

# Roger Youderian: Reader's Theatre

## Length:

There are two options available:

1. Roger Youderian as a performance (approximately 45 min)
2. Roger Youderian as a Dinner Theatre (approximately 2 hrs) and needs a point person to organize the dinner

## CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Barbara Youderian:	Roger's widow, left with 2 small children
Radio Host:	Host of "Old Time Gospel and Biography Hour"
Men's Quartet:	Singers for the radio show

## Setting:

### Stage and Prop Suggestions

*Time in History*

*1924–1956AD*

*The time is: 1956*

Read the notes on Reader's Theatre that are provided with this script.

(See accompaniments)

Before you design your set, please read the notes on Reader's Theatre, provided with these scripts.

This Reader's Theatre may be performed as a stand-alone, or may be an interactive Dinner Theatre. Barbara is listening to "Old Time Gospel and Biography Hour" on the radio. She is at her kitchen table. Your dinner theatre should be themed with this. Props include a box from which Barbara keeps Roger's letters.

Ideas for the DINNER:

Use long tables, set to eat family-style, and decorate depicting 1956 kitchen.

Dinner may be tuna casserole, jello, white bread. (Anything that would have been served in 1956) Dessert may be pudding and lady finger cookies.

## Dinner Theatre:

A dinner invitation could look like this:

# Barbara Youderian

Respectfully requests your presence  
for dinner and conversation  
at her home

on Saturday, November 7th, at 6pm.

Costuming from the year of our Lord, 1956, is suggested.  
The menu will include tuna casserole, jello, and white bread.

The back door to her kitchen will be open to all  
missionaries, messengers, ministers, and martyrs.

The topic of discussion:  
**GOD'S SOVEREIGN STORY**  
Presented as an interactive Reader's Theatre  
written by Norma Bennett

## SETTING:

Barbara Youderian is in her kitchen (SR). Throughout the drama the kitchen provides the stage business (ironing, having tea, folding laundry, drinking coffee, etc.). There is a radio on the kitchen table, turned toward her. A picture of her husband, Roger, stands in an obvious spot. On the other side of the stage (SL) is the radio studio. The radio host sits at a desk in front of a microphone with a suitable back-drop. A quartet of male singers is grouped around a 50's style microphone CS. They should be nicely dressed. The program proceeds according to how Barbara adjusts the radio in her kitchen. When she turns the volume down on the radio, the program freezes. Lighting can be very helpful in directing the action. Lights dim on Barbara when Host is speaking—lights dim on Host when Barbara is speaking.

## Roger Youderian: Script

*(Barbara comes into the kitchen and begins to tidy up. She is singing to herself. Suggestion:*

*“God Hath Not Promised Skies Always Blue” lyrics by Annie Johnson Flint)*

Barbara: *(Looks at her watch)*

Oh! It's Old Time Gospel and Biography Hour! I'm so glad I haven't missed it.

Roger, if you only knew how much your death has been talked about!

*(Turns on the radio)*

Singers:                    “Standing on the Promises” 1<sup>st</sup> verse

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,

Through eternal ages let his praises ring;

Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,

Standing on the promises of God.

Host: *(singers hum verse while he speaks)*

Welcome to Old Time Gospel and Biography Hour. Time to pour yourself a cup of tea, take your shoes off and find a comfortable chair.

*(Barbara does all these things)*

It's the music you remember from times gone by. The hymns that fired your soul, assured your heart, and gloried in the Saviour. And real-life stories of men and women who loved God and meant to do what He said, no matter what the outcome.

Singers: *(break from hum into singing the chorus)*

Standing, standing,

Standing on the promises of Christ my Saviour;

Standing, standing,

I'm standing on the promises of God.

Barbara: The promises of God! How precious to me are those promises. Where should I be now without them?

Host: *(singers hum verse)*

Tonight's biography is one that some of you may remember. It shocked the world and brought Christians to their knees. January 5, 1956, five American missionaries killed by Auca Indians in the Ecuadorian jungle. They were: Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint, and Roger Youderian.

Singers: (2<sup>nd</sup> verse)

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Host: Old Time Gospel and Biography Hour will return in a moment.

Barbara: *(turns radio down, picks up a picture of Roger)*

The promises of God . . . The promises of God . . .

*(Barbara begins to sing – casually, as a woman does who is alone in her own kitchen. If this song is not known, find one that gives a similar message. May just be said as a poem.)*

“God has not promised skies always blue,  
flower strewn pathways, all my life through.