



“CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW”

(part 1 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)

Voice of Joey’s mother

Voice of God

SETTING: Boy’s bedroom with puppet stage in the background

(Joey's friends Sandy and Patrick are waiting for him in his room)

PATRICK:

Do you think Joey remembered that it's Missions Week at our church?

SANDY:

What are you kidding? Joey's so into basketball these days, nothing else seems to matter to him. I bet he totally forgot about the missionary kid from Africa who's coming to Youth Group tonight.

PATRICK:

Yeah, ever since Joey made the Middle School basketball team, he's too busy for church stuff ...

SANDY:

And too cool for us.

PATRICK:

I know. He's always missing Youth Group. He quit our Bible study and now he doesn't even go to church because of Sunday morning practice. It's like God isn't even important to him anymore.

SANDY:

Yeah ... and neither are we. I miss Joey.

PATRICK:

Me too. Let's pray for him right now!

SANDY:

Good idea!

PATRICK:

Father, we know that Joey loves you he's just too busy for You and his friends these days. Now we know how You feel Lord, when people blow you off and don't spend time with you. It hurts. Please speak to Joey and let him know that You and his friends miss him.

SANDY:

Lord, please get Joey's attention – somehow. We'll also need a miracle to get him involved with Missions.

PATRICK:

Yes Father, missions week is important. How can we help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for You? Here we are, send us! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

JOEY:

(Enter Joey into his bedroom, bouncing his basketball) ... Charlie Villanueva makes his move to the hole ...

JOEY'S MOM:
(VOICE)

Joseph A. LaFrance, what did I tell you about bouncing your basketball in the house?

JOEY:

Sooor-ry mom!

(Joey finally notices Patrick and Sandy)

JOEY:

Hey, who let you two in?

SANDY:

Gee Joey, nice to see you too *(said sarcastically)*.

PATRICK:

Your mom did. We're here to remind you about Youth Group tonight. That cool missionary kid from Africa will be there.

JOEY:

Sorry boys ... *(cut off by Sandy clearing her throat)*

SANDY:

Ahem! Do I look like a boy to you?

JOEY:

It's just an expression Sandy, lighten up. Youth Group? No way Jose! Tonight nothing on earth is going to get me away from this television set *(points to his T.V.)* and my UCONN Huskies.

PATRICK:

But Joey, this missionary kid has lived in countries like Botswana, Kenya and the Congo. He's got great stories to tell about his family's adventures and how they're reaching people for Jesus.

SANDY:

Who knows, it may even encourage you to become a missionary yourself.

JOEY:

Who me? Yeah, right. I've got just two words to say about that: March Madness. College basketball is all I care about this month. *(Joey clicks on television)* – Shush, the

Huskies are coming on now.

(Joey sits down and watches the game and acts as if his friends are not even in the room)

SANDY:

Come on Patrick, I told you this would be a waste of time.

PATRICK:

Yeah, let's get out of here. See ya around PAL *(said sarcastically)*.

*(Joey ignores them and raises the volume with the remote.
Start audio of basketball game)*

JOEY:

Oh man, the game's starting. This better be important *(answers his phone)*. Hello, you've got Joey. *(Joey's expression goes from annoyance to confusion)*. Hey, who is this? Yeah right *(pauses while the other party speaks to him)* ... What do you mean "Go and make disciples of every nation?" Wait, you're breaking up ... the WHAT Commission? Your signal stinks. Hello? I CAN'T HEEEEEAR YOOOOOU *(sung just like the opening for Sponge Bob Square Pants)*

(Pause)

VOICE OF GOD:

(In a loud, booming voice) CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? *(Pause)*
...GOOD!

JOEY:

(Joey's mouth drops as hears the voice of God. His knees are knocking, his mouth remains open and he is utterly speechless)

GOD:

I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob ... and yes, Joey LaFrance. I shall question you and you shall answer me. Why have you let basketball become more important than Me? *(God's voice then softens)*. I miss you Joey.

(Joey tries to speak, but can't)

GOD:

From here on out, I'll speak to you over your cell phone.

(Joey's cell phone rings)

JOEY:

(With fear and trepidation) Hello. Lord, is that you?

(From here until the end of the scene, the audience only hears Joey's end of the conversation)

JOEY:

Yes, I can hear You now - loud and clear. *(Pause)*

Change my plans ... yes Sir, I mean Lord! *(Pause)*

No Husky hoops tonight – done. *(Clicks off the T.V. with the remote).*

Go and make disciples. *(Pause)*

Who me? *(Long pause).*

Anything else Lord? *(Pause)*

Yes, I'll apologize to Sandy and Patrick. *(Pause)*

Goodbye to You too Lord.

(Joey clicks off the cell phone and mouths, "Wow")

JOEY:

Hey mom, can you take me to Youth Group please?

MOM:

What and miss your Huskies?

JOEY:

Change of plans mom. Sometimes a kid's gotta do what a kid's gotta do.

THE END