of visor. The atomic power cell must be malfunctioning I can't get the computer to boot up.

Leader: And you won't. This visor is circa 2006, long before heads-up computer displays were installed. No, all this one did was keep the sun and glare from computer screens out of your eyes. And, of course, make an incredible fashion statement.

#3: Even today, in 2761, Presbyterian Women gatherings only occur once every three years.

#2: Can you imagine trying to have them more often? How would the moderators find time to keep this entire world running peacefully and efficiently?

#3: How did all of these women stay connected and working together effectively between gatherings back in 2006?

Leader: Well, there were a number of ways. Much as we do today, Presbyterian women of the early twenty-first century stayed connected spiritually by using a common Bible study that was produced annually and included as part of their subscription to *Horizons* magazine.

#4: *Horizons* magazine?

Leader: Yes, magazine. Today, of course, *Horizons* is the most common Web site on the planet and serves as the nexus of interplanetary communications. But, back in 2006 women and men would buy a subscription and receive the information printed on paper. It came out six times per year and addressed issues of particular concern to women and families and showed how Presbyterian Women, and others, were working to address them.

#6: I'm hungry. Can we eat soon?

Leader: Yes, let's have something to eat, get some rest and start fresh tomorrow.

(Exit)

Horizons Skit #2

The scene opens with our archeologists hard at work. Some are on hands and knees working with trowels and whiskbrooms while #3 consults her heads-up display and the reader consults a schematic of the hall.

#6: I've found something. Come look.

#4: What is it? Well it appears the line for the cafeteria ended right about here. There are traces of primitive agriculture . . . it's as though someone in line became impatient and attempted to grow her own food.

#2: Which reminds me, it's time for lunch.

Leader: Okay, let's break for lunch. Then we can have our Bible study and get back to work.

#3: I just love it here. It's so peaceful. If I let my mind go I can almost imagine all of those women here for the gathering, surrounding me like . . . like . . .

#5: Like a cloud of witnesses?

#3: Yeah.

#2: So, what's for lunch?

Leader: *(As she calls out each menu option, a different woman raises her hand and is immediately handed a pill.)* Well, we've got peanut butter and jelly; salisbury steak and mashed potatoes; fried baloney and chips, tahini and vegetable medley; mousakka; and sushi with gulab jamin for dessert. God bless this food to nourish our bodies and give us the strength to do your work.

All: Amen. *(They remove bottles of water from their fanny packs and they have lunch).*

Leader: Okay, lunch break is over—back to work. We have things to do. No time for loitering.

#1: Hey! Look here.

#5: What are they?

Leader: *(Holding a stack of magazine wrapped in a Gathering T-shirt)* These are original copies of *Horizons* magazine. *(Reading)* March/April 2006 "Caminhada: Walking Together in Mutual Love and Hope."

#4: Was that the theme of the 2006 Gathering?

#2: (*Holding up T-Shirt*) No, that was, “Creation! Celebration!” What a great logo! This T-shirt has held up amazingly well for being 600 years old.

#4: I wish there were more. I’d like to wear one.

Leader: We’ll be excavating the Great Room later. Maybe we’ll find some.

#5: There’s a great article in here about Benedita da Silva, the first Afro-Brazilian woman to hold the rank of senator in her country.

#1: Can you imagine living in a world where the color of your skin, or your sex made you less than equal?

Leader: It was magazines like this one that helped us limit the impact of sexism and racism—but, we’re still not there yet.

#2: Hey, let me read that.

#5: Get your own copy.

#2: What do you mean get my own copy? That’s the *only* copy! It’s not like I can just run out and get a subscription for only \$18.00 a year.

#1: Amazing! Why that means it was only \$3 per issue, including the Bible study and postage!

#4: What’s postage?

Leader: All right, let’s get back to work. I want each of you to take one of these other issues for further study.

(*Exit*)

Horizons Skit #3

This scene takes place on the final day of the PW Interplanetary Exchange 2761. It is late afternoon.

Leader: It has been a great 10 days. I hope you have all gotten as much out of this interplanetary exchange as I have. Would anyone care to share her reflections?

#3: I find that going back in human history has really helped me to realize that God's plans are eternal. That we deal with some of the same issues as our sisters in 2006.

#4: Yes, I found this ancient issue of *Horizons* magazine for instance. It's from July/August 2004 and there is an article about living an "authentic life." Aren't we still trying to accomplish that today in 2761?

#1: Absolutely. The more things change, the more they are the same. They had poverty and oppression and we still face those types of challenges; it may not be quite as universally desperate. But, for those in need it is just as immediate.

#2: And PW is still here. Still working to identify and address those needs.

#6: (*Enters carrying a box*) Look what I found in the Great Room excavation. It's a box of T-shirts from the 2006 Gathering. They were mislabeled and sent to the wrong booth. They must have been put in a corner and forgotten. (*Hands out T-shirts*). I also found this (*holds up toilet seat**) I have no idea what it is, but it might make a nice picture frame.

#5: (*Having put on T-shirt*) I feel like I'm really in communion with those sisters of six hundred years ago. I really feel now that we are carrying on the tradition.

Leader: That's great. Does anyone have ideas for itinerating with your constituents over the next two years?

#1: I thought I might use the format of *Horizons* as a starting point. I think "Mosaic" particularly lends itself to a neural-holographic presentation.

#3: Oh, not another neural-holographic presentation.

#4: Can't anybody communicate anymore without using neural-holographics?

#1: I've got it! Let's do something completely original.

#6: Like what?

#1: I've just learned about this really cool technology that was contemporary in 2006 . . . it was called Power Point!

#3: I love it. We'll all do Power Point displays. The women will go crazy for it.

Leader: Wonderful idea. This is really a creative group. Now, before we all teleport home—do you all know the theme for the 2762 annual Bible study?

#6: I know the congregational administrator has ordered it, but I can't remember . . .

#2: It's *Genesis*, right?

Leader: Right. *Genesis*: Where did we come from, where are we going?

#1: Well, I know where I'm going as soon as I get home . . . to the office.

#4: I know it. I feel like I never have any free time. These four-hour work weeks are brutal.

Leader: All right, let's have a word of prayer together before we go. Creator God, maker of all things and eternal motivator, thank you for the opportunities we have had over the past ten days to learn about our sisters and brothers who came before us; thank you for lighting our journey as we go forward and prepare to pass the torch to future generations. Amen.

#3: Let's all give a big thank you to our Leader, who arranged the paperwork, stasis chambers, and those gourmet food pellets.

#4: I think I've gained ten pounds . . .

Leader: Thank you all again. Traveling mercies to you all, and be sure to transmit your coordinates once you have arrived so I know you got there safely. (*Everyone exits except the Leader and #3*).

#3: [Looking at the heads up display in her visor] There's [name], and [name], [name], [name], and [name] . . . everyone is home safe and sound. Wow! Great job, [name]. Everything went off like a perfectly calibrated chronometer.

Leader: Yeah, this one was pretty easy. Three years from now it's an interplanetary exchange to the colony on Pluto. I hate to think about the data input that's going to require.

#3: I'm too tired to think about it, I'm heading home. Home to Nome. Bye! (*Exits*)

Leader: Whew! She's home safely. [*Beat*] Goodnight Mrs. Calibash, wherever you are! (*Exits*)

*Note: Toilet seat can be replaced with any available item—*Horizons* trifold display, etc.