

Tel: 832-2121

Ans. 10.12.91

P.O. Box 6200

Johannesburg 2000

Dear Mrs. Burnett,

27 November 1990

I was with another O.M., Robert Lewis, attending a Holy Communion service in the little Anglican church at Hilltop Road next to St Anne's School, when the announcement was made of Bill's death.

Many memories flooded back to my first acquaintance with him and you as a boy at Michaelhouse when he was chaplain and to periodic contact over the subsequent years or news of him through relatives or friends, such as Frank & Jean Harpaves of Ladysmith when you were based there for a time, culminating with our correspondence when I was head of "ACTS" (Anglican Concern for Truth and Spirituality). His encouragement when the Anglican hierarchy were so opposed to us was a great strength in adversity and his prophetic and pastoral "Dear Friends" letters were always profoundly spiritual and an inspiration.

As I write, I have before me his last letter to me personally dated 19 December 1990 in which he spoke of his bad year healthwise.

double hernia operation, complications and  
thrombosis in one eye.

It is a great regret that when Dr  
and I took our youngest son Murray to  
at Rhodes university we did not look up  
earlier this year.

A true giant of the church in South  
Africa has passed from us into the hands  
the church triumphant, to be with the Lord  
whom he loved, obeyed and served so well.

We shall miss his example of godliness  
and his prophetic word.

Deana and I send you our deepest  
sympathy in your great loss.

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair Macdonald

Quinchess House 1948