

Ans
25.9.94

5 Chapter Close,
6 Taunton Road,
3201 PIETERMARITZBURG.

28th August, 1994.

My dear Sheila,

It is a long time since we have been in touch, but the news of Bill's death brought so many memories flooding back.

Do you remember me at school (Collegiate, Port Elizabeth)? I am sure you will recall we were both at Rhodes University (College in those days), although I was Senior to you (one year? two years?). I have been trying to remember the name of your sister who died. Was she Ailsa? Or am I confused with the Bain sisters one of whom also died whilst they were at Rhodes? She was Phyllis, but her sister was, I think, Aisla (pronounced like the word 'island' without the 'd').

Next come the memories, mostly of Durban, when we were both married to Anglican Priests and you had moved from the Presbyterian Church to become an Anglican. I have happy memories of your home in Juniper Road when Howard and I were living in Bewsey Grove, and of the loving hospitality you and Bill offered me when I came out of Hospital after Dorothy was born in January 1949 and there had been riots in Old Dutch Road spilling into Bewsey Grove. Andrew must have been about a year old. I met his wife Barbara on the day before the official day of voting in the Election in April, when she drove a number of us from Chapter Close to cast our votes.

Then comes the memory of a very cold night in Bloemfontein. I wonder why we (Howard and I and our four children) were in those parts in mid winter? You had arranged for the Sisters to give us bed and breakfast, but we had dinner with you and Bill.

The years move on to somewhere in the seventies when ^{BILL} and his Chaplain came from Cape Town to Durban to minister in Ross Cuthbertson's Church of St. Gabriel's on the thorny question of Baptism (Infant v. Believers with Immersion). Some of us from St. John's Sydenham were invited. Ross had discussed this question earlier in the year with Bill, and this was a follow-up ministry. It was a wonderful occasion the way it turned out. Today of course Ross is one of the Suffragan Bishops of Natal.

And of course I thought on to Howard's death in January 1984 in England where he died in the home and in the arms of our daughter Dorothy.

So I know the loneliness that lies ahead for you in the years still to come, as you make a new start without Bill by your side. One never really forgets but mostly the lovely memories remain and family and friends are supportive. I know Andrew is in Natal, But I am not sure where your other children are or whether they are married. My family, all married, are widely scattered, only

Tony still in South Africa/-----

Tony still in South Africa. Veronica is in Wellington, New Zealand and Christopher in Christchurch, New Zealand, Dorothy in Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent in England. Between them they have given me thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandson, but only two live in South Africa, and I doubt if I shall ever see the great (Troy) who is now $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old.

This hasn't turned out like the conventional letter of sympathy, but I do have lovely memories of Bill and wanted you to know. I realise you will have dozens of letters to acknowledge, so don't feel you have to write immediately - but maybe if you send out cards or a letter of acknowledgment of sympathy in due course, you would add a short note for old times' sake.

May the love and support of Jesus comfort and sustain you in these early days of grieving.

With love and deep sympathy,

From

Lucie (goodbye).