

SOMEWHERE A PLACE FOR US

By John F. Hall

In my stories, I like to quote from hymn and song writers. I like to use their lyrics and credit their work. I like to use brief pieces by others. Unlike the famous writer, Jesse Stuart, I don't sell my stories. I give them away and Audrey Lambert puts them on her web page. Country singer Alan Jackson wrote in a song: "I know Jesus and I talk to God." I may put the words on paper, but Jesus gives me the inspiration. Jesse Stuart wrote 460 fiction stories. I limit myself to writing only true stories and not figments of my imagination. I plan to write stories until Christ calls me home.



Like Jesse Stuart, writing is an enjoyable part of my day. It makes me feel more alive. I constantly tell my peers to write about their lives and not let their life stories be entombed with them in their graves. I'm not really sure they care to hear that message. I get a lot of joy writing stories and mailing them to Jade, Skyler, Lexie, Trish, Audrey, and Dr. Daniel Butler. My oldest college friend, Mike Herndon is trying to work his way back from a heart attack, heart surgery, and strokes. He is the one that encouraged me to continue to write my stories in posterity for my grandchildren.

In this story I reach back to 1957 to a song written by Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein titled, "Somewhere (There's a Place For Us)," and a recent song written by Carrie Underwood, David Hodges, and Hillary Lindsey titled, "There's a Place for Us." These are just some of the lyrics that Underwood, Hodges, and Lindsey wrote: "There's a place out there for us, more than just a prayer or anything we ever dreamed of. So if you feel like giving up cause you don't fit in down here, fear is crashing in, close your eyes and take my hand. We can be the kings and queens of anything if we believe. It is written in the stars that shine above, a world where you and I belong, where faith and love will keep us strong. Exactly who we are is just enough yes there's a place for us, there's a place for us. (..) meet the sky, where your heart is free and hope comes back to life, where those broken hands are whole again, we will find what we've been waiting for, we were made for so much more we can be the kings and queens of anything if we believe. It's written in the stars that shine above, a world where you and I belong, where faith and love will keep us strong..."

If a person has no faith in Christ, and has no family or friends to love, this world can be a very lonely place. In Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 4 are these words, But Jesus answered and said, "It is written and forever remains written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'" Christ never gives up on people that give up on Him.

I like the movie West Side Story and the song "Somewhere." These are some of Sondheim's and Bernstein's lyrics: "Someday, somewhere we'll find a new way of living. We'll find a way of forgiving, somewhere. There's a place for us, somewhere a place for us, peace and quiet and open air wait for us somewhere. There's a time for us,

someday there will be a time for us.... Time together with time to spare, time to learn and time to care. Someday, somewhere, we'll find a new way of living; we'll find a way of forgiving, somewhere, somewhere, somewhere. There's a place for us, a time and a place for us. Hold my hand and we're half way there. Hold my hand and I'll take you there..."

Years ago, I heard a coach talking to some high school students. I believe that he was trying to motivate them. He said something interesting: "Bloom where you are." I would add: "Your place in time is where you are at that moment." We need to accept the abilities and talents that we have. I became a wordsmith in the December of my life. But I restrict my writings to things that I have experienced or observed. In this life, there will be individuals that are jealous of our talents or our abilities. There will be individuals that don't like us even if we did nothing to incur their animosity. There will be individuals that wish to harm us. I've had my share of those individuals. Most of those individuals are now resting peacefully in the silent ground.

In Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 19, are these words: "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord". The reality of life is that our place on earth is just for a finite period of time. We need to be content and not worry about who we are, what we have or don't have, or what condition our life is in. Contentment is to be satisfied with what we have in the present. In Hebrew, Chapter 13, Verse 5, are these words: "Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you,'" I try to mentor and help others with encouraging words in my stories.

As a wordsmith, I like to borrow the words of others that speak what's in my heart. Nancy Watson Dodrill wrote a short piece called "Words." These are her words: "May our words give peace and comfort to those who are in need: may they bring a spot of joy and love, and somehow plant a seed that will blossom into kindness, that will rest a needy soul; for where else upon this earthly plane can love achieve this goal? May our words be blessed by Jesus, may each syllable be right, so we might be the candle that gives a darkened world His light; may they touch the broken-hearted with an element of hope, may they be a flow of happiness that a weaker child can cope. May our words give praise and honor to the Creator of the earth, may they be an instrument of peace that measures not the worth, but the graciousness and kindness of those who trust the King. May our words be ever-healing and, with His love, take wing." The late in life vocation of this writer is to give honor and glory to Jesus Christ in my stories of faith and hope. It's just another part of the grace upon grace and the inspiration that I receive from Christ.

John F. Hall

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