

Hang In There

Several years ago there was a picture going around showing a cat clinging to a tree branch, barely hanging on with its front paws. He had a look of stark terror on his face as he looked down at the ground far below him with the words, “Hang in there!” written next to him.

Recently I saw the picture again, only this time it was on a card. When I opened it to read the inside, there was a different message than I anticipated. Rather than saying, “things will get better”, it showed several other cats hanging from the same tree, only they were smiling. I thought, “Wow! There’s a new perspective!”

I had to buy the card.

What did those cats know that made them grin while facing the same potential doom as their friend? I smiled myself as I thought, “Maybe they just saw somebody they’d like to ‘drop in’ on underneath the tree...” Then my thoughts sobered a little and I thought, “Maybe they know that things are going to be okay, so why terrorize themselves until it’s time to let go?” And then I thought, “Maybe they realize how fruitless it is to hang around and expect the worst so they just decided to enjoy the show.” Even later when I described the card to my son, he smiled and said, “Seems to me like they just decided to have some fun!” The more I thought about it, the more reasons I came up with why they were smiling.

But the biggest impression I got was sometimes in life we find ourselves like the terrorized cat – all strung out and hanging on for dear life whether it be for health, financial, family, career or other reasons. All we seem to be able to focus on are our worst fears. But if we look around, we see other “cats” in the same tree with a little different perspective, saying:

“Hey, hang in there, there’s more going on than you know.

Once you get over your fears, you, too, can enjoy the show!”