

As we are looking forward to the upcoming summer and potential opportunities we have, many people may be experiencing many different things. For many, looking toward the end of the school year and preparing for upcoming camping season is exciting! There is the eagerness of what vacations we may be planning and who we will be spending our time with. For some, there is the anticipation of having opportunities to rest and relax. For others, the upcoming months may bring much concern. Many may not have the ability to provide food to their children since the school lunch programs aren't typically available in the summer. With the scorching temperatures, there are those who don't have the true luxury of living in a place that provides air conditioning to lessen the heat. Many don't have the luxury of living anywhere except the possible shady area in an unoccupied area in the city. Being clean may depend on what public places will allow them to enter and use their facilities.

I had the opportunity to attend the Graceland University Choir Performance this last Wednesday evening. It was an extraordinary concert. One of the pieces they sang was "For Everyone Born". It is a beautiful piece of music (and they sounded AWESOME singing it!). As I listened to this song, I was again touched by the message it shares. EVERYONE has a place in this world. EVERYONE has a right to live in safety, EVERYONE has a right for food and drink. EVERYONE has a right to live in peace.

#### "For Everyone Born"

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.

#### Refrain:

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace;  
yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

#### Refrain

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song.  
the hands of a child, in hands that are wrinkled  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

#### Refrain

For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,

for just and unjust, a new way to live.  
Refrain

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.  
Refrain

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-, Music: Brian Mann, 1979-  
Words @ 1998 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music @ 2006. Brian Mann (General Board of Global Ministries)

As you read through the song, I hope you are thinking of ways that you can join me in responding to how we can be the creators of justice, joy, compassion and peace.

Barb Bear