

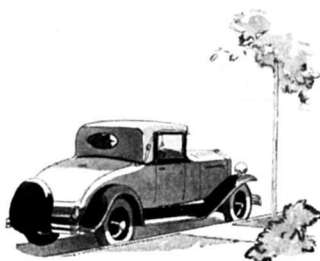


A  
His Company  
Script...

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# A NEW HOPE

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A Musical  
by  
David S. Lampel

Commissioned by  
First Southern Baptist Church,  
Porterville, California

**Actor's Version**

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second sheet**

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## Music Ordering Information

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This *His Company* script has been written to be used with the following music literature:

**Testify: Songs for the Soul-Winning Church** (WORD, 1998); compiled by Mike Speck; arranged by Mike Speck, Lari Goss, and Danny Zaloudik.

**We strongly recommend** that you contact your distributor or WORD MUSIC regarding the availability of choral books, Trax, or studio orchestration before deciding to produce this musical. At this writing, you may contact WORD at 1-888-483-0014.

You may, of course, use this script with music of your own choosing.

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## FDR's Speech

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This musical uses as a dramatic element portions of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural speech. Our source for this speech is *F.D.R. Speaks: An authorized edition of speeches, 1933 to 1945* (Washington Records, Inc., 1960), a set of long-play records. Your local library may have this or another set of FDR's recorded speeches.

If you are unable to obtain a recording of this speech for your use, contact *His Company*, at the address found on the last page of this script, for a cassette copy. We do not charge for any of our resources, but...

**Please note: We will not send this tape unless you include with the request your scheduled performance dates. Do not order this tape while you are still evaluating the script for your use.**

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**The Characters**

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**The Men of the Church**  
(in order of appearance)

Albert  
Henry  
Merril  
Frank  
Sam Richards  
Man #1  
Man #2

**The Women of the Church**  
(in order of appearance)

Inez  
Betty  
Sarah  
Woman #1  
Woman #2  
Wife of Man #2

**Others**  
(in order of appearance)

The Preacher  
County Sheriff (Reuben)  
Cousin Sadie  
Mary Granfield  
Delmar Granfield  
Brother Harold

5

***Time:** late morning on Saturday, March 4, 1933.*  
***Place:** a county park in the rural Midwest. The occasion is the annual church picnic and outdoor worship service.*

10    *Program Note for Audience:*

Once every year the good people of the *All Saint's Community Church* of Alden, Iowa celebrate the approach of spring by combining their weekly worship with a picnic, held in a small county park just outside of town. Ever mindful of the Midwest's intemperate, and unpredictable climate, the townsfolk rally quickly to  
15    take advantage of good weather—no matter where in the week it may occur. That is why this year finds them holding their worship and potluck picnic early on—and on a Saturday: The local radio station's weather forecaster had predicted freezing rain for the Sabbath and several inches of snow beyond, but sunshine and an unseasonable warmth for the day just before.

20

*Lights up on a park clearing—a picnic grove in the Hiram Jeeter Memorial Park, just two miles past the Iowa River dam bridge—which marks the town limits of Alden, Iowa. There are several small picnic tables, well weathered and dark with age, surrounded by a number of gnarled old oak trees, still devoid of leaves.*

25    *Near the edge of the clearing stands a light pole, representing the only source of electricity in the rural park. About waist-high up the pole is an all-weather (covered) outlet.*

*The cast enters, in family groups, from all directions—but mostly through the audience: down all the aisles in the auditorium. One young man (Henry) carries a  
30    large, wooden radio.*

35 *Since they will be sharing a common meal, they bring with them the “potluck” dishes they will be contributing. As most (if not all) of the people gather at the foot of the stage (still on the level with the audience) their pastor (the Preacher) steps Center, as if to welcome them into the park.*

***Cue Trax.** They sing the first 8 bars from the floor, facing Upstage, with their backs to the audience. Some raise their hands. The picture from the audience standpoint is that they are beseeching the Lord’s blessings before entering the picnic area to fellowship.*

40 *At m9, beat 1, the people move upstage into the set, singing to each other; there is general “how-do” activity, organizing the food that has been brought, etc.*

*At m62, on crescendoing 7-beat note, all cast members face out to audience till song cutoff.*

45

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## **When the Holy Ghost Shows Up**

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**Page 16**

**:14 / 3:29**

---

**after... When the Holy Ghost Shows Up**

---

50

*General commotion after song. As things settle down, the older women mostly congregate around the food tables, the youth huddle in their groups, and some of the men congregate around Henry Jones—who is plugging in the radio he brought with him.*

55

**Albert***(good-naturedly)*

Henry, why'd you bring that fool thing out here?

**Henry***(excitedly)*

60 Don't you know, Albert? They're swearin' in the new President today.

**Albert**

That today?

**Henry**

That's right. Didn't want to miss it. Everyone has high hopes for FDR.

65

*As more of the men gather around him, Henry turns on the radio. He fiddles with the tuning knob as the light behind the dial slowly glows into life. The broadcast we hear is of the Oath of Office being recited by Franklin Delano Roosevelt for his first term.*

70 *As Henry finds the station and the Oath begins, the men around him gesture that he's found it. He shushes them.*

[FDR] "I, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, do solemnly swear..."

*As the crowd in Washington applauds and cheers...*

**Frank**

75 *(from the back of the group huddled around the radio)*

Turn it up, Henry. We can't hear it back here.

*Henry turns up the volume as the speech continues.*

[FDR] "...industrial enterprise..."

80 *The men listen intently, soberly nodding in agreement as FDR describes the present dismal conditions in the country.*

[FDR] "...only a foolish optimist can deny the dark realities of the moment."

85 *Sound: fade out, then pause tape*

*While the men continue to listen to the radio, our attention moves to the women as they arrange food upon the picnic tables.*

90 **Inez**

Betty, did you bring another of your raspberry pies this year? Land sakes, you must have put up a lot last year?

**Betty**

*(cheerfully)*

95 The good Lord fills my bushes, Inez, so I gotta pick 'em.

**Inez**

How many years now with Jim gone?

**Betty**

Since '29.

100 **Inez**

*(with a shudder)*

And how we'd like to forget that year!

**Sarah**

Say, where's the Harlan family today?

105 **Inez**

Didn't you hear, Sarah? They're home packing.

*(as if there'd been a death in the family)*

Lost the farm last week.

**Sarah**

110 No!

*Sound: release tape to resume FDR speech*

*The women shake their heads sadly as the sound of the radio comes back up.*

115 [FDR] "...frankly and boldly..."

[FDR] "...have to fear is fear itself. Nameless, unreasoning..." (speech slowly fades out)

*Sound: stop tape*

120 *Henry switches off the radio.*

**Albert**

Well, do you think he'll pull it off?

**Frank**

125 Who?

**Merril**

God?

**Albert**

No, silly. Roosevelt.

130 **Merril**

Same thing.

**Frank**

He can't work miracles.

**Henry**

135 *(to Frank and all)*

Listen, Frank, if anyone can get this country back onto its feet, it's FDR.

**Merril**

Don't be so sure. I say it's a long way from Hyde Park to us poor dirt farmers.

**Henry**

140 Just have a little faith.

**Merril**

What, in a politician?!

**Henry**

No, in our President!

145 **Preacher**

*(scolding good-naturedly)*

Gentlemen! Not today. Not at our picnic.

**Albert**

What do you say, Pastor? Will the 'New Deal' really work?

150 **Merril**

Or will we just keep on building 'Hoovervilles'?



**Preacher**

God gives us our leaders, too. We'll have to trust His judgment.

155

**Albert**

Well, I say those leaders haven't been doing so well lately. The country's in a terrible mess. Couldn't get any worse!

**Preacher**

Albert, God's still here with us.

160

**Albert**

These days I think I'd rather go up and be with Him, 'stead of Him bein' down here with us.

**Henry**

Sure, when things are rough, that's when we want Jesus to return. ☹️

165

**Preacher**

*(chuckling)*

But when things are smooth, we'd just as soon he take His time about it.

**Albert**

I don't care. He can take me outta here any time!

170

*Sound: Cue Trax at icon (☹️) in text above.*

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**Loud Enough to Wake the Dead**


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175

**Page 63**      **:10 / 3:05**

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**after... Loud Enough to Wake the Dead**

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180

*Sound: after an 8 count (shorter, if no audience reaction), cue Trax (Ⓢ) for next song*

185

**Henry***(kidding)*

You're sure it's gonna be better up there, Albert.

**Albert***(laughing)*

190

Brother, my feet are already on their way!

---

**I'll Put On a Crown**

---

**Page 52****:14 / 3:22**

195

---

**after... I'll Put On a Crown**

---

Much laughter and slapping of backs as everyone settles back into their groups.  
Meanwhile, the County Sheriff enters—his sober countenance in marked contrast to  
200 the laughter and easy conversation around him.

**Preacher**

*(happily; still energized by the previous song)*

Well Sheriff! It's good to see you out here! Where's Annabelle?

205

**Sheriff**

*(trying to be friendly, but by the sober expression on his face, clearly has more serious  
things on his mind; acknowledging the preacher, but speaking to all)*

Preacher. Is Sam Richards here today?

*(he and everybody looks around)*

210

Got somethin' for him.

**Sam**

*(with uneasy humor, knowing already what the Sheriff has for him)*

You finally decide to join the church, Sheriff?

**Sheriff**

215

*(they're friends, but trying to be official about it)*

I'm real sorry, Sam. It pains me—but I gotta do it.

*(holds out the folded papers)*

I gotta serve these papers on ya.

*Grumbling from the people.*

220

**Sheriff**

*(acknowledging the sentiments of the people)*

Yeah, I know. I've been puttin' it off long as I can. But the bank says it can't  
wait any longer.

*(sadly)*

225

It's the law. It's just the way it is.

**Preacher**

*(to the Sheriff)*

But not at our picnic, Reuben!

*(quickly reaching for something from one of the tables)*

230 Here, have a sandwich—some cookies, a piece of cake...

**Sheriff**

I hate it as much as you, Preacher. But it's gotta be done.

*(handing the papers to Sam)*

235 They're givin' you three days, Sam—to come up with the mortgage or vacate the premises.

*Sam stares down at the paper in his hand; the Sheriff turns to go, but then turns back.*

**Sheriff**

Real sorry, Sam. ☹️

240 *(pause)*

C'mon, I'll give you a lift into town.

**Sam**

*(to the Preacher)*

What am I going to tell Myla?

245 *The preacher comforts Sam and they exit together as intro plays.*

---

**Then Came the Morning**

---

**Page 88**      **:19 / 5:25**

250 *The Preacher reenters at some point during song (depending on whether he sings or not).*

---

**after... Then Came the Morning**


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Even after the positive declaration of the previous song, there is a marked change in the mood of the event once the song has ended. The atmosphere has been changed  
 255 by Sam Richards' sad departure—as if all the vitality and joy of the day have been drawn away with his leaving. Companions are loathe to look each other in the face; some of the men just sit and stare into space, imagining the same thing happening to them and their families. Even the pastor doesn't quite know what to say.  
 260 Cousin Sadie, a slightly-past-middle-aged woman of robust girth stands in the middle of the forlorn crowd, looking around at her friends disbelievingly.

**Cousin Sadie**

*(with vigor)*

Now, c'mon folks. Sure we got hard times. No argument there. And I know  
 265 heaven starts lookin' real sweet when things are lookin' bad down here. But listen folks, there's no reason in the world to be thinkin' all's lost. You think the Lord don't see what's goin' on down here? You think His hand ain't in it? Why, I remember the old days when things were really tough.

*(those listening raise their eyes: 'here we go again')*

270 My stars, we were lucky to even get supper before bed. We'd have to trudge a good fifty mile through snow up to here just to get to school. Why, this is nothin'.

*(more seriously)*

Now listen, don't you go lookin' for no easy excuse to stop singin' His praise.  
 275 The Lord's still on our side. He's still here with us. ☹ So when those blues start gettin' to ya, you just think of Jesus lookin' down from above. He's still takin' care of us—and if we only trust in Him, He'll get us through anything comes our way.

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**Nothing is Impossible**


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280 **Page 81**      **:14 / 3:58**

---

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**after... Nothing is Impossible**


---

*Everyone remains quiet as Cousin Sadie continues.*

285

**Cousin Sadie**

Sure, we've all been there, haven't we.

*(looking around)*

Tom, remember when your barn caught fire and the whole town turned out  
 290 to save it? You found friends you never knew you had. And Sarah, when  
 your little Jimmy was late in coming and Frank was over in France fightin' the  
 Kaiser . . . why, you had more midwives than you could handle. Even  
 Pastor—when he first showed up, had no place to stay. We couldn't pay him  
 a lick. I shouldn't, but I tell you, that man was down.

295 *(The pastor nods his head, admitting that she's speaking the truth)*

Friends, Jesus was right there in all of it. And He's still here, workin' through  
 every one of us—through every bit of our troubles.

*(pause, looking around)*

Y'know what we haven't had enough of lately? We haven't had near enough  
 300 of testifyin'. That's right. We ain't had enough of tellin' what the Lord is doin'  
 in our sorry lives.

*(looking around; glaring intimidatingly)*

So who's gonna start 'er off? ☹️

*(she sits down with a dramatic plop)*

305

***Sound: Cue Trax immediately Cousin Sadie is finished (☹️).***

---

**Testify**


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**Page 97**

**:08 / 3:33**

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310

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**after... Testify**

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315 *As the audience and cast are settling down after the song, their spirits improved, before we even hear their words we see Mary and Delmar Granfield arguing with each other. When they can be heard, we hear...*

**Mary**

Go on, Del. You can do it.

**Delmar**

320 Leave me be, woman!

**Mary**

You said you were going to.

**Delmar**

That was yesterday.

325 **Mary**

Go on. Speak your peace before I speak it for you.

**Delmar**

*(embarrassed that everyone's attention is on him by now anyway; reluctantly)*  
It's really no big deal. I just had somethin' I wanted to say, that's all.

330 *(chickening out; turning back to his wife)*

But I don't think so.

*(Mary turns him back around)*

Well, you see, I just got this letter from my cousin—in South Dakota. He says grain there is cheaper than coal—so they're burnin' it in their furnace.

335 Burned it all winter, they did. The county elevator listed corn at minus three cents. Minus three cents a bushel, can you believe it! You gotta pay that there elevator man three cents a bushel just to take it off your hands. Say it don't pay for them to handle it.

*(pause, scratching his head)*

340 Well, it got me to thinkin'. Minus three cents is pretty bankrupt. You're  
scrapin' bottom when things get so bad that you gotta pay some guy to take  
your crop off your hands. Yessir, that's pretty bankrupt.

*(pause; this sort of thing—speaking in public—is really new to him; haltingly)*  
Just like we're bankrupt when we come to the Lord. We got nothin' else. We  
345 come to Him with our pockets turned inside out—nothin' to offer. That's how  
anybody ever came to Him. Nobody ever had nothin' to give to Him. ☹

*(pause; shaking his head)*  
Minus three cents a bushel. We're plumb broke. And just look what He did  
for us anyway.

350

---

**Watch and See**

---

**Page 28           :10 / 3:35**



---

355 **after... Watch and See**

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*Sarah steps out and moves toward old Brother Harold—an elderly, cantankerous, retired preacher.*

360

**Sarah**

Brother Harold! Haven't you got anything to say about all this?

**Harold**

I got plenty to say. But no one asked.

**Preacher**

365 That's never stopped you before.

**Harold**

When a man of God retires God don't turn off his brain.

**Preacher**

*(for instance)*

370 Well, what do you think of our new president?

**Harold**

*(pondering before he answers)*

When all's said and done, I bet you he puts his pants on one leg at a time, just like me.

375

*(pause for reaction)*

But I'll say this for him: he ain't afraid to speak his mind.

**Albert**

But, will he get us out of this depression?

**Harold**

380 Well now, he just might. But it won't be his doin'. Roosevelt's just hangin' around down here like us. I'm with Cousin Sadie; we aren't in charge down here. The great God in heaven's gonna pull us outta this fix we're in—and it's Him that's gonna decide when.

*(pause)*

385 Nobody's lookin' forward to those streets of gold more than this ol' preacher.  
But for the moment, we're here. And we're to be singin' His glory and doin'  
His work while we are.

**Inez**

What you gonna be doin' up there in heaven, Harold?

390

**Harold**

Now we all know I've overstayed my welcome. The good Lord's gettin' ready  
to call me home any day now. And you know what I'm lookin' forward to?  
I've been talkin' to Jesus from way down here all these years. ☹ Yeah, I  
know He's heard every word I've said. But still, it's gonna be glorious talking  
395 to Him in person—lookin' into His eyes, telling Him face to face how much I  
love Him. And I'll never get tired of doin' it.

*Sound: Cue Trax at icon (☹) in text above.*

400

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**Jesus is Coming Medley**

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**Page 41**

**:18 / 5:00**

---

405 **after... Jesus is Coming Medley**

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**Inez**

Well, you're not dead yet, Brother Harold! But you have been around awhile.  
Weren't you one of the original members of our church?

410 **Harold**

Set the front door in place myself, back in '89.

**Inez**

My, and how we've grown since!

**Preacher**

415 It's easy to forget how our church has bound us all together—not the  
building, mind you, but us. We're the church.

**Woman #1**

*(nostalgically)*

Why, I remember the day our little Amy was baptized—

420 **Woman #2**

—and the day the outhouse caught fire!

**Man #1**

*(grinning)*

Remember Pastor Sam and his talking mule?

425 **Man #2**

I helped put the bell up in the belfry . . .

**his Wife**

*(aside)*

Yeah, and the bats have been there ever since!

430

*Everyone laughs loudly, as if preparing to add more recollections, but the Preacher  
steps forward and interrupts.*

435

**Preacher**

*(coming before the people; slightly more formal—his speech should be liberally peppered with ‘amens’ and agreement from the people—especially near the end)*

Now folks, we’ve gathered here today—even as winter’s still with us—to  
 440 welcome the new season with worship and good fellowship. We’re tired of  
 the winter cold, and we’re ready to get this year’s crop into the ground—

*(to Delmar)*

—no matter what we get for it.

*(Delmar acknowledges, agreeing; the Preacher continues)*

445 And I for one can’t wait to get at Sister Edna’s bean casserole!

*(more soberly)*

We’re a stubborn folk that don’t like gettin’ pushed around—no matter who’s  
 doin’ the pushin’. We pray today for this country’s new leader; may he always  
 give a-listen to the ways of the Lord—and may he use all the powers at hand  
 450 to get us outta this fix we’re in.

*(pause)*

But brothers and sisters, we’re here—together—under only one Lord. We  
 may pledge our allegiance to the flag of this land—but we pledge our lives to  
 Jesus Christ the Lord! He’s the one we answer to—and He’s the one who’ll  
 455 get us through the hard times.

Yes, we’re a stubborn folk—and that can be a good thing.

*(with determination; crescendoing in intensity)*

We’re stubborn about helpin’ our neighbors when they need it. We’re  
 stubborn about the line drawn between right and wrong.

460 *(lifting high his well-worn Bible)*

We’re stubborn about this good Book, and the voice of God it holds. Brothers  
 and sisters, we’re especially stubborn about our love for the Lord. ☺ We rise  
 up proudly to declare that we belong to Him—and no one else! We’re a  
 stubborn people who stand for God in a dark and troubled world.

465

**Sound: Cue Trax at icon (☺) in text above.**

---

## **Firmly Committed**

---

**Page 73**

**:14 / 3:22**

470

---

**after... Firmly Committed**

---

475

**Frank***(to the Preacher and all)*

So what are we to do then?

480

**Henry**

Roosevelt painted a pretty grim picture.

**Frank**

How should we live, Pastor, when everything's crumbling around us?

**Sarah**

485 The Harlans lost their farm last week—Sam Richards is packin' right now.

**Frank**

How are we to live with all this goin' on?

**Pastor***(after a beat; kindly, but with firm conviction)*

490 We're to live knowin' that God's not surprised by any of it. We're to live with  
humility, knowin' that we come to him as bankrupt as a newborn babe.  
We're to live our lives comfortable with His decisions, realizin' that He's still  
in control—as He always will be. And we're to live every day down here  
remembering what lies before us. With Jesus Christ in our hearts, we're no  
495 longer tied to this place. We're citizens of a new land, a new future, a new  
hope.

Brothers and sisters, just live each day trusting in the one who gives you  
breath. Live out the gospel without fear or shame.

*(more pointedly)*

500 And when your neighbors come by, lookin' for that same hope that keeps  
your head above the water—you tell 'em. You tell 'em about your Lord. ☹  
You tell 'em about how He's the one got you through those hard times. You

tell 'em that after everything else has been taken away—you still have your Lord. You still have Jesus by your side.

505

*Sound: Cue Trax at icon (☺) in text above.*

---

**Reach the World**

---

510

**Page 108      :14 / 3:51**

---

**after... Reach the World**

---

515

*After the song, the choir and dramatic personnel remain in place while the pastor (the real one) mounts the stage and speaks to the audience of salvation in Christ. He keys off the previous song, of being firmly committed to Christ in everything we do—through good times and hard. He brings into his remarks what the Christian has to look forward to in the hereafter.*

520

*If the pastor extends a formal Invitation, have the pianist vamp quietly on “Firmly Committed.”*

525

*The pastor should close his remarks by describing how the Christian life comes full circle, in that once we come to Christ, we are called to tell others about His saving grace.*

*Pastor ends with prayer.*

*Optional...*

530

*Sound: Cue Trax as pastor leaves the stage.*

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**Testify... reprise**

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**Page 104, pickup to m93**

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*Last Page...*

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