



# FAITH'S GREAT STRENGTHENER

By Bill Pugh

Not so long ago I was in hospital. Late one evening I was exercising, walking down the corridors. Around a bend I came upon a distressing scene. Family and friends, inside and outside a room, where a loved one had just died.

Distraught people, tears, a scene of desolation. Here I was a Minister, a stranger to them. Outside my area of support as pastor and friend. My robes were a hospital gown and slippers. What could I say, or do? Nothing. Except to excuse myself, turn around, and make my way back to my own room.

## *Reflection:*

*Somehow in those situations, prayer is for me a lifting up and a sharing, with a higher power. And I feel better. Prayer is on call, as a valuable response at all times, for all needs. Faith's strengthener. The Psalmist reminds us of such support in these words, "When my heart is overwhelmed lead me to the rock that is higher than I". There is inspiration in the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson:*

*"More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreamed of."*

Sometimes it happens that a moment for a response to a kindness, or say a word of comfort, passes, or is inappropriate. But faith has the avenue of prayer, a constant, which bears fruit at other times, in other places.

In the hospital, as I knelt beside my bed, I prayed for all around the corner, strangers to me, needing a source of comfort in their sadness and loss, and in time, a positive working through their grief as they remembered someone special.