



“I WANNA BE LIKE YOU”

(part 3 of 4 part series)

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST

Joey LaFrance: middle school boy wearing a basketball jersey

Sandy: female friend of Joey’s – puppet

Patrick : male friend of Joey’s – puppet

SETTING: Boy’s bedroom with puppet stage in the background.
There is a big trunk and a pile of stuff in the middle of the floor.

(Joey comes into his room wearing African safari clothes, complete with pith helmet. He opens up a big trunk and starts packing)

JOEY:

(Joey holds up a big winter coat. I probably won't be needing this in Africa. (Thinks for a moment) Well, you never know (tosses coat in the trunk) ... missionaries need to be ready for anything.

(Joey's cell phone rings)

JOEY:

(Joey is startled by the ring and answers nervously) You've got Joey. Is ... is that You, Lord? Oh, hi Patrick. For a minute I thought it might be God calling back. (Pauses while Patrick speaks) No that's okay, we can talk. If God calls while I'm on with you, I have call waiting. So, what time are you coming over? (Joey expresses disappointment) Oh, too bad. Sandy is coming over with Charles the missionary kid. (Pause) Oh, he hates to be called Charles? Well, what should I call him then? BUBBA? You're not goofing on me are you Patrick?(Pause) Okay then, Bubba it is.

(Knock at the door)

That must be them now. I gotta go Patrick. I hope you feel better. Bye.

(As Joey hangs up his cell phone, Sandy and Bubba are entering from the puppet stage)

SANDY:

Hi Joey, that wasn't you know who, was it?

JOEY:

No, it was only Patrick He can't make it tonight because he's got a fever.

SANDY:

Oh too bad. Well, Joey this is Bubba ... our missionary visitor from Botswana, Africa.

JOEY:

Bubba from Botswana. I am so honored to have you as a guest in my house.

BUBBA:

Why thank you Joey. Hey, you can call me Bub. That's what my friends call me.

SANDY:

Joey, what's with the safari outfit and the big trunk? Going someplace?

JOEY:

As a matter of fact, yes, yes I am. I'm off to Africa to be a missionary.

SANDY:

What? Did God tell you to do that?

JOEY:

Well, kind of. He said, "Go and make disciples of every nation"

SANDY:

Joey that's the Great Commission ... it's Jesus' instruction to ALL Christians.

BUB:

Yeah Joey, that's from Matthew 28:19-20. But Jesus, doesn't want EVERYONE to leave home and go to Africa. He needs people to share the Gospel right where they are: in their homes, schools and neighborhoods.

SANDY:

There are so many people right here in town who don't know about Jesus. God wants us to share the Good News about His Son with them.

BUB:

You can be a missionary without leaving home.

JOEY:

Hey Bub, I'm going to Africa to be a missionary and that's final. I can picture it now, (**start music track**, while Joey speaks over the drum beat. Instrumental intro is 15 seconds long) ...the East African savannah, the warm Serengeti breeze, giraffes and even a roaring lion.

(Joey is tapping his foot and shaking his hips to the beat. As Joey describes his fantasy, out pop several animal puppets – a giraffe, a lion, etc. The animals begin to dance around to the drum beat. This is an image in Joey's mind – Sandy and Bubba don't see the animals, but they sure hear the song Joey launches into)

I Wan'na Be Like You (Missionary)

Now I'm not much of a singer
But please listen to my plea
I'm over the top and I can't stop
And that's what's botherin' me
I wanna be a mission-ary
Say good-bye to this town
And spread the Gospel overseas
I'm tired of monkeyin' around!

Oh, oobee doo
I wanna be like you

I wanna walk like you
Talk like you - toooo
You'll see it's true
A kid like meee
Can learn to be a mission-aar-ry

*(Skat time: – instrumental with trumpets (Audio visual person will reduce the CD volume and allow Bubba to speak to Joey while he dances around in his African fantasy world-
Bub has 9 seconds to deliver the next line)*

BUB:

Joey, you don't need to be like me. God made you to be you. You're special and you can be His missionary right here.

(Joey resumes singing)

Now don't try to change my mind, Bub
I'm gettin' real with you
My desire, spread Christ's Empire
Help make my dream come true
Now give me some pointers there, Bub
Come on, show me what to do
Share the pow'r this very hour
So I can be like you
Oh, oooh
I wanna be like you
I wanna walk like you
Talk like you, too
You'll see it's true
Someone like me
Can learn to be
A mission-aar-ry
Can learn to be
Like someone like you
Can learn to be
A mission-aar-ry
(Yeah)

SANDY:

Joey, you've totally lost it. You HAVE gone over the top on this one. I suggest you get on your cell phone and ask God where He wants you to go. You also might want to let your parents know that you're going to Africa. I'm sure they may have something to say about this.

BUB:

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She's right Joey. Anyway, I've got to get home. This certainly has been an evening to remember. I admire your enthusiasm Mr. LaFrance, but please check in again with God and your parents. See you Sunday.

SANDY:

(Shakes her head) What are we gonna do with you Joey? Goodnight.

JOEY:

Goodnight you guys. Bubba, *(pauses)* you da man!

(Sandy and Bubba exit while Joey resumes packing. He grabs his furry hat and tries it on. He shrugs as if unsure whether or not he'll need it in Africa, and tosses it into the trunk)

THE END