

Reflecting on Hope

by Robin Albright, caregiver

Lately I've had moments that are rather low. We all do from time to time. Life has tossed me a few things that I've had little control over (as you all can relate to) and I admit I've been a little overwhelmed. Just yesterday I mentioned to someone close that I was feeling hopeless regarding the future, which is different for me. As a matter of fact... I don't think that I've ever said that out loud (HOPE-LESS) and to be honest, it's hard to even admit that I said it or worse yet... that I felt that way (like I'm exempt from that sort of thing - hah - NOT!). This leads me to Sunday and the gift that sought me out.

On Sunday, I worked at Relics (one of the most amazing stores in Peoria, IL) for my dear friend, Deb Opyd (clearly an amazing person since Relics is her brainchild) and this is what happened. A cute little girl bopped in with her mom. She was covered in pink glittery THINGS and caught my attention right away. She reminded me of me... her eyes flitting from one object to another oohing and aahing. Finally she appeared at the cash wrap, big smile and said, "Mom won't let me buy anything because I made my brother mad." I said, "Well, I made someone mad this week too and I didn't really mean to but I bet this sort of thing happens to everyone from time to time." She smiled and said, "Yes, I think so too." Then it happened... she looked up at me with such BIG little eyes and said, "My name is HOPE." I knew immediately (by the instant onset of goosebumps) that it was no accident that she happened by. I smiled and said, "I'm so happy to meet you HOPE!" We chatted and she made me smile with everything she said. She was full of sunshine and giggles and wonder and HOPE. I loved the moment and even now, am relishing in it.

To add to the day, later that afternoon, I shared my FTD/husband story and then the little girl/HOPE story with a customer (a total stranger), who came back 1/2 hour later with a gift (total surprise). I unwrapped it and it was a bracelet with the word HOPE on it. Amazing! Left me speechless and thankful.

HOPE was my Sunday gift and now I'm sharing it with YOU. Wishing you all Hope and Sunshine and Love and Comfort!