

ACT 1

In ancient upstate New York, the prophet Mormon, tells how the history of his people was written on sacred golden plates. Buried by his son, they were discovered in 1823 by Joseph Smith: founder of 'the world's fastest growing' religion whose members are popularly known as Mormons.

At the Missionary Training Center in Salt Lake City, novice missionary Elder Kevin Price, demonstrates the Mormon doorbell ringing technique **(Hello!)** to his classmates. Hapless Elder Arnold Cunningham tries in vain to join in. Excitement is high. The elders' mission companions and locations will soon be revealed. As they are paired off and sent to fabulous destinations **(Two by Two)**, Elder Price prays to be sent to his favourite place: Orlando, Florida. To his dismay, he learns his companion is Cunningham and they are being sent to Uganda.

Price and Cunningham say goodbye to their families. Price believes he is destined to do something incredible. Cunningham is just happy to have a best friend. Together, they plan to change the world **(You and Me [But Mostly Me])**.

Arriving in Uganda, Price and Cunningham are robbed by armed militia. Their guide, Mafala Hatimbi, and fellow villagers explain how they deal with the terrible realities of their lives by raising their voices to God **(Hasa Diga Eebowai)**. Nabalungi, Mafala's daughter, takes the new arrivals to meet the other missionaries who, they are shocked to learn, have failed to convert anyone. The head of the mission, McKinley provides some timely advice on dealing with the challenges of life **(Turn It Off)**. Though riddled with self-doubt, Price is reassured by Cunningham that his arrival will have an incredible impact on the lives of the villagers **(I Am Here for You)**.

The next day, despite a spirited effort to get attention with a lively retelling of the story of Joseph Smith **(All-American Prophet)**, the villagers remain mostly unimpressed by the promises of paradise on earth made by the missionaries. Price is equally unimpressed to learn Cunningham has never read The Book of Mormon. The atmosphere turns to fear when the local warlord (aka The General) arrives demanding the circumcision of all female villagers. Hope glimmers though, in the imagination of young Nabalungi, who dreams of the promises of a better life in the Mormons' hometown **(Sal Tlay Ka Sifi)**.

Bad news arrives at the mission. The Mission President has requested a progress report. With no baptisms to report, panic sets in. The situation worsens when Elder Price, having witnessed a cold-blooded murder, announces he wants to leave Africa. Cunningham fails to dissuade his companion and is left forlorn: not only has he lost his partner but also his best friend.

Suddenly, Nabalungi appears, looking for Price. She has convinced her fellow villagers to listen to what the Mormons have to say. Cunningham tells her that Price is gone. "What about you?" she asks. "YOU can lead us." Cunningham summons his courage **(Man Up)**.

ACT 2

Ancient upstate New York (again). Joseph Smith has just discovered the golden plates in his garden. They become the basis for The Book of Mormon – but what is The Book of Mormon ABOUT?

Back in Uganda, Cunningham is having trouble understanding just that; as he tries despondently to inspire the villagers by sharing the stories. As their attention wanes he decides to embellish the sacred text with his own imagination (**Making Things Up Again**). Miraculously it works. His audience is unexpectedly spellbound and filled with hope. But he is torn by guilt. The villagers are happy, but he is lying.

Meanwhile, Price has arrived in Orlando. Or has he? Unable to remember getting there he grasps it's not reality, but a dream (**Spooky Mormon Hell Dream**). Waking from the nightmare (and still very much in Africa), Price admits it was a mistake to want to leave. Cunningham arrives with news he has ten villagers keen to become Mormons. However, he warns the General is still terrorizing the area and they could be too fearful to join. Despite being snubbed by his old friend and companion, Price has a flash of inspiration. He now knows his mission is to confront the General and convert him (**I Believe**).

Nabulungi tells Cunningham of the miraculous effect of his teachings. She asks if the villagers can join the church. He tells her the first step is to be baptised and she asks him whether he will baptise her (**Baptize Me**). As more villagers follow Nabulugi's lead and are baptised, the proud missionaries express their feeling of oneness with Africa (**I Am Africa**).

News of the astonishing success travels fast, but Price, whose own attempts at conversion ended painfully, is not happy. How is it possible that Cunningham gets everything, including a special medal from the Mission President, and he has nothing? In an attempt to appease Price and ensure he gets his medal, Cunningham convinces Price they should pretend to be joint mission companions (as the rule decrees) one last time.

The medal ceremony is interrupted by Nabulungi and the villagers who cheerfully announce they have a surprise for all the Mormons: a play telling the story of Joseph Smith and the first Mormons (**Joseph Smith American Moses**)...which, unfortunately, also includes all Cunningham's embellishments. Incensed by the sacrilegious adaptation of the text the Mormon President shuts down the mission immediately.

Confusion surrounding the reaction, soon turns to anger when the villagers learn Cunningham's stories were built on lies. However, a further moment of inspiration from Price, makes Cunningham realise that although everything was made up, the play miraculously overcame the villagers' fears and unhappiness. Determined to make amends for betraying their trust, Price and Cunningham set off together on a final mission to save the villagers from the General.

Having succeeded Elder Price rallies everyone to work together to make this place their paradise, because after all, they are ALL Latter-day Saints (**Tomorrow is a Latter Day**).