



DAY 26

FAITH

Jeremiah 29:11 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.

Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings while the dawn is still dark. This fortune has been stuck to my work monitor for at least 10 years. I don't always acknowledge it's there but it seems to make itself known when I need it. In the past few years, I've seen it quite a bit.

In general, I am an optimistic person. I don't like to see the bad in the world and truly believe things will work out the way they are supposed to. Some say I live in a bubble because I don't watch the news to keep up with world affairs. It was a choice I made around 30 years ago when I stopped watching news. It just made me so sad and hurt my heart to see the negativity.

The one thing that has really strengthened and helped my faith grow is spending time with our youth. When Aspen asked me in 2023 to go on the mission trip, I never imagined it would lead to volunteering with CYF and planning a week in June for “vacation.” Spending time with the youth has shown me there is hope in the future. These youth come to CYF with joy in their hearts and their laughter is the light I look for in the dark. Their willingness to take a week to work on projects they may never do at home shows there is good in our world. These youth don't even know the impact they have had on me and my faith.

I know there are always dark days but just like the bird at dawn, I will continue to sing knowing the light in our youth will bring the dawn.

Dear Lord, Please continue with the amazing plans you have for all the youth in our world. Don't let them be discouraged with the way things are and give them the faith in themselves to make the changes that are needed for a better world. Amen.

– by Larisa Catcott