

Hope in Despair

By Aline Deyirmenjian, Lebanon

Text: Jeremiah 29.11

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It is a declaration that God has a plan for us, yet in the midst of our trials, misfortunes, poverty, sickness, death or being a refugee we are lost. “Future”, “hope” and “a plan” become a luxury to some of us. We are trying to survive the moment. Yet, without hope and a plan for a future who can survive?

As a social worker I faced refugees who had lost everything. They didn’t know where their future lies, or when would they immigrate and how will they survive. A father came to my office telling me that they fled from their homeland. His 30 year-old son who worked and provided for them a home and food had a heart attack and passed away. This father was not only grieving for his own son. He was also concerned about their future, how would they survive, where should they bury their son, or who would cover the burial expenses. Plans were shattered.

With each story of each life situation we are lost. We might ask God where the prosperous life is, and a future that was promised. We don’t even have hope for the future anymore.

This verse begins with “*I know the plans I have for you.*” God has a plan for each and every one of us. It isn’t our own plans God should fulfill but God’s. Where, when and how is not in our hands. We are in God’s hands. In our despair and exile when we are weak, we seek God - calling and praying. God promises to listen. In praying we find God, and there is our destination, our hope that doesn’t disappoint us (Romans 5.5).

PRAYER:

O God, you are the provider of all. You know our past, present and future yet during difficult times we rely on ourselves and our wisdom which lead us to hopelessness. Help us to lift our eyes to you from whom our help comes from, and where our hope and future lie. Amen.

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