

DON'T GIVE UP!

A REFLECTION ON HOPE IN OUR LIVES

I have been attending courses and taking assessments in addition to work and Church commitments over the last two months.

In a particular certification programme, I met a lady who is a trainer and another, a working mother of twins. They left an impression on me as they have a silent demeanour of strength in their own ways that was admirable and humble. Let me share with you the “little” things that I observed in a day’s session i.e. over lunch and in a two part series of tests.

Alice, not her real name, was a trainer for ACTA Programme. I first met her when she asked if she could share the table with me while all the candidates were waiting for the certification test to start. It was our first paper.

She has a bandana on her head and immediately, I knew she has just undergone treatment, probably for cancer, based on my few years of working in Healthcare and the first-hand experience of taking care of my mother, together with my sister, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer many years back. It was a heart-wrenching experience filled with emotions of struggles, hurts and pain. I am thankful to God that all things work for the good of those who loved Him and for the strength from God that saw me through of not knowing what to do and how to react then.

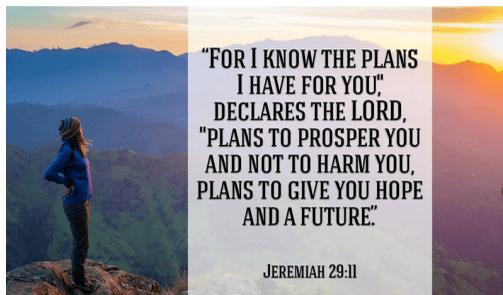
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

I can understand Alice’s point when she said that she had no time to feel and even react, but go with the flow of what she was advised to do quickly. She has third stage of ovarian cancer. She was devastated.

Her openness was received with a listening ear and a contrite heart. She said she had spare time and decided to do something (better than nothing) to learn and re-learn knowledge while continuing her work as a trainer. She started her business as a self-employed trainer for the last four years.

She shared that the journey was tough, but necessary. We just met and imagine how transparent she was with me on her experience and the choice to move on. I always wonder if God put such encounters through people and situations to share how wonderful His Love is for us. There is really a time for everything i.e. for us to know how deep God's love is for us and bring us to our senses of what is more important than Jesus and His Love!

This is the silent strength I saw from Alice despite the sadness that I could see from her. It is an ongoing journey that she has to face and a story that many of us could relate in the different situations of our lives and the people around us.



Mary, also not her real name, is a young working mother of two and quite successful in her career. As she sat beside me for the test, I got to know her as a bubbly and talkative lady. She forgot her spectacles and had to stay close to the screen (yes, we have to use PCs) for the tests.

What caught my attention were her silent moments when she prayed before the tests started. (Yes, a good reminder to remember to pray for all that we do). It was then I knew that she could be a Christian and I

confirmed it during lunch when she spoke with positivity about what she does in her daily life. 😊

These instances and observations may seem ordinary and have no special meaning. I always believe that there are lessons even in the insignificant things (or so we thought) that happen around us.

You know, if we take the time to reflect on the hope that we already have in Jesus (please, at least try) and rely on God, there are perspectives of truth that we can see that goes beyond what we know. These moments and encounters could change how we want to live our lives for God and be moulded into the child that God has always wanted us to be!

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Don't give up as there is hope for us in Jesus Christ!



Joyce Tan

Note: In the past, artists used to draw a halo above the person of interest in a picture. Now you know why saints have halos.