

## The Call

The Call is a script that was originally written for a missions conference. It can be done with live actors or with puppets or a combination of both. The song, Please don't send me to Africa was done using a puppet singing to a Keith Green CD. (We also had animal puppets enter and sing along with the chorus.)

Ralph and Elmer are the main characters. Ralph is not always "with it" but fancies himself a sophisticated gentleman. Elmer, on the other hand, is more of a country bumpkin but much more knowledgeable than you would think.

You will also need 3 girls (or girl puppets) with cell phones or telephones on the stage. There is also a radio talk show host. His callers are never seen. The call letters for his show can be prerecorded or sung live backstage. It doesn't have to be good. We purposely had the "singers" be out of tune on the last letter and the tune was never the same. Have fun with it. There should also be a red phone placed somewhere on the stage. We painted an old phone fluorescent red and put it on a table near center stage. The pizza man is only a voice from backstage.

*(Ralph enters)*

**Ralph:** Elmer, come out here!

**Elmer:** *(Elmer enters)* What is it, Ralph?

**Ralph:** Our show is about to start and just look at all these people who've come to see it!

**Elmer:** Wow! That's great!

**Ralph:** Yessiree! When Ralph and Elmer put on a show the people just pour in, a sell-out crowd, sometimes standing room only, sometimes no ... *(Elmer cuts him off)*

**Elmer:** But Ralph, I don't think these people knew we were coming.

**Ralph:** Of course they knew we were coming and that's why this crowd...

**Elmer:** But Ralph, they're at church. I think they came for the service.

**Ralph:** What? Well, of course they came for the service! Why, Pastor Doug (use your pastor or leader's name) assured me that these folks are well behaved and are anxious to learn more about missions. But I'm sure we were mentioned somewhere.

**Elmer:** I don't think so Ralph.

**Ralph:** Oh... Well then... they're in for a treat. Yessiree, a real treat. We've got singing and ...

**Elmer:** But Ralph. What about the rest of the program?

**Ralph:** What? Oh, we'll leave a little time for that. But now it's time for our show. Ladies and Gentlemen, children of all ages Ralph and Elmer are proud to present "The Call". Our first guests are experts on the call. Marcy, Cindy and Betty Lou. *(applause - Ralph and Elmer exit)*

*(Marcy enters with phone to her ear. A phone rings and Cindy enters with a phone to her ear)*

**Cindy:** Hello.

**Marcy:** Cindy, It's Marcy. You'll never guess what Bobby said.

**Cindy:** You talked to Bobby?

**Marcy:** Well not exactly, but Mary talked to Sue who talked to Erica ...oops it's my call waiting... Hello?

**Betty Lou:** *(enters with phone)* Hi Marcy.

**Marcy:** Betty Lou, I have Cindy on the other line, lets do a 3 way call.

**Betty:** Cool!

**Marcy:** Cindy, Betty Lou's on the phone, we'll do a 3 way call.

**Cindy:** Neato!

**Betty:** Cindy?

**Cindy:** Hi Betty Lou, Marcy was just telling me what Bobby said.

**Betty:** You talked to Bobby?

**Marcy:** No, I talked to Mary who talked to Sue who talked to Erica and Erica's brother Tom said that Bobby told him he might go to the game on Friday night.

**Betty & Cindy:** Ooooh...

**Marcy:** And you'll never guess who he might ask to go with him.

**Betty & Cindy:** Who???

*(Elmer enters with Ralph right behind him)*

**Elmer:** Ralph! This is ridiculous. This has nothing to do with missions.

**Ralph:** Shhh, Elmer. don't you want to find out who Bobby might take to the game.

**Elmer:** No I don't Ralph. I think we should be talking about the call to missions.

**Ralph:** Oh... well... this is a call.

**Elmer:** Ralph!

**Ralph:** Oh all right. Sorry girls, that's all the time we have. Uh...We'll be in touch.

**Marcy:** Just contact our agent. *(girls exit)*

**Ralph:** Next we have a real expert on the call.

**Elmer:** Who's that Ralph, one of our missionaries?

**Ralph:** No,no, no. someone better. Monty Call.

**Elmer:** Monty Call? Who's he?

**Ralph:** He hosts a call-in talk show on ...

**voices:** *(sing)* WCAL

**Elmer:** Oh, no *(shakes head. Elmer and Ralph exit as Monty enters from the other direction)*

**Monty:** Good evening folks. Welcome to "Let's Have a Talk" on ...

**voices:** WCAL

**Monty:** I'm your host Monty Call. Let's hear from our first caller. Ralph from Lancaster. You're on ...

**voices:** WCAL.

**Ralph:** *(Ralph can be offstage as if he's calling in.)* Thanks Monty. I just love your show.

**Monty:** Well thank you Ralph. Now what can we do for you?

**Ralph:** My friend Elmer and I want to know what you think about the call to missions.

**Monty:** The call to missions? UM, Uh.. I think it's a good deal. Thanks for calling. Now for our next caller on ...

**voices:** WCAL *(exit)*

*(Ralph and Elmer enter as Monty exits the other direction)*

**Elmer:** That wasn't very helpful.

**Ralph:** What do you mean? He thinks missions is a good deal.

**Elmer:** *(shakes head)* I don't think you understand what we're here to talk about.

**Ralph:** Why sure I do.

**Elmer:** Ralph, all we've been showing are telephone calls, and what's that red phone doing on the stage.

**Ralph:** This phone? ... Oh, it's the hot line.

**Elmer:** The hot line!

**Ralph:** That's right. It'll be the climax of our show. A call to missions coming right here.

**Elmer:** Ralph, God doesn't call people to missions by calling them on the phone!

**Ralph:** He doesn't?

**Elmer:** No! Sometimes he speaks through other people, like a pastor or missionary and sometimes He calls people to missions through His word. In fact, we're all called to be missionaries.

**Ralph:** We are???

**Elmer:** Why sure. Just listen. Matthew 28:19 says "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(as he reads Ralph stands in shock)*

**Ralph:** Me... a missionary? *(Elmer exits)*

---

*(Ralph sings "Please don't send me to Africa." If your actor can sing, do it "live" or have him lip sync or use a puppet. )*

---

**Elmer:** *(Elmer returns)* But Ralph, you don't go alone.

**Ralph:** I don't?

**Elmer:** No. Acts 1:8 says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. If God calls us to be missionaries overseas He'll be with us just as He's with us when we share the gospel right here in Pennsylvania (use your state or city) with our friends and neighbors.

**Ralph:** So the call to missions is really exciting!

**Elmer:** It sure is.

*(Phone rings. Ralph and Elmer look at each other then at phone)*

**Ralph:** It's the hot line! *(answers)* Hello?

**Voice:** Somebody order a hot anchovy and pineapple pizza?

**Ralph:** Why yes, I did. Bring it on over. *(hangs up - looks embarrassed)* That was the pizza place. I thought I'd get us a little snack for after the show.

**Elmer:** See Ralph, I told you that God speaks to us in many ways, but the telephone isn't one of them.

**Ralph:** I guess you're right Elmer. I need to spend more time reading the Bible, praying and listening to God.

**Elmer:** I'm glad to hear that Ralph. Well that's all for tonight folks.

**Ralph:** Thanks for coming and remember... when God calls, listen and be ready to go.

**Elmer:** Well said, Ralph. *(both exit)*