Andrea S. Camacho

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

CO210-04

01/31/17

**THIS I BELIEVE**

I believe in hope. Hope can refer to many things, in many ways, to various people. The term hope to me is looking for the positive in the negative, believing in something great, being able to be happy and letting your happiness shine throughout your life.

In the dictionary, Hope is defined as: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. I get a great sense from this definition and I as I break it down to my understanding, the word ‘desire’ is what ties it all together. Desire, is indeed the overall hope, it is your belief, what you hold on to.

In my other class, we watched a documentary on our islands, dating back way back to the Spanish Administration. It was entitled ‘Lieweila’, the narrator was a Carolinian woman, who told the story from her and her family’s perspective and experiences throughout those times. I related to parts of that story because of my grandfather. My grandfather, Pedro Sablan, was born on July 23, 1923; which was during the Japanese administration. He is full Chamorro, though they were thought Japanese throughout all his school years. He became amazingly fluent in Japanese and his native language Chamorro. I honestly, only remember two words my Grandfather spoke to me in the English language and those were ‘hello and okay’. We always had to speak to him in Chamorro and we all tried to learn a bit of Japanese, so we could speak to him in it. Oh, how his face would light up when he had a conversation with someone in Japanese! My Grandfather was 18 years old when World War 2 occurred. I know he didn’t like telling the story as much, but he’s probably told it over a hundred times. He was the middle child of 11 and unfortunately, two of his younger siblings, both girls; the age of 13 and 8 got caught in the crossfire during the war and passed away instantly. Till this day, I can never even begin to imagine the hardships my family and the people of our islands were faced during that time.

When I think of Hope, I just think of how fortunately blessed we are today. I think of my Grandfather, who passed away two years ago, who was the most loving man and lived strong and healthy till the age of 91. I think of how he’s been through, so much hardship and unfortunate events in his life but prevailed through, so he could look forward to the better ones.

I do believe in greater power and prayer, but I believe it all starts and ends with you. You have to be positive, you have to make the changes, you have to make it through to the better days and YOU have to believe in hope.