

## 4

### Bridge

It was when we got together to say goodbye to Ros that Stan told me that I should write the story of Children. I was always trying to sell the importance of Children to the others. I admit it was at times a little frustrating when the other four would seem less enthusiastic when I talked about the importance of Children. But when I thought about it, it made sense, really. None of the others continued on with the music. Norm got into the recording and staging of music, but I was the only one to jump into the deep end of the music world.

When you land in Nashville, Tennessee to stake your claim as a songwriter, you not only need to be confident of your work, but you need to have an impressive resume to sell. I have often made fun of how songwriters are like people who fish a lot. They love to talk about the ones that got away. You're in a city that has writers nights every night stacked with writers who would easily be headliners in any other city or town. Being a great writer with a solid resume is important in Music City. It bumps your odds from no chance to slim chance, which in itself, is a great accomplishment.

So when I got back from my trip, I started my approach to writing Children's story the same way I approached all my other writing projects.

First, I chewed on it for a bit. What others would see as an old man quietly doing his thing, was in truth an old writer with a brain going 100 miles an hour thinking about my project. What's the story? How do I want to present it? How do I balance being truthful, yet being generous in my presentation?

Once I have a good idea of where I want to take the story, I get started doing research. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, a good writer knows it has to be believable. That's when I bought the book about the '70s Jesus Movement music scene. I also found some web sites that gave some good information.

That's when we had another Zoom call. I was very enthusiastic about sharing with them what my research was finding, when Jim made the comment at the beginning of this story. It wasn't offensive to me at all. In fact, it really stopped me in my tracks, not because I was offended, but because what Jim said was so beautiful .... and TRUE!

The Jesus Movement wasn't about what church you belong to or how big your youth

group is compared to the church across the way. It was about a relationship. Your relationship with the author of LOVE. It has nothing to do with where you go to church on Sunday morning, it was how you lived your life every day of the week. Is your life and how you live connected to the life of Jesus? Do people see the love of Jesus and the message he brought us in your life and how you approach every day?

Children was the Jesus Movement on a stage full of wonderful songs of joy, challenge and comfort. People who came to watch Children were touched by the spirit that only love can produce. Their experience was what the Jesus Movement was all about.

Five ordinary guys who simply loved to sing songs for Jesus.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity I had to be a part of it.

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On a personal note, it should also be pointed out that the impact Children had on me was more than just the music. I was the Catholic in the group. Since the time of Jesus, there has always been a big divide between the Catholics and Protestants. Catholics think they know everything about Protestants, but in truth know very little. The Protestants think they know everything about the Catholics, but in truth know very little.

What a great opportunity it was for me to have experienced so many flavors of what was honestly a Protestant movement. (The Catholic church would never encourage a movement that said it doesn't matter what church you go to). In that short period of Children, I was able to see the many different ways people connected to God. It made so much sense to me. We are such a diverse people from all walks of life. God wants to connect with each and every one of us. It only make sense that he would provide such a variety of ways to connect to him.

I still love to go to Mass and how the Catholic church centers it's service around communion, but I take great joy in knowing that I have brothers and sisters in loud, energetic Pentecostal services who enjoy the same connection to God... a little different style, yes, but the same connection.

That, in and of itself makes Children the best thing that could have happened in my youth.