

Special Easter Ransom Note

“Hanging On”

Seniors were gathered in the Wellness Game room for the weekly time of bingo. Suddenly out of the hall hopped in a giant bunny. Well, not really a bunny, but a human dressed in a colorful costume. The bright, cheery guy in the suit waved, blew kisses, and even chatted with some. I was unable to hear him speak, but assume he spoken in *human language*.

Over forty sets of eyes eagerly followed the smiling creature with the floppy pink and white ears and friendly smile. He would reach out to a grinning resident, perhaps even one in a wheel chair. The buzz of warm and fun chatter filled the room.

As I stood near the back, snapping happy photos on my trusty phone, I made a strange observation. The staff member was walking side-by-side our blue-coated bunny. In addition, she was hanging on to bunny’s pink paw.

I took another picture, but my head wondered why? Why would the bunny be gently holding hand of the young lady? Was our bunny nervous and needed reassurance that no-one present could try to grab him and stuff his bulging body into a large cage? Watching more closely, the pink paw reached upward, adjusting the floppy-eared head covering. He repeated that several times and then I knew.

Yes, the beautiful head piece, with two giant peepers, did not line up with the human’s eyes hidden under the white, fuzzy fur. He couldn’t see and needed a guiding hand. Gently, and patiently, our guide not only pointed him in the right direction, but provided stability and security.

Returning to my desk and reviewing the pictures and mental memory of the experience, I was reminded of a promise God gave to Isaiah many years ago. *“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you”* (Isaiah 41:13). That promise is still available for each of us today. Perhaps you too have experienced times when not your literal sight was dimmed or missing, but you were struggling with moving forward with life. Your daily path sometimes is blocked with stumbling blocks of fear of the unknown, or uncertainty which option is most appropriate for a Kingdom follower. Job choices, which place to retire, or even selection of a partner with whom to walk for the rest of your life, may cause sleepless nights.

Then remember God’s promise. Reach out your hand, grab on to My hand, and shed that fear, like a rain coat, as the sun peeks out from the storm clouds. Our bunny had to trust his guide to lead him around the furniture and bodies in the room. He did not know where to place the next foot. Without hanging on, we might have seen a smashed bunny body dangling over a senior citizen who had been quietly enjoying our fuzzy creature.

I’m confident it took courage and humbling of spirit for the giant guy in the bunny suit to admit he needed help. We humans may also hate to admit, even to God, that our faith is weak, or we are at our wits end. A few times the pink hand let go and he stumbled. We too will let go of God’s hand and temporarily be stumbling. Our guide would reach for the pink paw and off they would go. Don’t forget to grab God’s hand again and move forward.

I truly believe that God borrows the hands of some of His children to assist with His hand holding promise. The employee of Concordia stepped up to help as she recognized the challenge of our non-seeing, clever creature. She stood by his side. We too must open our eyes and recognize the time when God would like for us to provide a steady hand for a worried or frightened neighbor or even a stranger. It may be a literal hand holding of someone learning to walk again, or a spiritual hand holding as we listen quietly to the crying out of a weary, discouraged one. Sometimes gentle words of encouragement or perhaps even a sharing of a scripture or a prayer brings a moment of peace or insight to a temporarily blinded friend. Maybe even the sharing of a cup of coffee and a sticky bun is appropriate.

Our Psalmist shares God’s promise in Psalm 73:23-24.

“Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.”

Perhaps you can be one of God’s Bunny Helpers.
Keep your eyes open for a hand needing to be held.

Then Hang On!

Kathryn Ransom March 31, 20242

Abbreviated Version
Special Easter Bunny Thoughts

