



| Tuesday, December 11

## Hope in our Future

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Fifteen years ago, in early December, my Dad came home from a Holiday party for his staff (he was a long-time elementary principal in my hometown) and climbed up on the roof of my parent's house to fix some Christmas lights. While he was outside working on the lights, the phone rang, and my Mom came outside to holler at my Dad to let him know he had a phone call. He didn't answer her, so she went inside to take a message.

At the same time this happened, a family in my parents' small town decided to take a drive with their children to look at the Christmas lights around town. They drove past my parent's house for several blocks and turned onto another street. All of a sudden, the wife told her husband to turn around and go back to where they came from. She couldn't explain why, but just that he needed to turn around and go back. As they drove back toward my parent's house from the opposite direction, they saw a string of lights hanging down from my parent's porch and my Dad laying on the ground with his distinguishing white hair. The wife yelled for her husband to stop as she saw "Mr. Geuy" and ran into the house to tell my Mom to call 911.

This story has always stuck with me. How could the woman know what had happened to my Dad? She didn't, but the Holy Spirit put the thought/feeling into her mind, and thankfully she listened. If they had not turned around, we may have lost my Dad. The doctors said if it had been even 30 minutes longer than when they found him, he wouldn't have made it. He survived a surgery, two and a half months in a coma, lots of rehab, learned how to walk and talk again, and miraculously was able to walk me down the aisle on my wedding day four months after coming out of the coma.

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I am ever grateful for the woman who listened to God on her car ride. The entire experience has taught me how to listen more to him, the power of prayer, and to realize that God has a plan for everything. With a little hope and faith, he can move mountains. I am forever grateful for his love and as we get busy with the holiday season, it is important to remember to open our hearts and eyes as we wait for God to send us Jesus. Nothing can take away our hope. Even during the most trying times of our lives, remember that Jesus brings healing, and the forgiveness of sins, and “plans to give you hope and a future.”

*Dear Lord, thank you for having a plan for us. Help us to listen for your voice even when we are overwhelmed, busy, tired, scared, or feeling down. Help us wait and hope for all that God will do in our lives through Christ. Amen.*

- Camilla Larson