

“Standing on Their Shoulders”

by
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What For a church celebrating an anniversary or kicking off a building fund campaign, this fun skit reminds people that there is great history in their church, and that God continues to use people to build upon it (and His kingdom).

Themes: Church, Anniversary, Celebration, Milestones

Who Mike- Younger male could be late teens/early
Elouise- Older adult

When Present

Wear (Props) Mike is dressed casually
Elouise is dressed like a park ranger. It can be as simple as khaki pants and earth-toned t-shirt with a plain ball cap or hat.
Cell/smart phone
PowerPoint pictures of your church people over the years arranged in advance
Sound- Incoming text ping sound effect

Why Hebrews 12:1

How Keep the dialogue conversational and energetic. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to rehearse with pictures and sound effects. If sound effects aren't possible, simply add in a line, "My phone is buzzing".

Both characters can be played by male or female, just change the names.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

Mike is downstage center acting as if he is standing on something very high in the air—arms out, trying to balance.

Mike: Whoa! It IS high up here! Nose bleed city. Wow look at this view. I can see for miles and miles and...wait! I'm crazy! Why am I not taking a selfie up here?! *(turns the phone towards him, taking the 'selfie', and to self)* Greetings from Shoulder Rock! *(he finishes, pretends to text it out, saying out loud what he's texting)* Hey girl. Check me out. No rope! Out here on the edge! Send *(puts phone away, then looking down at the 'rock')*.

Unbelievable. Like— *(SFX phone incoming text ping. Pulls out phone, reads screen, then starts keying)* I AM being careful. Nothing's going to happen. This rock has been here for years, and no one's fallen off yet. B-T-W, here's that link to the cat riding the monkey video *(laughs, hits 'send', let's phone drop to his side)*. Yep, out here and no limits, no limits! And— *(starts to fall off the 'edge')* Whoa! Whoa!

Elouise: *(rushes in and 'pulls' him from the edge)* Gotcha!

Mike stumbles back.

Mike: Whoa...thank you!! I almost...almost...whoa!

Elouise: My pleasure young man, I—

Mike: Oh, we GOT to re-stage that *(pulls up phone)*. Here *(trying to position Elouise by the edge with him, getting ready for a selfie)*. Grab me again and I'll shoot it!

Elouise: *(not cooperating, pulling them both back away from the edge)* That's enough excitement for now. You have to be careful up here!

Mike: I guess. And thanks, I guess that was close. *(looking her over)* Um, are you like a park ranger or something?

Elouise: I guess you can call me that. I like to maintain order.

Mike: Oh, um, sure.

Elouise: I'm Elouise. And you are?

Mike: Michael. Mike. At mikeydude592.

Elouise: *(confused)* What?

Mike: It's my twitter handle. Yours?

Elouise: Twit-tweet? Like a bird?

Mike: Um, never mind, but glad to meet you.

Elouise: Umm, likewise *(they shake hands; she looks out off stage)* You know Mike... 123...dude person—

Mike: Just Mike.

During Elouise's next line, Mike starts to listen, but then checks his phone and starts texting.

Elouise: Mike. *(slow, thoughtful)* You know, this wasn't always here. This rock. *(insert # of years being celebrated)* years ago it was a mere pebble. Yes, back then *(insert names of founding families/Individuals)* had a vision to take that small pebble and build it into...into *(looking over to Mike)* Are you listening, Michael?

Mike: Um. huh? Sorry. *(shows her the screen)* Check out this picture my friend took of their dinner. Awesome. *(Elouise just gives him a look)* OK, sorry, sorry.

Elouise: *(short)* Thank you. *(turns away from Mike)* As I was saying, over the years, they and the many, many others built upon that small foundation. With sacrifice, dedication, hard work and above all, a strong faith, many things happened

Insert descriptions of any milestones the church has had over the years, like moves, building programs, or other significant events.

God has indeed worked through them all to get to where we are today *(referring to the ground)*. Those people I mentioned earlier? *(proudly)* We are indeed standing on their shoulders. And very content to do so, I might add. *(turns to Mike who is working on his phone again)* Can't you stay off that thing for 5 minutes?! That's the problem with youth today, so caught up in themselves and that...that blasted tweeting machine. Thing!

Mike: *(looks up and looks genuinely hurt)* Wow. Well, if you must know, I was Googling some pictures of the church from the last *(insert #)* years. And I found a bunch, but I guess I'll just delete—

Elouise: No, no, don't! Let me see, let me see!

Elouise runs over, and they both look at screen. In the meantime, there are actual pictures coming up one by one on the stage screens. The church can have some fun showing real pictures from the past and made up ones with come funny commentary.

Mike and Elouise comment on each picture they are 'seeing' on his screen which are really being seen on the big screen. After they are done, Mike puts his phone away and becomes quiet, moving away from Elouise.

Elouise: *(trying to be nice)* Thank you Mike, that was very kind of you to look those up on that, um, internet deal. Thing, *(no reaction)* Mike?

Mike: *(quiet)* Yeah, sure. I guess... I guess I was hurt that you jumped to the conclusion that I was messing around again.

Elouise: *(trying to defend)* Well, after the first time—

Mike: *(holding his hand up)* Okay, yeah, okay, I see. But, well, it got me thinking too. I...um, don't want to be... *(pause)* content.

Elouise: Huh?

Mike: You said you were content to stand on this rock... those shoulders.

Elouise: Well, I am. Just want to savor—

Mike: You know, I came up here to not only see the view, but to look for my own, um, pebble.

Elouise: Your own—?

Mike: I wanted to dream about someone, someday coming up here and having to climb higher, 'cause they are climbing on *my* shoulders, too. I just wanted to test the waters... get out on the edge more. You know?

Elouise: *(soaking in what he said, pause)* Thank you. Michael. I... I caught myself wanting to preserve it all. As a refuge I guess, to great times past. And they *are* great times past we should celebrate.

Mike: Yeah. I get that.

Elouise: But I think I get what you are saying. God always wants us to continually build His kingdom, and not have us hanging around, just admiring the view. *(pause)* Maybe we can... can do this together?

Mike: Sure, and I know I have a lot to learn from you. There's living on the edge and then there's, well, living! Like looking before you leap. Like jumping without a net. Like—

Elouise: I think you've exhausted the metaphor, Michael. *(smiles)* But I get it. *(pause)* Let's find your pebble, Mike, and in the meantime, I'm going to find a new one for me, too. Deal?

Mike: Absolutely! *(they shake, then he looks at his phone again)* It's the video again! Look! The monkey's riding *the cat* now! Awesome!

Elouise: *(she looks, then smiles at him)* Awesome indeed.

Lights out.

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