

## Quadrennial Presentation for WV Spiritual Life Retreat 2009

This skit was presented to the women of West Virginia during their 2009 Spiritual Life Retreat by Janet Browning. Feel free to adapt this skit as needed and make it “yours.”

I was sitting in my office on the fifth floor of the Acme Building. The fan was whirling around, but it didn't seem to make much difference. It was a really slow, hot June day – June 23, 2010. It was so hot that I was wishing for a case in Alaska, or maybe even the North Pole. Yeah, that would be great – maybe Santa Claus and me could work on a case together. “The Case of the Missing Elf”, or “The True Story of Rudolph's Red Nose.” I'd be famous – me, Sam Lookingfer, World's Greatest Detective.

While I was dreaming of cooler places, someone walked into the office. A man with a concerned look on his face. His visit promised to be the beginning of a fascinating case.

He introduced himself as a Mr. Grant Goodfellow from West Virginia. He said his wife Flo was kidnapped by a group known as the “Quad Rennial”, and he thought they had headed toward Greensboro, North Carolina. North Carolina. Wouldn't you know it? Here I was dreaming of going to the North Pole and instead I'm heading south. This Quad Rennial Gang was new to me, but after finding out some more particulars about his missing wife, I hopped in my car and headed to Greensboro in search of Flo Goodfellow.

After asking around, I found out the gang was holed up in plain view, at a place called **The Sheraton at Four Seasons and Koury Convention Center**. Swanky place, and air conditioned, unlike my office in the Acme Building back home, although I knew from my research that the average June temperature is 74<sup>0</sup> in Greensboro.

I decided to case the joint. There were hundreds of women. Thousands of women! Hey, maybe this is a kidnapping ring instead of just a single case. I might leave here a millionaire! Me, Sam Lookingfer, World's Greatest Detective.

I was seeing yellow. Lots of yellow. Most of the women were carrying around a big, roomy yellow bag. And there was a secret code written on the bags. I knew this was an important clue. I casually asked a woman carrying one of these bags if she knew the secret code on the bag, and she laughed and said it was from **a Congo language, and it meant, “Christians are the light.”** Obviously she wasn't going to tell me the REAL secret code.

I found out who the leader of the Gang is – her name is **Gloria Hernandez**, but they don't call her “boss” or “chief” like most gangsters do. They call her “coordinator.” Whatever they call her, it is obvious she's calling the shots. And they tell me she used to live in West Virginia. Fishy – that's where my client, Mr. Goodfellow is from. I went looking for more clues.

Right across the parking lot from the Convention Center was a shopping mall called the **Four Seasons Town Center**. It had three levels of stores. The anchor stores were Belk, Dillard's, and JC Penney. I checked Mrs. Goodfellow's credit cards and, sure enough, she had been a shopper at several of these local stores. From the totals, I'd say Mrs. Goodfellow loves to shop. That could be an important clue.

There were men associated with this Quad Rennial Gang, but they seemed to be going in all kinds of directions. Some were carrying around bags full of long sticks and little white, dimpled balls, and using words like “Bryan Park” and “18 holes.” Others were talking about

grasshoppers – the Greensboro Grasshoppers. These men spoke of runs, hits, and errors. Sounds dangerous. Still others spoke of getting with a man named Richard Petty for something called NASCAR, and mentioned a National Military Park. These men looked like they were having a great time, but my search was for Mrs. Goodfellow, so I didn't pursue these leads.

Back at the Convention Center I looked at a book one of the ladies had dropped. It had a schedule. Now we're getting somewhere! Singing, praying, worship, skits, fun! This Quad Rennial Gang knows how to put on a good party. Study, worship, mission. "Awake! Awake!" is the theme, and the theme song is called "Awaken to the Presence." Interest groups. Lots of subjects. Every woman here should be able to find lots of things to do.

I decided to check my email and Facebook, and guess what I found: the gang has a Facebook page! I saw pictures of some of the perps, and got to read some of their plans. And I found out there is a link to Facebook from the Quad Rennial home page. Yes – they even have a home page! This gang is not so secret...

I worked up the courage to ask about Mrs. Goodfellow at the registration desk. They wouldn't tell me if she was there, but said I could leave a message on the message board if I wanted to contact anyone. So that's what I did – I wrote a message for Mrs. Goodfellow and asked her to contact me because her husband was worried about her.

It wasn't long before she was calling my cell phone. Mrs. Flo Goodfellow told me she was there of her own free will, that she hadn't been kidnapped. None of these women had. She said Quadrennial wasn't a gang, but it was a haven held every four years where Christian women could come together and be church. And she said she was having the time of her life. Quadrennial was going to last five days in all, and Mrs. Goodfellow said her husband was welcome to join her and to bring the kids – there's child care as well as activities for Mr. Goodfellow to enjoy.

So Mr. & Mrs. Goodfellow's family will be having a great time vacationing in North Carolina and experiencing Quadrennial.

If you would like to join with the thousands of Disciple women (and some of their families) for this time of spiritual renewal and fun, start planning for it now. The cost is \$375 for your registration. Rooms cost \$122 (plus tax) per night. Registration is going on now. It's a five-day experience you'll remember for years to come. And there's no mystery about that.