

Horizons Skit #1
Who Wants to Be a Presbyterian Woman?
Written by Mary Jorgenson for the 2009 PW Churchwide Gathering

Cast

- Priscilla Witherspoon (“PW”), a well-informed Presbyterian woman who loves to gush about all things *Horizons*
- Phyllis Regis, a television game show host
- Susan Jackson-Dowd (or PW moderator, *Horizons* rep or any other local PW expert)
- Voiceover

Set

- Two chairs facing each other center stage—Phyllis sits in one and Priscilla in the other
- Power Point capabilities helpful, but not necessary (to show questions and choices on screen)

Voiceover: Ladies and gentlemen, it’s once again time for another exciting evening of *Who Wants to be a Presbyterian Woman*—the show where your knowledge pays big dividends. And now, the host of our show—Phyllis Regis!

(Applause; Phyllis rises from her chair to wave a greeting to the audience.)

Phyllis: Welcome everyone. We’ve got a great show for you this evening! So, let’s get started right away and welcome our first contestant—from Louisville, Kentucky, Ms. Priscilla Witherspoon.

PW: Thank you, Phyllis. It’s so great to be here on this show, but please, call me “PW”—all my friends do!

Phyllis: Okay, PW. Are you ready for your first question? (*PW nods*). Then let’s start. This question is worth \$3.00. (*Question and answers can be displayed on a screen if PowerPoint is available.*) What is the name of the 2009–2010 *Horizons* Bible study? Is it (A) *Perspectives on Genesis*, (B) *Jubilee: Luke’s Gospel for the Poor*, (C) *Joshua: A Journey of Faith* or (D) *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture*?

PW: Well, that’s quite easy, Phyllis. You see with my annual subscription to *Horizons*, I receive the Bible study every spring! The answer is (C) *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*. That’s my final answer! And I’m so looking forward to starting the study this fall!

Phyllis: The answer is indeed (C) *Joshua*. You’re off to a great start, PW. You’ve won \$3.00. The next question will double your money, to \$6.00. Are you ready? (*PW nods*.)

Okay, for \$6.00: from what church does Charlotte Johnstone relate regular stories and tales? Is it (A) Forbearance Presbyterian Church, (B) First Presbyterian Church (C) Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church or (D) Peachtree Presbyterian?

PW: Well, you know Phyllis, Charlotte Johnstone's regular dispatches in *Horizons* magazine have always been my absolute favorites. I'm so sorry that her last article is this month, but I know the editors at *Horizons* will replace that department with something just as terrific. Of course, any good Presbyterian Woman would know that she's writing about (A) Forbearance. That's my final answer.

Phyllis: Very good, PW. The correct answer is indeed Forbearance, and you now have \$6.00! If you choose to continue, we'll be playing for \$12.00. Are you ready? Remember you still have your three lifelines.

PW: You bet! This is so exciting!

Phyllis: For \$12.00 then, where was the first USA Mission Experience trip? Was it (A) Dallas/Fort Worth, (B) El Paso/Juarez, (C) Houston/ Galveston or (D) Midland/Odessa?

PW: Gosh, this one is tough. I remember there were wonderful articles about this in *Horizons* magazine. I know they went to Texas, but I think I'll have to phone a friend for help on this.

Phyllis: Whom would you like to call?

PW: I would like to call Susan Jackson-Dowd. She's the PW communications coordinator. She knows everything.

Phyllis: Alright; let's call Susan.
(*Sound of phone dialing and ringing.*)

Susan: Hello?

Phyllis: Good evening, Susan. This is Phyllis Regis over at *Who Wants to be a Presbyterian Woman*. Your friend PW is in the hot seat right now, trying for \$12.00. Do you think you can help her out?

Susan: I'll sure try.

PW: Okay, Susan, the question is, where was the first USA Mission experience trip? Was it (A) Dallas/Fort Worth, (B) El Paso/Juarez, (C) Houston/ Galveston or (D) Midland/Odessa?

Susan: Oh, that's easy! It was (B) El Paso/Juarez. We devoted the September/October 2008 issue of *Horizons* magazine to that trip. And PW, if you need to look at some of those articles again, visit the *Horizons* web pages, www.pcusa.org/horizons, and to look at encore issues of the magazine. You can look at any issue, any hour of the day!

PW: Thank you, Susan. I knew you'd have the answer. I'll go with (B) El Paso/Juarez. You know, the women in the PW office are so knowledgeable and helpful. You can actually call their 800 number, and they'll send you free promotional items for your PW gatherings!

Phyllis: That's great to know, PW. And once again, you have the correct answer for \$12.00. Would you like to try again for \$22.00? The questions are getting harder!

PW: Oh, but \$22.00—that's less than \$3.00 away from a subscription to *Horizons* magazine! I have to keep going!

Phyllis: Then, for \$22.00, where can you find an annual installation service for Presbyterian Women? Is it (A) *The Book of Order*, (B) *Presbyterians Today*, (C) *The Presbyterian Outlook* or (D) *Horizons* magazine?

PW: That's an easy \$22.00 question! The answer is (D) *Horizons*. Each year the March/April issue of *Horizons* includes a full installation service for Presbyterian Women. That magazine is so wonderful. They offer a devotion in every issue. My circle uses them all the time! Gosh, I hope that wasn't the next question!

Phyllis: Well, PW, once again you are correct. The answer was indeed (D) *Horizons* magazine. We have time for just one more question. For the whole package—\$44.00—are you ready?

PW: Let's do it! \$44.00 is exactly the amount I want to win!

Phyllis: Then, for \$44.00: Each year, *Horizons* magazine releases offering recipients and a dedication service in the January/February issue. Is the offering (A) the Birthday Offering, (B) the Fellowship of the Least Coin, (C) the Thank Offering or (D) Cents-Ability?

PW: Wow, that is a tough one. . . . I know that it is either (A) the Birthday Offering or (C) the Thank Offering. *Horizons* magazine shares so much information, and their dedication services are the best around. But I can't recall which offering is received in the spring/summer. I think I'll need to ask the audience for a little help on this one.

Phyllis: Okay, audience. Let's hear what you have to say. PW knows that it is the offering taken each spring/summer. By your applause, is it the Birthday Offering (*pause*) or the Thank Offering? (*pause*)? It sounds like they think it's the Birthday Offering. What do you say, PW? Do you trust this audience?

PW: Well, I happen to know that this audience is made up of some of the best, most well-informed Presbyterian women there are. So, I'm going to go with their decision—(A) the Birthday Offering.

Phyllis: And you are correct! That is indeed the correct answer, and you've just won \$44.00. Tell us PW, what are you going to do with your winnings?

PW: I know exactly what I'm going to do! \$44.00 is the special price break for a two-year subscription to *Horizons* magazine. Now I can renew my subscription for two years to get the best, award-winning magazine there is!

Phyllis: Great idea, PW. Well, folks, that's all the time we've got this evening. Join us again next week for another episode of *Who Wants to Be a Presbyterian Woman!*

Horizons Skit #2
The Price Is Just Right!
Written by Mary Jorgenson for the 2009 PW Churchwide Gathering

Cast

- Bobbie Barkley, a television game show host
- Martina Luther, contestant #1—a very stoic, proper woman, who talks in a slow monotone voice
- Joan Wesley, contestant #2—a little more enthusiastic and definitely suspicious of PW’s knowledge
- Priscilla Witherspoon (“PW”), contestant #3—a well-informed Presbyterian woman who loves to gush about all things *Horizons*
- Miscellaneous models to showcase the merchandise, or PowerPoint to show images
- Voiceover

Set

- Three podiums—one for each contestant
- Four game show cards with questions on one side, answers on the other
- Poster-size pictures of the merchandise being considered, or a PowerPoint presentation of the merchandise

Voiceover: Ladies and gentleman, it’s time for another exciting evening of prizes, prices and well-informed contestants. And now, your host, the lovely, bubbly, Bobbie Barkley!
(*Enter Bobbie.*)

Bobbie: Thank you, thank you, everyone! Let’s get right to today’s show and introduce our contestants.

Voiceover: First from, Minneapolis, Minnesota—Martina Luther, come on down! (*Martina walks out of the audience, very properly and takes her position at the podium.*) And from New York, New York, Joan Wesley, come on down! (*Joan trots out of the audience—noticeably more enthusiastically than Martina.*) And finally, from Louisville, Kentucky, please welcome Priscilla Witherspoon, “PW,” come on down! (*Priscilla runs out of the audience, excited, giving high-fives to audience members.*)

Bobbie: Well, it’s great to have you three lovely ladies with us this evening. As you know, the object of this game is to get the closest to naming the correct price on the merchandise we present, without going over the price. If you are the closest, you will win that prize! Are we ready?

Martina: Certainly.

Joan: I’m ready.

PW: Let’s go for it! And, please call me “PW”—all my friends do!

Bobbie: Okay, the first item for you to price is a virtual tour of Eastern Europe—an informative trip where you’ll learn more about the native Roma people. (*A model comes onstage, carrying a map of Europe with the Czech Republic, Hungary and Ukraine highlighted; or a highlighted map can be displayed on a screen. The contestants take a few moments to study the prize.*) What do you bid?

Martina: \$3,000.

Joan: \$3,500.

PW: \$24.95.

Bobbie: (*looking surprised*) I’m sorry, PW, did you say \$24.95?

PW: (*firmly*) Yes, \$24.95.

Bobbie: (*turns over her card to find the answer and looks shocked*) And the correct answer is indeed \$24.95. Wow!

Martina: I don’t understand; that just isn’t possible.

PW: It’s simple. I read all about Presbyterian Women’s recent Global Exchange visit to Eastern Europe in *Horizons* magazine. An annual subscription is only \$24.95—and the articles and pictures were so wonderful, it was just like being there!

Bobbie: Well, perhaps, you’ll do better on the next item, Martina. Here it is—a nine-week course on the Old Testament, focusing on the book of *Joshua*. (*A model comes onstage with a large Bible and turns to Joshua.*) You’ll receive a study guide, supplemental materials and award-winning writing. What do you bid, Martina?

Martina: Hmm, that sounds very informative, I’m sure it is being offered by a top-notch seminary, so I’ll bid \$1,200.

Joan: It does sound wonderful . . . but perhaps it is being offered as a special correspondence course . . . so I’m going to bid just \$500.

PW: I’ll bid \$24.95.

Bobbie: Again? Just \$24.95?

PW: Absolutely!

Bobbie: (*turns over card*) And once again, PW is right—the answer is just \$24.95!

Joan: Is she cheating?

PW: Of course not. It's just that my annual subscription to *Horizons* includes the yearly Bible study. The 2009–2010 Bible study is on the book of *Joshua*. And every issue of *Horizons* has a Bible study resource. They make it so easy for my circle to do our monthly Bible study—I've even volunteered to be the leader!

Martina: That's fabulous. Can we continue?

Bobbie: Okay ladies, the next item for you to bid on is a collection of resources—22 volumes in all. You will receive Volume 22! (*Model comes out with a handcart holding file folder boxes, representing the 22 volumes—holds up one box.*) These reference materials offer regular insights into print resources, mission, justice and peace, nurturing your faith and much more. There are award-winning articles on multiculturalism and immigration, as well as regular dispatches from Forbearance church—wherever that is! What do you bid on this package, Martina?

Martina: Well, in Minnesota, I've spent a lot of my winters poring over my 26-volume encyclopedia set, and that cost \$120. So, I'm going to say \$100 for just one volume.

Joan: I think this might be something on CD-ROM, so I'm going to bid \$150.

PW: \$24.95.

Bobbie: Again, with the \$24.95?!

PW: Absolutely!

Bobbie: Well, you're not going to believe this—it is \$24.95. (*Martina lowers her head in disbelief, Joan bangs her head against her podium.*)

PW: Well, I immediately recognized that those are all departments in *Horizons* magazine, the official magazine of Presbyterian Women. This year marks the 22nd year of its publication! You know, ladies, you really *should* consider subscribing. Of course, if you wanted to get an idea of all the wonderful articles and resources that are available, you can visit the *Horizons* web pages, www.pcusa.org/horizons. I know after checking it out, you'll want a subscription of your very own!

Bobbie: That sounds like a great idea, but right now, we have one final item for you to bid on—a three-year subscription to an award-winning magazine. This magazine has been recognized by the Associated Church Press as “Best in Class.” (*Model carries out a large magazine cover with “Award-winning magazine” printed on it.*) Martina?

Martina: \$24.95.

Joan: I'm also going to bid \$24.95.

Bobbie: You ladies seem to be catching on. PW, should I put you down for \$24.95 also?

PW: Well, that's a trick question! This time I'm going to bid \$63.

Bobbie: Well, I don't believe it, but PW has swept the prizes. Her latest is a three-year subscription to *Horizons* magazine! Tell us, PW, why did you change your bid?

PW: Well, Bobbie. You did say that you were offering a three-year subscription to the magazine. My wonderful fellow contestants would have been correct with \$24.95 if they were bidding on a single year subscription. But by signing up for a three-year subscription, you can save \$12.00 over the yearly rate. These days, that kind of savings really adds up! Bobbie, Martina, Joan, I hope you'll all sign up today for your subscription—it's so easy! And I just happen to have subscription cards in my Gathering tote bag!

Bobbie: Thank you and congratulations once again to PW. That's all the time we have tonight. Please join us next week for another exciting episode of *The Price Is Just Right!*

Horizons Skit #3
And the Answer Is
Written by Mary Jorgenson for the 2009 PW Churchwide Gathering

Cast

- Alexa Tribecka, a serious television game show host
- Martina Luther, contestant #1—a very stoic, proper woman, who talks in a slow monotone voice
- Joan Wesley, contestant #2—a little more enthusiastic and definitely suspicious of PW’s knowledge
- Priscilla Witherspoon (“PW”), contestant #3—a well-informed Presbyterian woman who loves to gush about all things *Horizons*
- Voiceover

Set

- Three podiums in a row for the three contestants—each with some kind of noise maker/buzzer
- Two pieces of cardboard and a marker at the third podium
- A single podium for the host
- A chalk- or dry erase board displaying the categories (OR five people to hold up each of the categories OR PowerPoint and screen to display the categories and answers)

Voiceover: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for tuning in tonight for another informative episode of *And the Answer Is*—the game show where we supply the answers and you tell us the questions! And here’s your host—Alexa Tribecka!

Alexa: Thanks and welcome, everyone. Let’s meet our contestants! First, from Minneapolis, Minnesota—Martina Luther! (*Martina steps up to her podium.*) Next, all the way from New York, New York, Joan Wesley! (*Joan steps up to her podium and politely waves.*) And finally from right here in Louisville, Kentucky, Priscilla Witherspoon! (*PW jumps/leaps to her podium and enthusiastically waves at the audience, Martina and Joan.*)

PW: Thank you, Alexa; this is *so* exciting! And, please, call me “PW”—all my friends do!

Alexa: Okay ladies, let’s find out tonight’s categories! They are (*titles flash on screen as they’re read OR person turns over card*) Justice and Peace; Mission Matters; Regular Resources; Favorite Features; and finally, Darn Great Devotions.

Joan, I believe you won the coin toss backstage, so you can pick first—which category do you want to start with?

Joan: Thank you, Alexa. And I want to reiterate, it was *just* a coin toss. You know I don’t condone gambling!

Alexa: Of course—please go ahead, Joan.

Joan: I'll take "Darn Good Devotions" for \$6.

Alexa: And the answer is: This magazine features a devotion on the inside front cover of every issue. (*PW buzzes or rings in first.*) PW?

PW: What is *Horizons* magazine?

Alexa: That is correct! *Horizons* magazine offers devotions in every issue, contributed from all over the world! Go ahead and select the next category, PW.

PW: Thank you, Alexa—I think I'll try "Justice and Peace" for \$6.

Alexa: And the answer is: The acronym ECPAT stands for this. (*Martina buzzes in first.*) Martina?

Martina: What is "Ellen's Cat Pounces At Trees"?

Alexa: Good guess, Martina, but I'm afraid that isn't the question we were looking for. (*PW buzzes in.*) PW?

PW: What is "End Child Prostitution /Pornography And Trafficking"?

Alexa: That is correct, PW. Tell me, how did you know that answer?

PW: Well, I recall an article in *Horizons* magazine about the sexual exploitation of women and children. *Horizons* articles are always so well-written and informative, and each issue explores justice and peace concerns.

Alexa: Well, since you were correct, you get to choose the next category.

PW: Thank you, Alexa. I think I'll try "Regular Resources" for \$6, please.

Alexa: And the answer is "This service recognizes women and their contributions in the church community." (*Martina buzzes first.*) Martina?

Martina: Well, I'm not sure about regular resources, but I'm going with: What are "The 95 Theses by Martin Luther"?

Alexa: Well, Martina, that's an interesting guess, but it isn't what I have here. (*PW buzzes in.*) PW?

PW: What is "Celebrate the Gifts of Women"?

Alexa: Well, once again, PW, you are correct!

PW: You know, every November/December issue of *Horizons* includes a complete liturgy for Presbyterian Women's groups to use for Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. My Presbyterian Women's group used it last year for a gathering—it's always wonderful!

Alexa: That's great to know, PW. Would you like to select the next category?

PW: Thank you, Alexa. I'll take "Favorite Features" for \$6.

Alexa: And the answer is "Where one can find Forbearance Presbyterian Church." (*Joan buzzes in.*)
Joan?

Joan: (*hesitantly*) What is New York City?

Alexa: I'm sorry Joan that is incorrect. (*Martina buzzes in.*) Martina?

Martina: What is Minneapolis, Minnesota?

Alexa: I'm sorry, Martina, but that is also incorrect. (*PW buzzes in*) PW?

PW: What are the pages of *Horizons* magazine?

Alexa: Correct once again!

PW: You know the "Dispatch from Forbearance Presbyterian Church" has been one of my favorite parts of the magazine! But her last column was this month, so I'm going to make sure I get a copy of *Annie, the Kitchen Queen*, so I can continue to enjoy Charlotte's humor.

Alexa: Well, PW, you seem to know a lot of information; it seems that *Horizons* magazine has been a great asset for you.

PW: It sure has—I look forward to every issue. Can we please try "Mission Matters" for \$6?

Alexa: And the answer is: "This organization dispersed funds received from the 2007 Thank Offering totaling more than \$500,000."

PW: (*excitedly raising her hand*) Oh...oh....oh... I know this one!

Alexa: Please remember to use your buzzer. (*PW buzzes in.*) PW?

PW: What is Presbyterian Women?

Alexa: Correct! That is a very impressive total.

Joan: It certainly is. (*Looks at PW.*) Where can I find out more about the organization and its mission offerings?

PW: Why, *Horizons* magazine, of course! The annual Thank Offering information is in every July/August issue, but each issue has important, current information about the mission work of Presbyterian Women.

Alexa: Well, ladies, we've come to the time in our show when we have to wager everything on one final answer. Unfortunately, Joan and Martina, you have failed to earn any money, so you won't be eligible for this round, but PW, you have earned \$36—a clean sweep of all the questions! Our final category is . . . magazines and more! Please record your wager, PW.

(PW writes her wager on a piece of cardboard at her podium.)

And the final answer is: “This award-winning publication for Presbyterian Women is available for just \$24.95 a year, or a discounted rate of \$44 for two years and \$63 for three years.”

(PW writes her answer on second piece of cardboard.)

Let's see what PW has written. Her answer is *(reveals cardboard)* “*Horizons* magazine.” Once again, PW is correct. Let's see how much she wagered. *(Reveals cardboard.)* \$14 which gives her a total for today of \$50! That's wonderful PW, but I'm rather surprised that you didn't wager more.

PW: Well, Alexa, if you do your math, you'll realize that \$50 is just a little more than what I need to order two gift subscriptions to *Horizons* magazine—one for Joan and one for Martina! *(Martina and Joan react.)*

I've discovered that *Horizons* magazine makes a great gift for just about any woman. Gift subscriptions can be ordered online or by calling 866/802-3635! And I'm sure that Joan and Martina will enjoy reading every issue as much as I do!

Alexa: PW, you're quite a woman—or, I should say, quite a Presbyterian Woman! Thank you for being with us today *(turns to audience)* and thanks to all of you for joining us as well. We'll see you next week on *And the Answer Is!*