



THE NATIONS  
a play by Jonathan Hogue

## SETTING

A foreign country.

Might be inside some sort of rural church, or school, or common space.

Maybe all of those things.

Present day.

## CHARACTERS

DANIEL. Male, 26.

GRACE. Female, 23.

JESSE. Male, 27.

KENDALL. Female, 29.

REBECCA. Female, 26.

SHANE. Male, 24.

## NOTES ON DIALOGUE

A “—” at the beginning or end of a line indicates an interruption.

A “—” in the middle of a character’s line indicates a rapid shift in thought.

An isolated “...” indicates a silence—a waiting for “something”.

A sentence without beginning capitalization is an uncertain thought.

A sentence without ending punctuation is an incomplete thought.

## NOTES ON PRODUCTION

These characters are real people, not caricatures. They carry dynamic inner lives, some of which may present itself wordlessly within scenes. How one presents is not always who one is.

It is insufferably hot at all times. The characters should be fanning themselves / wiping sweat / shaking their shirts out throughout the play.

It is preferred that characters do not leave the stage until their exits in the final scene. Any changes of location should be indicated by lighting.

At no point should any visual or audial design indicate a region or country in which this play might take place. It is ambiguous for a reason.

Silence is a character in this play. Let it take stage when welcome.



*Lights up on a foreign country.*

*It's not clear which. It doesn't really matter. What matters is that it is somewhere decrepit, dirty, and definitely not America.*

*This is a room of some sort. Could be a church. Or a classroom. Or a community space. Maybe all of those things. Either way, it remains blank and neutral, waiting for someone to tell it what it should be.*

*A vortex of disparate atmospheric sounds blares loudly and chaotically. It is a cacophony of singing/chanting/wailing, possibly in many different languages, though none identifiable. It should feel ominous and disorienting, a feeling of culture shock.*

*Enter six young Christian missionaries wearing large travelers' backpacks. They are dressed in worn, faded, loose clothing – a mish-mash of different cultural garbs, likely not matching. Rugged, in a trendy bohemian/granola sort of way (that may be put-on).*

*They each unpack their overstuffed backpacks, claiming separate sides respective to gender by situating their worldly items—mattress pads, sleeping bags, travel pillows, books, etc—in the upper corners of the room.*

*Once settled, REBECCA, the team leader, pulls out a small Bluetooth speaker and places it in the middle of the room. The young missionaries find their own isolated spot in the room and sit quietly, waiting. She returns to her space, presses play on her iPhone, and closes her eyes. The foreign noises cease.*

*Lights change.*

*A song plays from the small Bluetooth speaker - a Christian worship song, soothing but empowering. Something about overcoming fear or walking on water or God is stronger. It is tinny and not very loud.*

*The song plays for a few minutes. During this time, each character responds to the music in their own ways:*

*JESSE is seated upwards, rocking back and forth.*

*GRACE sits hunched over, silently praying.*

*SHANE is lying down on his back.*

*REBECCA sits straight, at various moments praying "Jesus" over and over in a whisper.*

*KENDALL sits hunched over, palms out, quietly whispering short prayer responses to lyrics (i.e. “Yes Papa / Yes God / You’re Beautiful Jesus / Mmmm”).*

*DANIEL sits still, facing out, silently mouthing something in tongues.*

*The song begins to fade out.*

*DANIEL opens his eyes, thinking. Or listening.*

*REBECCA fades in.*

REBECCA

We love you Jesus.

Mmmmmm.

We love you Papa.

There is no one like you God.

We are your Kingdom Keepers. We are your lights. We are your servants.

We are here to do Your will.

We love you.

We love you.

We *love you*.

Mmmmmm.

...

Amen.

*The group breathes out, nods in completion.*

Phoooooooo.

That was good.

Wow. Thank you Lord.

Okay.

...

I just... You know, sometimes your brain just feels so *chaotic*, like... everything is jumbled together and confusing and whatever but—but I love that when things feel uncomfortable and complicated and messy, I can just... I don’t have to carry that.

I can just let it go. Just sit at His feet, and let Him talk. His voice is so clear.

It’s all about Jesus.

Hmmmmm.

It doesn’t have to be messy or complicated.

It’s all about Jesus.

...

*Not sure how to transition:*

So. Ummm...

Let's meet in the middle?

Is that okay?

*REBECCA grabs her Bluetooth speaker from the middle of the room and turns it off. The rest gather to the center of the room.*

Alright, Happys and Crappys?

Anybody want to....?

KENDALL

I can go.

So my happy for today was our kickball game with the kids—like omigod stab me with a knife, so cute—like when that little kid, whatshisname, the—with the Pokémon t-shirt and no shoes—

REBECCA

—Oh my gosh YES Pokémon kid!—

KENDALL

—when he kicked the home run. He was so proud. Omigod I died.

And ummm... my crappy was... uhhh probably the heat and feeling kind of exhausted. Yeah.

REBECCA

That's good. Totally one of my happies too.

Grace?

GRACE (weakly)

my happy was seeing all the kids during recess....

i got some really good photos of them so...

i'll probably put them on my Facebook tonight...

and my crappy is.... that I think I have like a stomach bug or something...

KENDALL

—NOOOOO—

REBECCA

—OH GRACE—

GRACE

it's okay I have my antibiotic drink...

i'll probably go to bed after this...

so...

REBECCA

I guess we can just go around the circle.

Shane?

SHANE (short)

my crappy is that it's super hot and my happy was kickball.

...

REBECCA

...Cool, thanks Shane.

JESSE

Ummmm yeah my happy was probably kickball with the kids... and uhhh I also found these really good cheese sandwich things at the market.

KENDALL

Wait, you found cheese??

JESSE

Yeah, sort of. I think it's cheese. Anyway, I will definitely be getting those every day...

And crappy was for sure the heat and also just being kind of tired all day.

REBECCA

Yeah it was hot today. A good reminder to keep drinking water!

Dan?

DANIEL

Yeah. Umm.

So...

I guess my happy was seeing how everyone jumped into worship this morning with the kids. I was definitely feeling out of it, but it was cool to see how everyone kind of found their spot and did all the motions anyway. Even though it was hot and we were all super tired and everything.



JESSE

Oh I'm changing mine. My crappy was definitely doing Baby Shark four times in a row.

DANIEL

Yeah that was brutal.

Ummm so then my crappy...

umm

i don't know.

...

i guess I've just been feeling kind of like umm

weird

and like tight in my chest these last few days

like ummm

like something has felt kind of...

off.

but i don't know

...

it's probably the heat

...

i don't know

yeah.

Anyways.

REBECCA

Yeah well, we can... be praying for ya. I think the heat index was like a hundred and six today!

Not about that life. Haha.

So my happy is definitely worship this morning, too—I'm glad you mentioned that Dan—and I was gonna say that I'm super proud of this team for jumping in and being Jesus for these kids. I know kids ministry isn't everyone's favorite thing but... it's cool to see how God uses you when you just say "yes" to what He puts in front of you. Like Jesse: thanks for jumping in with guitar, man—I don't know if you had practiced that song before, but you totally rocked it. And Shane: you were killing me with your moves dude—the kids loved watching you. And, you know, Dan: you're just always on top of it, you have such great energy. And Grace: you got some great pictures of the team, I can't wait to see those. And Kendall: you are just so great with the little girls—you really make them feel special.



KENDALL

Awww thanks.

REBECCA

Yeah, so that was my happy. Super proud moment. Go team!

And ummmm my crappy was probably yeah just feeling tired but I feel so much better after worship time so that's awesome. Yay.

Anyway, some announcements.

Tomorrow is Thursday, so our big group rotation is...

*She pulls out her phone.*

Dan on crafts.

Grace on music.

I'm on activities.

Kendall on story.

Jesse on snacks.

Shane on clean up.

So if everyone's cool, we should be good to go on that.

Oh also! I guess before we end I should remind you all that today is a super special day because...

*She makes her own drumroll sound.*

Today we hit the six-month mark of our trip! Woohoo!

*Some quiet cheers.*

I guess that's kind of unceremonious—I was gonna get us a cake or something but apparently there are no cakes, anywhere, so... yeah! Pretty amazing. Maybe we can do something fun to celebrate soon! I don't know. We should definitely do something!

Anyway, very proud of us. I know some days can be exhausting, but let's keep pressing in to see what God has for us in these final three months. I know He still has big plans for us here. I'm believing for *more*.

Alright. Any prayer requests?

...

We can pray for Grace that she gets over this sickness.

GRACE

thanks

REBECCA

And energy. And focus.  
Dan, can you close us?

DANIEL

Sure.

*They each get in a resting position to pray.*

Father God.

Thank you for...

...

Thank you for *faith*.

For the legacy of faith.

Thank you for the two-thousand years of people who carried Your Name like a torch across generations. For the brave missionaries who abandoned all their worldly comforts just to move here and plant the seeds that we get to sow today.

...

Thank you that their work done in faith still lives on in us. That we now get to carry your torch to the nations.

Thank you for the last six months and everything you have done here.

Even the stuff that we can't see.

...

Please bring healing to Grace's body, and protect us from the work of the enemy.

...

Show us the way, Lord.

We need your truth.

In your name.

REBECCA, DANIEL

Amen.

REBECCA

Thanks Dan. Thanks guys. That's it for tonight.

*The team disperses slowly to their respective corners.*

*Alone at the center, DANIEL sits, thinking.*

*He breathes in, and out.*

*His chest tightens.*