

FINDING YOUR DREAM

By John F. Hall

Years ago, I watched the movie, "The Sound of Music." One song in that movie, "Climb Every Mountain," caught my attention. The song was written by Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rogers. The theme of the song is that young adults must make choices to find their purpose and direction in life. These are some of their lyrics. "Climb every mountain, search high and low, follow every byway, every path you know. Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, 'till you find your dream. A dream that will need all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live..."

Hammerstein and Rogers also wrote the song: "You'll Never Walk Alone." It has a theme that I have felt most of my life and that Christ is walking with me. These are some of their lyrics: "When you walk through a storm hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark. At the end of a storm there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone. You'll never walk alone..." The song has become an anthem to show support for and encouragement to medical staff, first responders, those impacted by, under restrictions or in quarantine because of the coronavirus pandemic. Elvis does an excellent job singing this song.

Young adults in following their dream can be helped by others, but their dream is theirs alone. Song writers Vehnee Saturno and Popsie Saturno wrote the song, "Follow Your Dream." These are some of their lyrics, "People laugh as they stare at you and say she's got no where to go but if they only know your thinkin. Where did I go wrong, how should I go on. In spite of what I see they're losing faith in me. You tell yourself you believe that in every feat it takes a heart to endure all the pains and grief, having the hope to see the best that you can be. Follow your dream, the courage found within. Your soul is keeping you so strong, that you could rise each time you fall. And stand up on your own, this time you won't go wrong. Just give your best to hold your will. Persistently, become the one you've always aimed to be. Got to find your place, where you'll proudly face. The woes that come your way, sometimes it's hard to say. If you can stick to your desire, never lose the fire, that burns up light inside for you to win the fight. You tell yourself to achieve, you must not retreat. Persist the stops and be tough. If you must compete, learning the path of fate, by every road you take. Reaching that peak so high, but you can't describe all you're fears inside. That one day you might be filled with worries. You'll find out in time, every misery meant to make you feel you're stronger to run free."

Finding your dream may also be your pursuit of happiness. This is defined as a fundamental right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence to freely pursue joy and live life in a way that makes you happy, as long as you don't do anything illegal or violate the rights of others. In my situation, my pursuit is in finding the next story to write. I enjoy writing stories that might be beneficial to others. And this pursuit has nothing to do with making money. I give my stories away. Jade, Skyler and Lexie are the first ones to receive my stories in the mail. So I put them in many of the stories that I write. I put a

picture of them with this story. I try to mentor them with my stories. I also put a picture of where I do my writing, on the second floor of my old antebellum farm house.

(Pictured: John F. Hall and Jade).



My son, John gave me the used desk top computer shown in the lower right side of the picture on the floor. It is on a plastic floor mat. On top of the computer is the small one-page scanner. The picture was taken about a year ago when the computer monitor, mouse and keyboard was on the card table. It is now on a wooden desk. I use the card table to cut and paste estimates, invoices and lien wavers

for my son and to write letters to the girls and to friends. I use the laptop to type out the stories and the desktop to scan and email. My writing studio is also the guest room. My



niece, Gabby Hall has been our guests several times, especially at Christmas time. Her family lives in California. On the topic of finding your dream, Gabby was taking flying lessons until the pandemic put hold on that until May 1st. She wants to be a military pilot in the National Guard.

Gabby works in the Pentagon in Washington DC. Due to the

pandemic, she has to work out of her apartment. She texted me and told me that she sent me a long email. It was about her family. At the same that I was sending an email to Gabby, I received a text from my nephew, Ron Hall. He told me that he was laid off in January and thank God his wife is still working. I told him that things will get better. He texted back, "According to God's perfect will." Gabby never met Ron and I texted her that she should contact Ron.

Gabby is Japanese/America and she talked about her mother's family in Japan. I spent six hours in a jet plane in Japan with some kind of maintenance problem before it flew to Travis Air Force base in California. This was back in 1965. I emailed Gabby and wrote, "Very interesting family that you have. It is sad when grandparents die or lose their memory. I'll be 75 in June, still amazed that I am still here." She replied, "Well, I am gonna need you to be around for a long time:) I will give him (Ron) a text in the AM since I guess it's late. I should go to bed. The thing about working from home is my commute to work is a ROLL out of bed and there I am." Gabby met Jade Hakes and Trish Cunningham when we had breakfast at Trish's parent's house. The next time Gabby comes to visit, I will take her to visit Skyler and Lexie Crisp.

I will put one paragraph from Gabby's email to me on April 16, 2020: "I usually do that between 7 and 730. I open my laptop, while it's waking up I do the same by making a pot of coffee. I take muster of a group of Marines by 9 am, then I look at all the email traffic from the last 12 hours. At 10 we have a team meeting. I haven't seen them in over a month, so I do miss them a little bit. A good sign is when you love your job, but also when you love the people. My office is filled with such smart and sharp people and it's the first time in my life I thought oh I like it here. I would like to stay as long as possible! I then work for a few hours...take a lunch break which I was trying to shed a few pounds so it has evolved into a brunch with a second pot of coffee. I work a couple more hours and then I am usually done by 5 or 6. or I will take another break and go back on for a couple of hours after dinner. It really depends on how long the tasks at hand are and how I am feeling, or how urgent something is. Then I always put in my 8+ hours. I end up staying up this late every day because well, I go to bed late, but I also have aviation homework here and there. I can't fly until 1 May so I am trying to finish all the coursework before 1 May. Write you again soon, Love you! Gabby"

The purpose for sharing the email is to point out that Gabby is working to fulfill a dream to get a small plane license and then go after a military plane license. She has aviation homework and she wants to complete her coursework by 1 May. Gabby served eight



years in the Navy on a destroyer. She has a college master degree. Education is usually necessary to achieve a dream. In several of my stories I mention Jesse Stuart; What we have in common is that we were both trained to be teachers. His training was to be a high school teacher. My training was to be a community college teacher. Jesse Stuart wrote," I am firm in my belief that a teacher lives on and on through his students. Good teaching is forever and the teacher is immortal." For most of their young life I have shared my life stories with

Jade, Lexie and Skyler. (Pictured: L to R: Lexie, John and Skyler)

The one lesson that I repeat, directly or indirectly, is that for them to find their dream, it should be found with prayer and faith in Christ. When they walk towards Him there is light. When they walk away from Him there is darkness and despair. Finding your dream is made easier when you walk with the Good Lord.

John F. Hall

*Read other stories by John F. Hall and others at:

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