

## VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS Summer 2023

Greetings,

And Happy Summer! May this season be a time of blessings and sweet re-memberings.

My favourite summer memories are the two weeks I spent at the seaside every year. My parents and I never travelled beyond Southern England and our accommodation was always simple, but that fortnight by the beach was the highlight of every year.

The delights of summer by the sea are brilliantly captured in the PBS drama series, "Seaside Hotel." This Danish production is set in a beautiful, water's-edge hotel on the Jutland coast. The story begins in 1928 and extends through the Second World War.

The setting, plot lines, and complex characters make the "Bathing Hotel" ("*Badehotellet*") a series well worth watching. You even get to learn a bit of Danish! But what makes this long-running drama so effective is the ensemble cast.

No one person is a star, no one is restricted to a bit part. Every actor is equally important and equally excellent; including the characters who only show up for a few episodes.

Exquisite egalitarian casting makes the series work. And what works for life on TV, also works for the life of faith! The Christian endeavour is not a competition between stars and jobbing actors, every man and woman is equally important. Every single person possesses unique gifts that no one else has. Each of us has exquisite talents which, when pooled, perfectly accomplish God's work.

The same is also true for churches and denominations. The small chapel is no less – and no more – important than the greatest cathedral. Inaugurating God's realm of peace and justice, proclaiming God's extravagant love, and practicing that love in our own lives, is a project that requires an ensemble cast. No congregation, no ecclesiastical edifice, no religious tradition can pull off it alone.

*Our bodies have many parts, but the many parts make up only one body  
when they are all put together. So it is with the "body" of Christ.*

*God has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. What a strange  
thing a body would be if it had only one part!  
So he has made many parts, but still there is only one body.  
The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you."  
The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."  
And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important  
are really the most necessary.*

*1 Corinthians 12: 12, 18-22 (The Living Bible)*

May your "summer stock" produce great works for God!  
And may your off-stage time, refresh and renew you.

Deepest Blessings,  
Brenda