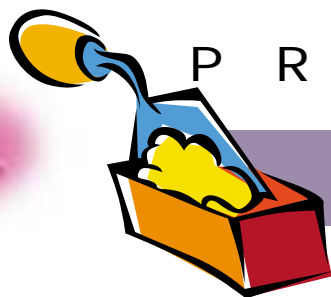


Feb.



P R O M O I D E A S

A L A B A S T E R

## Shoppin' Shirley

These monologues can be performed weekly, starting two weeks prior to Alabaster Offering Sunday. The third monologue is to be presented the day of the offering.

### Monologue 1

Hi! I'm Shoppin' Shirley. I was born with a battle cry... "Charge!"

Spotting fashion trends is my gift, and I'm going to share the hottest fashion tips with you. I'm the Diva of Discounts and the Maven of Markups.

"Shirley," you say, "what's hot and what's not?"

(Hold up Alabaster Box, preferably one of the old designs.) This is **hot!** I went on that show that tells you how valuable your old stuff in the attic is...you know, the collection Aunt Gertie left you and all that. Well, I was sitting next to this gal who thought she might have a Picasso. Sure enough...and you can guess the rest.

When that guy got to me and saw my Alabaster Box, he about swooned! I had to scrape him off the floor! He had to mop his brow before he could speak.

"W-w-where did you get this?" he stammered.

I explained about my collection—how Mama started it for me when I was just a baby and how I had every model of Alabaster Box ever made. Well, long story short, my Alabaster Box was worth twice that Picasso!

He explained that other things, such as paintings and serving trays, are rare and valuable. However, because these boxes were made of cardboard and used to collect coins to build churches, people overlooked their long-term value. They were pitched; sometimes after only one use. The originals became more and more valuable. Why, as of 1999, these babies have brought in more than \$59 million since their original 1949 production.

Now, I wouldn't give you 2 cents for your collections that sit around and gather dust, but these boxes are money magnets; and once circulated, they leave dust and gravel in their wake!

Remember **faith** is in fashion. Start your collection today, and fill them up for Jesus.

Next week, I'll let you in on what rocks in the malls this year and give you a glimpse of the fashion forecast.

Don't you just love some sweat-moppin', purse-drop-pin', eye-poppin' shoppin' like I do?

### Monologue 2

Shoppin' Shirley, here. Some of you have asked about my name. It's biblical, of course! Shirley comes from the last verse of Psalm 23. You know, "Shirley goodness and mercy shall follow me...." My parents loved that verse!

The "Shoppin'" part is easy, too. Remember when the prophet Elisha was having prophet school and their place was too small? He said, "Let's all go down to the Jordan and solve this problem." They all went down to the Jordan and began shopping. Some translations say "chopping" but my parent's Bible said "shopping" and that was good enough for them.

(Show barrettes made from \$50 bills.) Today, I want to share a real find with all you trendsetters. These are my Alabaster Barrettes. **Hot**, huh? I'm not an impulse shopper; I just have natural intuition about what's fabulous fashion. When I saw these barrettes, I knew I had to have them.

The secret of owning Alabaster Barrettes is to give them away. The success Alabaster has will be yours, as you help construct mission buildings around the world.

I am so excited about mission buildings being built, because once there are churches and other buildings, a **mall** can't be far behind! 'Bye!

### Monologue 3

This is the **big day**—the day we place our Alabaster Boxes and Barrettes on...the altar...where else?

As with everything in my life, Jesus is my example. That goes for shopping as well. Yes, Jesus was the Supreme Shopper! Some of you look skeptical. Look in your hymnal. There is a hymn titled "Blessed Redeemer." A redeemer is someone who purchases something and removes it from future sale. Blessed means Happy. Jesus is the Happy Shopper, and I am so glad He is. Daily he finds and purchases lives from sin. He has a willingness to buy, and He certainly has the means to do so. Best of all Jesus doesn't use credit; He paid in advance with His Precious Blood. In fact, He **gives** credit to us when we believe on Him, crediting us with His righteousness.

That Good News should make us **all** happy shoppers and happy givers, too. Children, can you get us started on this shopping celebration?

**Karen Wiegman • Grand Prairie, Texas**