

In the Park

By Alan R. Hergert

Overview: Evangelism can be difficult. Programs may make it more effective... then again maybe not...

Time: 4-5 minutes

Characters: Tony – common everyday guy
Mike – common everyday guy

Props: Bench
2 note pads – 2 pencils

Costumes: Modern casual clothes

Lighting: General lighting.

Sound: Two wireless lapel mics.

Scene opens with bench center stage with Tony and Mike on opposite ends of the bench looking away from the bench with pads and pencils in hand...

Both circle the bench on opposite sides looking away from the other. They are trying to avoid contact with other humans...

When they get to opposite side of the bench, they both sit... take one more look around... they slowly turn and are startled when they see each other...

Both jump up... They are both awkward as if they want to be somewhere else...

Tony: I'm sorry... I didn't notice you sitting here.

Mike: Oh... I didn't see you either... *(Motions for Tony to sit)* Please, sit down...
(Pause... Tony and Mike look are while ignoring the other...)

Tony: Nice day today...

Mike: Yeah, very nice day... *(Pause)* Nice day to be here in the park...

Tony: Yeah... real nice day... A lot of people here...

Mike: Yes... A lot of people. *(Another awkward pause)*

Tony: You live around here?

Mike: Yes... About 10 blocks east of here... *(Points east)*

Tony: Really? I live about the same distance just west of here... *(Points west)*

Mike: Small world... *(Both turn in... engaging each other)* Hey, have you tried Angelo's Pizzeria yet?

Tony: No... I saw that it was open but haven't had a chance to stop by...

Mike: You really need to... The pizza is great! The atmosphere is wonderful... They even have Italiano music playing in the background... *(Trying to be Italian)*

Tony: Sounds good...

Mike: Their sausage pizza is "to die for", if you know what I mean...

Tony: Really? I can't find a good sausage pizza any where around here... What are the prices like?

Mike: Not bad... You can get a large pizza and pitcher of beer for next to nothing...

Tony: Beer? You drink beer?

Mike *(Sheepishly)* Why no... No I don't... Do you?

Tony: uh... no... but it's a good deal, right?

Mike: Oh, sure... Great deal.....

Tony: Say, my name's Tony... *(Extends hand to Mike)*

Mike: Nice to meet you, Tony... I'm Mike... *(Shakes Tony's hand)* I know what you mean about the sausage pizza. I haven't had a good pizza like Angelo's since I left Chicago. We'd go over to Little Italy...

Tony: *(interrupting)* Chicago? You're from Chicago?

Mike: Born and raised...

Tony: Me too... Where?

Mike: Cottage Grove and 88th...

Tony: No way... We were up off of 83rd and Halstead...

Mike: Small world... What brings you all the way out here?

Tony: Job - got transferred... How 'bout you?

Mike: Same thing... I had to pay the rent, if you know what I mean... So let me ask you a delicate question. *(Things get serious)*

Tony: Shoot...

Mike: You a Cubs fan?

Tony: Well, let me ask you... *(Pause – leans in to Mike)* Is there any other team in baseball? *(Both chuckle)*

Mike: Oh man... You had me going there for a minute... This is too easy...

Tony: Too easy? What's too easy?

Mike: Oh... uh... Nothing... *(Both tense up again – pause)*

Uh... Say, you wouldn't happen to go to church around here, would you?

Tony: Uh... yeah... yeah, I do...

Mike: *(Relieved)* Oh, great... Then you can help me out...

Tony: Sure... What do you need?

Mike: Oh... I'm taking this class, "12 Steps to Effectively Sharing Your Faith...

Tony: ...Without Offending the Non-churched"

Mike: How did you know?

Tony: I'm in the same class at our church... *(Shows him the note pad)*

Mike: So you're out doing your homework too? *(Tony nods and they both laugh)*

Tony: Yeah... "Share you faith with three people you don't know." *(Looking at note pad)* You wanna go first or shall I? *(Both chuckle)*

Mike: Well... Since your story will be about the same as mine, why don't skip it and say we thought about it?

Tony: Sounds good to me... *(Both get up to leave)*

Mike: *(Shakes Tony's hand)* Good to meet you...

Tony: Same here... Always good to hang out with a fellow Cubs fan... Maybe I'll see you at Angelo's...

Mike: Sounds good... *(Both turn to leave in opposite directions)*

Both: *(Making a tally mark on the note pad)* One down, two to go...

Fade to black.