Spiritual Reflection for April 2015

Hope for the Future

Daily the news is filled with changing values, violence and darkness. Frightening things are happening worldwide and in our own country. People are struggling to make sense of changes that seem to be happening at a rapid pace. What is this world coming to? Where will it lead us? Where is our hope for the future? These questions deserve reflection.

I wonder what my grandparents were thinking as the industrial revolution began pumping out products that had always taken months or even years to create. I wonder what my great-grandparents thought about people being able to talk on a telephone. Audible words over a wire? They must have wondered what next, being able to see someone when you are talking to them. No, wait, that was my generation! I remember, as if it were yesterday, laughing at the idea that someone might call me and see me in my pajamas (I must have been 8 at the time). Well, not too long ago it almost happened. Thank goodness I noticed it was a FaceTime call and I decided to call them back. I imagine throughout history people have wondered what was going to happen with all the changes taking place so quickly.

History demonstrates that many people found hope in those changing and often difficult times. Certainly, without hope this world would have crumbled long ago. People held onto hope then and I will hold onto hope today. There is always hope for the future. Where does it come from? It is part of the human spirit, a spark within waiting to be fanned, the divine living inside each of us urging us to trust in something greater than ourselves. This spirit of hope desires to shine forth in dark times and bring light to others.

As I pondered this idea of where hope comes from I couldn’t help but reflect on the dark times of years gone by. There have been many times when people have used violence to protect themselves from what they did not understand. I have no idea how people would have survived some of the dreadful stories without hope. Once again history seems to be repeating itself and there is real concern for the direction our country, our world seems to be taking. I hear it every day.

As I write this reflection my thoughts are drawn to recall the Easter story. The violence present at that time in history makes me shudder. There was so much brutality. So little regard for human life. So much greed and false judgment. What were the headlines of Christ’s final days on earth?

Where did people find hope after those dark days? They found it in the empty tomb. It was the hope of eternal peace and it exists today. Around the world the celebration of Easter is a celebration of hope for the future. In the midst of pain and sorrow we can find hope in the resurrection a hope living in us all waiting to be unearthed like the flowers of springtime pushing through the dark cold soil.
As we look for answers to the questions we have about the current devastation, cruelty, and despair present in our world, our country, our own back yards, we must remember the hope of the empty tomb, the hope of eternal peace. A peace that indeed is our hope for the future.

Questions to ponder:

How do I handle the dark times in my life?
Where does my hope come from?
How is God calling me to place my trust in him?
How can I offer hope to someone who is hurting?

May God’s Peace Be With You,

Tammy Koenecke, RN, BSN, MASL
Spiritual Care Coordinator, RAMC

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31