

Dramatic Interpretation: Better with a Buddy

A skit by Amanda Garcia

<End Scene>

This skit is for two actors, one “runner” and one “non-runner.” It is written as two women, but could just as easily be any aged male or female. The names “Natalie” and “Colleen” can be changed to the actual names of the actors from the congregation.

<Natalie jogs across the stage in running gear, running shoes, with a water bottle. She has headphones in her ears.>

<She stops to catch her breath at the edge of the stage and checks her pulse>

<Just then, Colleen, who is gasping for breath, slowly “jogs” to where Natalie is and collapses on the ground>

NATALIE: Colleen! Where did you come from?

COLLEEN: I've been chasing you for three blocks! Didn't you hear me calling?

NATALIE: I'm so sorry, I had my headphones in and didn't hear you. Are you okay?

COLLEEN, still breathing heavily: Yeah, I'm alright. *<She sits up.>* Just trying to catch my breath.

NATALIE: Why were you chasing me? What's going on?

COLLEEN, sitting, still sprawled out on the ground: You know the Week of Compassion offering is this week at church, right? That special offering we do every year to raise money for our partners who provide food and water and shelter and empowerment to displaced people and refugees around the world?

NATALIE: Yeah, I remember hearing about that. So?

COLLEEN: Well, this year all the money is specifically going to help refugees, and people who have been displaced by violence. They asked me to put together a little skit to promote the offering and inspire people to give, and I wondered if you'd give me a hand?

<Natalie extends a hand and helps Colleen to her feet.>

NATALIE: Sure, I guess I could help. What's the theme again?

COLLEEN: It's "Where you go, I will go," so I thought we could maybe do something where I'm an amazing ultra marathoner, and you're my coach and cheer me on and join me as I run across the finish line. Wouldn't that be great? I'm thinking there's ticker tape involved. Maybe a smoke machine.

NATALIE: Sure... that could work. But there's a lot more to running a race than the finish line.

COLLEEN: Okay, okay. I guess I haven't been running in... a while... so why don't you remind me.

NATALIE: Well, for starters, you need plenty of water, so that you don't get dehydrated and your muscles don't cramp.

COLLEEN: Everybody needs water. Especially refugees. *<She grabs Natalie's water bottle and takes a drink.>* A lot of times, they don't have any clean water—or food.

NATALIE: Food is also super important when you're running a race. You need good calories so that you have the energy to go that kind of distance.

COLLEEN: A marathon is more than 26 miles, right? I bet you also need good shoes if you were going that far on foot.

NATALIE: You sure do. I wonder how many refugees have shoes when they're trying to run away from danger and get to a safe place.

COLLEEN: Seriously... *<thinking>* Did you know that refugees are people who have to leave their country because they are being persecuted, just because of their race, or political views, or even their faith?

NATALIE: Yeah, it's awful. And Internally Displaced People are those who don't leave their country, but have to leave their hometowns because of conflict and violence. I think I heard that there were almost 60 million people who were forced to leave their homes for one reason or another in 2015.

COLLEEN: And I bet they all needed shoes, and food, and water... See?! This is why we need to do an amazing skit so people will give to the offering!

NATALIE: I know, I know!

COLLEEN: But what can we do?! *<starts pacing back and forth, scratching her head.>*

NATALIE: You know, *<pondering>* when you're struggling though a really long race, one thing that helps the very most is having a buddy, or a group of buddies. When you're exhausted, and hungry, and thirsty, and you can't see the end, and all you want to do is give up, having other people running with you is really what gets you through.

COLLEEN: Sure, yeah, that makes sense... *<The girls look intently at each other and there's a comedic pause while Natalie waits for Colleen to get it.>* So what's your point?

NATALIE: *<laughing>* The theme is "where you go, I will go," right? Well, maybe doing it *together* is the key. Maybe we can ask people to accompany displaced people and refugees, by giving to the offering. You know, like we're all running the race together, or something?

COLLEEN: Oh, I get it! That's a great idea! *<high five!>*

NATALIE: We better start writing a script.

COLLEEN: Yeah! *<She quickly turns to run off stage but stumbles and loses her balance. Natalie grabs her arm and holds her up.>* Ouch! I think I pulled something.

NATALIE: Just lean on me. Let's do this together. *<Colleen puts her arm around Natalie's shoulders and they walk off stage, Colleen limping slightly.>*

COLLEEN, as they exit: So, do you think we could still get a smoke machine...?