

# Time to Celebrate

When Christian author and speaker Dr. Bob Hill was 71, his mother passed away. She was nearly 94. Family and friends gathered in St. Louis, Mo., for the memorial service.

Dr. Hill rose to open the funeral. “Friends,” he said with a smile, “this is not a time for grieving but a time for celebration.”

At that moment, Dr. Hill suffered a massive brain hemorrhage and slumped to the floor. As his wife and children rushed to the platform and gathered around him, he passed away.

Dr. David Jeremiah, writing about that incident in *Turning Points*, said: “Bob had written 60 books and had preached hundreds of times, but his last words were perhaps his most memorable. He had intended for them to be about his mother, but they became instead a comfort to those he himself left behind.”

And Dr. Jeremiah added: “While it’s necessary and normal for us to grieve, we also sense a celebration going on in heaven when a loved one falls asleep in Jesus, and we sorrow not as those who have no hope. But such an occasion also causes us to revisit our own lives and examine our walk with the Lord.”

Are we really living a life worth living? It is a question each of us should ask from time to time.

As we serve those entrusted to us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we can be assured that our existence on this earth and the mission we have chosen have meaning and purpose, whatever the number of years we may have. As our Mission and Values statement proclaims, “Obedience to God is best measured by our service to others.”

– Beecher Hunter