



Reflections by the Lake Devotions for an Unordinary Time

June 8, 2020

Hope in the Midst of the Storm

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Just about the time the news of the coronavirus pandemic began to surface and just as governments and leaders were beginning to formulate the plans they would put in place to combat it, something wonderful happened at my house—on my kitchen windowsill.

I have been a collector of orchids for several years. I am no expert, but I love the beautiful flowers so much. They have no fragrance but watching them appear and bloom and enjoying them for months on end has brought me much peace and hope. Simply put, they are exquisite. When we lived in Raleigh, I would take them to a nursery to see if they could be coaxed to bloom again. No luck. I never got one back from Atlantic Nursery where I assume they died a natural death.

When we lived in Wingate, the orchids sat around a large window on the ledge of our garden tub. They liked it there and they grew beautifully. ONE rebloomed. One in the 12 years we lived there.

Nevertheless, I still buy orchids. I still enjoy their long-blooming season. I like sharing them with others. But until the first of March 2020 I had no reblooms.

One morning as I stood at my kitchen sink in Rocky Mount (where the orchids now reside), I suddenly realized that one of my orchids had buds on it. Wait! MORE than one had buds on them. FIVE of my orchids were going to rebloom! Five! And so they have. Their blooms have brought me so much joy and I spread them around the house bringing cheer to several places.

Imagine my surprise a couple of weeks ago when I saw that one of the rebloomers was sending out another shoot of buds! The reblooming continues. I am overjoyed!

So what is the lesson that I glean from this horticultural miracle in my midst? HOPE. There is always hope. These flowers, as if ordained by God, rebloomed for the first time in years. I had done nothing to encourage the reblooming. I was satisfied to see their green leaves and roots

shooting out. But, as a precious heavenly gift, these orchids were choosing to show their beauty all at the same time and in the midst of difficult and unusual times. I still am astounded. The second rebloom blesses me even more.

God sends us HOPE no matter the circumstances. God sends us HOPE in some of the most unexpected ways. He chose to send me hope through flowers that I enjoy. How is He sending hope to you?

Hebrews 6:19-20a: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf."

Prayer: Our Lord and our God, we praise you for the many evidences of your love and compassion in our lives that give us **hope** that our future is secure in your hands. Amen.

