

Ans. 11. 12. 94

Cottage 36
Borradaile Trust.
P/Bag 3795 Marondera
24 November 1994.

My dear Sheila,

I have just received a cutting from my brother Hardwicke in England with a lovely article about you, Bill. It is the first I have heard of his passing, and my heart goes out to you, for my beloved Leonie "fell asleep" two years before, on 15 August 1992. (The cutting was from the "Independent" of 9 September).

I never anticipated that bereavement could be so painful and I don't think anyone who hasn't been through it can really understand. It is a sort of amputation, and we are well advised to grieve and to let healing take time.

Of course I am profoundly grateful that Leonie is out of the pain and weakness that plagued her last year, and we had a wonderful 56 years together, and at the end a miraculous surprise visit from Bill & Ros, who had come up from ~~the~~ Mafikeng not knowing the end was near. They really came up to do a canoe trip down the Zambezi with Bill's sister, Liz and her family. But they came out to us on the Friday and spent a happy afternoon telling of their recent trip to the U.K. where Bill received his doctorate, was capped in the Albert Hall. Leonie was in her wheel chair on the lawn, laughing and joking, never a sign of pain, but after they left I could see she was in for another night of pain and little sleep. I felt a strong urge to pray for a miracle, and we agreed to do that and ask God to release her from the pain. His answer was not what we expected. She ~~wasn't~~ went to sleep and woke at 3 a.m. with a sudden heart attack, not much pain, and it was all over before 4. Our doctor was with her and was quite taken by surprise. She looked so peaceful just as if she had fallen asleep. And it was the feast of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of Jesus!

I miss her so much. One day I burst out "O darling, I am missing you so much." And I did not invent her answer:

and so on. I am learning to do. That will not make us love each other less, but more. Those words were so real I know they are from her, and from God.

You and Bill meant a great deal to us when we came to Grahamstown in 1972, and on several other occasions, and I wonder if you remember us among all the many people you must have known. Bill prayed for us in his chapel, and after that Leonie sang in tongues, and I was much blessed.

I don't know where to address this to, but I guess the Cathedral in Grahamstown will know. P.S. I would love to hear from you but please don't feel pressurised! Much love, sympathy, prayers, Richard Holderness.

I am still trying to answer a pile of letters!

An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure. If it does, it will be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.

Rev. Richard Holderness,
P/O Box 3795
Mowamba
Zimbabwe.

Sender's name and address:

SECOND FOLD

Mrs Sheila Burnett,
c/o The Deanery,
Grahamstown,
6140
South Africa.



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