

Fred Simpton Summer Missionary

by Tim Nimigan 1979?

Dramatis Personae:

Harry and Mary Missionary
Fred Simpton
The Housekeeper

Two groups of tourists
The voice of God

Scene One

Setting: The airport. Through one window planes may be viewed as they land. Through the other, disembarking passengers may be seen. Harry and Mary Missionary are looking through the first one.

Action:

Harry and Mary are discussing the imminent arrival of Fred Simpton, who is coming to their (unidentified) country as a summer missionary. However, they don't know how they will recognize him, as the Mission didn't send them a picture. When the right plane lands, they watch as the passengers disembark. Harry remarks that he thinks he can recognize Fred after all, as he has spotted him. Mary can't understand how. Harry tells her to be patient and she'll see.

One group of tourists enters. Amongst them is one that Mary thinks could be Fred. Harry is sure that he is yet to come.

A few other tourists entered, followed by Fred who is wearing (if possible) safari shorts, a pith helmet, sunglasses, an expensive camera, a canteen, boots and is carrying a huge ("gila") Bible and a spear or a gun. Harry approaches to shake hands.

Harry: Fred? Fred Simpton?

Fred: Why, yes, but ... how'd you know it was me?

Scene Two

Setting: The Missionarys' car, made up of four chairs facing the audience.

Action:

The trio approaches the car. Fred is surprised, because it's a nice car. He sits in the back, but sits forward to stick his face between the couple as he gawks around and asks questions. He notices the car has a radio, but doesn't want it on because he doesn't want to hear any jungle music. He asks where their home is and laughs when they answer "the suburbs". However, they're not kidding. When Harry has to slam on the brakes causing the two front seats to tip forward, Fred notices how much traffic there is. He asks how many people live in the town. "Oh, about 9 and a half million." Harry replies. Fred then asks if their home is a grass hut. He is told that it's much like the ones he sees now. He is astounded, especially when they pull up their two story house with electricity.

Scene Three

Setting: The Missionarys' dining room with table and chairs.

Action:

As they enter, Fred is amazed at the surroundings. Harry seats him, while Mary calls the housekeeper who begins to get supper ready. (If she is young, she and Fred can be pleased to see each other and be eager to be introduced.) Mary introduces the housekeeper who speaks in a foreign language (i.e. not English). Fred is unable to understand. Harry asks him, "You do speak _____, don't you?" "Yes, I took some courses in high school, so I should be able to carry on a conversation, if she speaks slllloooowwlllyyy.

They attempt a conversation, however, it only leaves the housekeeper bewildered and offended. Fred is frustrated and when Harry suggests he take some language courses, Fred asks how long the servant has been working for them. "2 or 3 years." Harry says. Fred asks, "Then why hasn't she learned to speak English yet?"

Harry ignores this remark and says grace. Fred says he slept on the plane and is so hungry he could eat a horse. Harry says he'll have to settle for bat- Bat Curry-the housekeeper's specialty. Fred is somewhat put off and the housekeeper watches him eagerly to see how he'll react. Harry tells him to try the tail end first, as it's more tender. Fred is very hesitant and, when he does eat, he chokes and requests water which Mary gets for him. He turns down dessert, saying that he didn't get much rest on the plane. He says he would like to retire early to his room, which the Missionarys, with some understanding, let him do.

Scene Four

Setting: Fred's room, equipped with bed and his Bible.

Action:

Fred gets in bed, but is soon disturbed by a cockroach, which he tries with disgust to kill. Then he is too hot to sleep, so he tries to read. He flips through his Bible, but slams it shut in frustration Then:

God: Fred

Fred: Yes.

God: Welcome to the Mission Field, Fred.

Fred: (somewhat bitterly) Yeah.

God: My grace is sufficient for you, Fred. (or "I can help you through this, Fred."
(No reply) Fred.

Fred: Yeah, I know.

God: But do you believe it, Fred. (No reply) Fred.

Fred: (with some assurance) Yes, Lord, I believe.

End

This can be used in Missions Chapel. Ask the campers to watch for things that are not the way Fred expects them to be and then take their observations at the end.