



May 26, 2025

For I Know the Plans I Have for You

I thought those days were behind us — those days of wringing hands and sleepless nights — as we raised two children from infancy to adulthood. Through ear aches and bouts of croup, broken bones and broken relationships, financial challenges and friendship challenges, our children — a girl followed three years later by a boy — had both blossomed and grown into full adulthood. We had ALL survived and even dare I say, thrived. We were home free — right?

Well — sort of — that is until grandchildren started arriving — this time in reverse order. First a boy, followed by a girl and then another boy and another girl and yet another boy — five blessedly healthy babies spaced over a period of fifteen years.

As grandparents rather than parents, the handwringing has mostly disappeared, but the sleepless nights still pop up from time to time as our beautiful grands encounter all of the same challenges encountered by their parents before them — mean girls and bully boys, accidents and illnesses, friendship rifts and heartbreaks, all now compounded by smart phones and iPads. It's true that hundreds of miles separate us from two of them and thousands from the other three, but this doesn't lessen the anguish we feel when these pressure points erupt in their young lives.

There is a passage tucked away in the Old Testament Prophets of all places that anchors me when these disquieting moments occur. Jeremiah writes these words to the people of God exiled in Babylon while I apply his words to my people.

"For I know the plans I have for you, Kahler, Huntley, Brayden, Frida, and Liam," says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you, " says the Lord.

~Written by Bonnie Garbrecht

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