



Translation Troubles

A Theatrical Reading

Translation Skit

The purpose of this skit is to illustrate some of the difficulties that can arise from speaking with an interpreter. This is best if the actor reads with a thick southern drawl and the translator reads with “struggling English.” Have fun!

Featuring

Reverend I.R. Good – A rip-roaring evangelist

Miss Vera Litrel – The national whose job it is to translate for the preacher

Rev: I feel so good to be with you here today.

Vera: I feel so healthy in being with you today.

Rev: I am from Texas, the Lone Star State.

Vera: This man is from Texas, the state with just one star in the sky.

Rev: I must say that I was nervous flying over here.

Vera: This man was afraid to come here.

Rev: In the Bible, Jesus says, ‘Lo, I am with you always.’ But He didn’t say anything about being with us high up on an airplane.

Vera: It is OK. He just told a dumb joke. So please laugh for him.

Rev: But I’m very excited to be here. I’m just so taken with your country.

Vera: Oh, he is pleased to be here, but it seems that this man is a prisoner of the government... We’ll try to get them to let you return home, brother.

Rev: What? Well, I want to thank you for lunch.

Vera: I would like to thank you for the lunch we have just eaten.

Rev: The Lord knows I really made a pig out of myself!

Vera: God turned me into a swine!

Rev: I must admit that I had a few butterflies about eating your food.

Vera: Oh, it seems to me that our guest, he took some flies into his stomach . . . We are so sorry my brother.

Rev: Oh no. The food was very good. The food was very good.

Vera: You like the flies?

Rev: Oh the food was very good.

Vera: He likes the flies.

Rev: I'm just tickled pink that you shared your food with me.

Vera: But it seems to me that our brother, from eating this food, has developed a rash and has just begun to scratch himself pink.

Rev: I'm especially ecstatic about the topic you've asked me to address today.

Vera: I'm especially elastic about this topic you've asked me to undress today.

Rev: The topic is "How to Get People Involved in a Spiritual Ministry."

Vera: The topic is "How to Get People Involved in Ministering to Spirits."

Rev: Too many people are running around like chickens with their heads cut off.

Vera: Oh, in this man's country there is great persecution. They are just cutting their heads off like chickens . . . We will pray for you, my brother.

Rev: Their testimonies are not worth a hill of beans.

Vera: Their testimonies are not worth a mountain of vegetables.

Rev: Part of the problem is our pastors.

Vera: Part of the problem is our pastors.

Rev: When they preach, they want to knock your socks off.

Vera: When they preach, they want to undress your feet.

Rev: But they are always jumping the gun.

Vera: These pastors are putting a gun down to the ground and jumping over it.

Rev: They're always shooting their mouths off!

Vera: No!!!

Rev: Shooting their mouths off.

Vera: These pastors are taking a gun, putting it to their mouths, and shooting their lips off.

Rev: Many times prayer is left behind.

Vera: Many times prayer follows.

Rev: There is great disorganization in the services.

Vera: The services are run so smoothly.

Rev: Many times people arrive an hour late.

Vera: Many times people come just on time.

Rev: I know how it is to get ready for Sunday services.

Vera: I know how it is to get ready for church on Sunday.

Rev: You try to get ready, and the kids are in the backyard, as filthy as pigs.

Vera: Oh . . . You try to get them ready, and there are some baby goats in the backyard, and they begin to look like pigs.

Rev: You bring them into the house, and put them in the tub.

Vera: You do? . . .when you bring these baby goats into your house, and put them in the tub.

Rev: These kids begin to climb the walls.

Vera: But the baby goats escape.

Rev: Finally, you're ready for church.

Vera: Thank God! Finally you are ready for church.

Rev: You step outside, and it's raining cats and dogs.

Vera: You step outside, and small animals begin to fall from the sky.

Rev: It's just too much for you, and you get mad at your wife and kids.

Vera: It's just too much for you, and you sin against your wife and these baby goats.

Rev: You chew your wife out.

Vera: You begin to bite your wife.

Rev: Finally you get to church, but you're not thinking about God.

Vera: Finally you come to the house of God, but you're not thinking about Him.

Rev: You look over at your wife, and she's trying to smile.

Vera: You look over at your wife, and she's just trying to grin.

Rev: But everyone can tell that you've just chewed her out.

Vera: But everyone can see that blood is just dripping down where you have just bitten her.

Rev: That's not serving God. Give me a break!

Vera: That's not serving God. Hit me in the face!

Rev: That's just a bunch of baloney.

Vera: That's just a sandwich.

Rev: Hello!

Vera: Greetings!

Rev: You need to get on fire for Jesus.

Vera: You need to burn yourself for Jesus.

Rev: But it seems like someone is always there to quench the fire.

Vera: But thank God, somebody comes and puts you out before you burn to death.

Rev: What we need is people with enough guts to fast and pray.

Vera: What we need is you people with the big bellies to fast and pray.

Rev: You need to fast and pray the house down.

Vera: You need to fast and pray until the house of Satan falls down.

Rev: We don't need flaming evangelist in our church.

Vera: We don't need you to burn your evangelist when they come to your church.

Rev: You need to get into the closet of prayer.

Vera: Water closet?

Rev: Yes, closet.

Vera: Go to your toilets and pray.

Rev: Get under the spout until the glory comes out.

Vera: Even if you have to get into the shower and pray, do it.

Rev: If you will follow my words. . .

Vera: If you will talk like I do. . .

Rev: . . . the power of God will sweep over you.

Vera: . . . God will hit you with a broom.

Rev: And you will find yourself spiritually walking in the Promised Land. Glory!

Vera: And you will find yourself dead and gone to heaven.

Rev: Now every word I've spoken tonight is true, and you can find it in the Bible.

Vera: This man believes everything he has taught us tonight is in the Bible.

Rev: I hope someday some of you can come to America and help us as much as I've helped you tonight.

Vera: My brothers, I hope that someday you can come to America and straighten this man's theology out.

Rev: God bless you, and keep on trucking!

Vera: God bless the truck drivers.

Rev: Amen!

Vera: Thank God! He is finished! Amen!