

CASH FOR CHRIST

By

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ACT I

Scene 1

An office of the church. A minister is seated behind a desk when there is a knock on the door.

MINISTER
Come in.

A dweeby looking guy with glasses enters. His name is Hiram.

HYRAM
Ah, excuse me. Is this the church of self enlightenment and capitalistic nonsense ?

MINISTER
Yes, how can I help you ?

HYRAM
I'd like to join up. please.

MINISTER
Excellent. Have a seat.
The Minister takes out a form.

MINISTER
Name ?

HYRAM
Hiram. Hiram Cushing.

MINISTER
Hiram Cushing. if you don't mind me asking, Hiram what religion were you before ?

HYRAM
I used to be an agnostic but I was never really sure about that so I became a born again atheist.

MINISTER
I see. And you annual income ?

HYRAM
Sorry ?

MINISTER
How much do you earn a year ?

HYRAM
What's that got to do with anything ?

MINISTER
We need to know if you can afford us.

I don't understand.

MINISTER
Eternal Salvation comes at a price you know. And it's

not cheap, so we need to know if your budget can handle it.

HYRAM

How much does it cost ?

MINISTER

Well, our basic package starts at \$300 A month after the initial joining fee of a \$1,000...

HYRAM

A thousand dollars !!!

MINISTER

If you want to be a member of the choir it's \$400 a month.

HYRAM

What !

MINISTER

A volunteer for the monthly cake raffle is \$500

HYRAM

You have to pay to be a volunteer ?

MINISTER

Now, if you want a career in the church that's when it gets a bit pricey.

HYRAM

Who said anything about a career ?

MINISTER

If you want to be a priest. There is a down payment of \$2,000 & a monthly fee of \$750

HYRAM

This is ridiculous

MINISTER

A Bishop will cost you \$1,000 a month.

HYRAM

That's absurd.

MINISTER

And a Cardinal is about \$1,700.

HYRAM

\$1,700 ?

Plus GST. Your compulsory copy of The Book is \$500 and subsequent learning material and accessories will vary according to current market stocks and treasury needs.

HYRAM

Learning Materials? I just want somewhere to prey not get a degree.

MINISTER

So you just want to be a spectator. Well, That will be an attendance fee of \$50 per sermon. Plus tips if you contribute

to the charity box.

HYRAM

What ? his sounds like nothing more then a con.

MINISTER

You should reconsider, sir. The fringe benefits far out way the monthly cost.

HYRAM

What fringe benefits ?

MINISTER

You get to choose the political party that will run the country.