

## **VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS**

**October 2022**

*“Whenever you find tears in your eyes, especially unexpected tears, it is well to pay the closest attention. They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not, God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where you should go next.”*

*Frederick Buechner*

Greetings,

The death of the Queen Elizabeth II was, for many, an occasion for tears. Men and women in Britain, the Commonwealth, and beyond, mourned both her passing and the closing of a chapter in history. To all intents and purposes, the post-WWII era is no more. Its hopes and ideals, met and unmet, have been replaced by those of a new epoch.

A constitutional monarchy is not every nation's concept of democratic governance. Nor do the past 75 years strike every person as a period to be mourned. We grieve, however, not the age but those dear to us from that period. My grandmother outlived all her siblings and most of her friends. When Sir Winston Churchill died, my Nan felt as if she were the last of her generation. Her own death came shortly after Winnie's.

The loss of a loved one, the loss of an era, the loss of an ideal, may all give rise to profound grief. But the loss of hope does not need to follow. Sorrow is an invitation to ponder our deepest feelings: WHAT and WHOM are we grieving – and WHY? Our tears may be for a part of ourselves long gone or never fully realized. Our pain, a reflection of fundamental concerns about the world. Our anxiety, a questioning of God. Thankfully, God is close by. She listens and comforts and guides our reflections.

Life's crisis points can give rise to despair. But, with God as our grief coach, they can lead to fresh hopes, renewed zeal, and revived faith. No one is too old to develop and grow. No person too frail to do some important work. No problem on the world stage is so vast that you cannot have an impact – however small. No faith journey ever ends – neither on this nor that side of those putative pearly portals.

Whatever it is that prompts your tears (yes, even a Hallmark movie!), pay close attention. God is telling you something important...

***God blesses those people who grieve.  
They will find comfort!***

*Matthew 5:4 Contemporary English Version*

Deepest Blessings,  
Brenda