

February 23rd. 1951

ROSE LAWN,
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,
BROADSTAIRS,
KENT.

Dear Frank Snell,

I was very sorry to read the news in your letter this morning. But that, as you say, is Life; and I believe as you do, that hard as it may be for our limited human understanding, there is eternal wisdom and love behind all that we may experience, bitter as it may be. To lose that faith would only be to add to our loss. I have never been able to understand the mentality of people who decry faith and hope. Their miserable belief, or want of belief, does not help: the sorrow is still there, and all they have done is to ~~take~~ away the only consolation. People say that there are difficulties in religious belief; but surely it is much more difficult to believe the universe to be a senseless, meaningless desert. My own firm belief is that the good in man is God in man; and that without God it would not and could not exist. You have at least this comfort, that your friend, as you describe him, was a good, kind man, and that these qualities gave

happiness to others; and that such a man, in howsoever humble a way, was doing God's work on earth. We are all free to choose the right or the wrong path; but contact with a good man and a good Christian does help us to choose the right one, and when it is God's will that he should leave us, we have at least his memory to help. While I believe in looking to the future rather than to the past, I believe too that the remembrance of kindness and unselfishness in another is a very present help in time of need. We should not forget: but we should face the future with a strong and unwavering faith that all will be well in God's good time.

I hope you won't think that this seems a little like a sermon, my dear boy. I have written just as I felt after reading your letter.

Always yours sincerely,

Frank Richards