

## The Power of Hope

“Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, then watching the evidence change”

- By Jim Wallis

Life has been difficult lately. The shadow of economic recession resembles that of a giant monster's: terrifying and inescapable. It brings jitter to families and to the government, causing worries, anxieties, fears and even suicides. Pictures of poverty, disease and loneliness paint the territories of developing countries. When the world's richest nation suffered the great economic stab, everyone was terrified. Who else in this world can escape such a humungous social plague?

Hope is dry. Thinking of the future might have ceased to be a popular past time lately. No one, of course would want to see all the economic difficulties come into imagination...and later, reality. For a youth who's not even assured of a job in the future, going to school and studying can get so challenging, so dragging. With the news of unemployment rate reaching 8.1% in February 2009 in the US, the future for the youth might be bleak (CNNMoney.com). There's just no enough inspiration to keep someone going, not enough to look forward to. This is the reason why I stopped dreaming and looking for job, after being turned down so many times. This is my story, and everyone else's especially in the third world countries.

I am a working student. My parents can hardly send me to school, that's why I have to work for my own allowance and tuition fees. I have tried my luck in several food chains, but my grades are always being considered in hiring. Since, I have performed poorly in school; none of the companies that I have applied for were willing to get me. This has made me so nervous about my future. I am thinking of quitting school, since my parents cannot support me. But those things will make the situation worse. I simply cannot stop here, I have to find a way for a better future for me. There is no reason to stop school. After being turned down several times, I got so

frustrated. Maybe, this is the effect of recession, maybe they have to cut on jobs and I am a poor victim.

At just about time to stop, my friend told me to try looking for work again He told me, it doesn't matter how many times we fail, what matters is we still reach our goal. On that day, I dressed up for a job-hunting. We saw a cafeteria with a need for a service crew and although I was hesitant to enter, I did and submitted my resume. At that time, the owner recognized that I am sincere with my goal. During the interview, I explained by desperate need for a job and therefore, I am willing to do everything that he asks me to just to continue with my schooling. He granted my please and asked me to report the following day. That event helped me to push forward, always with hope so that giving up is not an option. This is the story that I want to impart to the youth, that quitting is not an option no matter how difficult things can become.

Sometimes, the thoughts of the future might be discouraging rather than inspiring. Reading a newspaper and watching television news might not be entertaining anymore but depressing. For such a time as this, indeed hope is even more needed, not as a result of a rosy reality but as a stubborn faith to believe in the unseen.

An evangelical Christian writer and political activist, Jim Wallis have given us an inspiring quote, "Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, then watching the evidence change" (Wallis). Surely, we act not according to what we see but according to what we wish to happen and these acts of faith and hope are what make things better.

In economics, there is also the theory of rational expectation. Basically, it means that the economic expectations and hopes of people would make them react or respond in a certain way that supports that expectation, thereby making it a reality or evidence. In layman's term, it is

short to saying that realities or evidences (in the case of the quote, termed as evidences) are actually shaped by what we have in mind, by what we hope to happen. It is not the other way around. Hope then makes our imaginations, our thoughts beautiful making reality also beautiful.

In our situation, when every economist confirms that life will be worse than before, the inflation unstoppable, employment plummeting and disposable income lower than usual, we can turn things around by still believing beyond the figures and living to what we hope to be in our society. If we act according to what we want to be and not what the reality shows, we can make a difference. The quote says, "...then watching the evidence change." Rosy economic figures, with GDP swelling, inflation balanced, and unemployment at its all time low will just follow as a result of undying hope and persevering imaginations, despite the challenging economy.

As the effect of economic recession resonates to all parts of the world, and that no country is protected against it, we can just hold on to the inspiration that hope gives, not as a day dream but as a catalyst of what will change the current situation, thereby "changing the evidence".

With the inspiration of hope, I began to look forward. I now feel secure about the future. I began to look for job again and found what I truly want to do; therefore I now start a career, full of expectations and meaning.

Works Cited

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