

Teen believes his wit is God-given

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"I am known to bring up topics of conversation and what everyone else is already talking about — it's not even part of it..."

'Spicy' stories

Scotty is active with his school's drama team, and has written many productions that have been used at his school or at the Christian Retreat Center.

Each play he has penned is one of comedy and based on strangely true circumstances.

"Yeah ... I just can't get serious (when I write)."

Even the titles leave audience members scratching their heads.

Among them are "Candy Cane Killer," and "Poison on Hold — A Spicy Story."

"Poison" is a script based on the true story of a boy "dared" to swallow a teaspoon of cinnamon after his prankster friend read that the sweet but very dry spice could actually cause a fatality.

"Um, yeah ... see, that was me ..." Scotty says as he tries to explain the script. "I dared this kid in my class to do this and ... uh ... they actually had to call Poison Control ... and um, well ..." he says with a nervous but humorous tone.

"The Poison Control people actually had put him on hold and while he was on hold I was worried that maybe I had killed my friend ..."

The danger of the consumption was due to the fact the cinnamon was so dry and could soak up all remaining saliva in the mouth cavity, causing choking.

The friend lived and faced no serious effects, and most people at JMS — other than the friends present for the prank — did not know Scotty initiated the crazy idea.

So he elaborated the tale on paper and made a play that had the crowd in stitches — so to speak, of course.

Much of what he writes falls into script form as he uses names followed by colon followed by punch lines. This is something he even uses on Facebook statuses. His family recently grew as he gained a new baby sister, Allyson, who was born in December. A discussion about the baby's name between Scotty and his sister Valerie was one such status:

Me: Oh my word! We should

"Whatever I do I'm going to do it to spread the gospel. For me, I don't do theater for theater's sake ... it's for the sake of telling something."

— Scotty Meiser



have made the baby's middle name "Wonderland"!

Val: "Allyson Wonderland"?
Me: YES!!

Scotty says he gets his desire to write scripts from his dad, Andy, who had been the principal at JMS for many years and had written some dramas for the students to perform.

"I like to write and absorb art — like my dad," he says, adding that he and his dad have very different personalities, and the two mesh well, for which he is very grateful.

He credits his father for exposing him to various arts, including theater and movies.

Scotty's favorite comedian of all time is Victor Borge, the Russian-born pianist who was popular in the 1950s and 1960s.

Wit with worship

Speaking and performing are part of his future plans — no matter what happens, he says.

As he awaits the close of his senior year and tries to determine his career choice, he is certain about his motives.

His tone turns more serious as he says, "Whatever I do I am going to do it to spread the gospel. For me I don't do the-

ater for theater's sake ... it's for the sake of telling something."

Staci Taylor Baker, a former JMS teacher who taught Scotty on the high school level, says she was amused and entertained by Scotty's personality. She also recognized something deeper about the teenager.

She shared a portion of what she had written in a college recommendation letter for Scotty: "Obviously he is intelligent, driven and creative. He is also respectful of God and his fellow man. He is the type of person who is constantly willing to help others, even if it requires self-sacrifice. He possesses compassion and empathy, and this was always obvious as he interacted with new students and made them feel at home."

While sometimes sarcastic remarks from a class clown can

be damaging to peers, Scotty chooses his words very carefully.

"There's a fine line between witty sarcasm and outright cynicism," Scotty remarks, "I don't want to go that way. I love people."

Classmate Mary Beth Barner has been on the receiving end of Scotty's compassion and his humor.

"I know for me, if I'm having a bad day and Scotty notices it, he will say something to cheer me up. Some days at our lunch table we can't stop laughing because the stuff that comes out of his mouth is hilarious!"

Where does this "wit" originate?

"It's obviously God-given," Scotty says. "My brain goes down some weird paths ... I am always thinking."

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