

Ans. B. a. an

The Rev. John Henderson The Rectory,
P.O. Box 262,
25th August, 1994 SCOTTSBURGH
4180

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Per, 1994

My dear Sheila,

I was grieved to hear of Bill's death, and I realise just what a great sadness this is to you and to your family. However deeply we believe Christ's promises, the human parting still brings deep sadness. I remember Bill and you so well from our days in

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Ladysmith. So many memories of young people meeting at the Rectory; building the servants' quarters and garage under the supervision of the two Dougs (Schwick and Hamilton); my being a rover for Bill and his nurturing of my spiritual life, and his gentle guiding of my vocation, only to bear fruit years later. I remember you in gumboots with pails of food, going to feed the chickens and ducks and growing your vegetables - always there for Bill and your family, with your loving support, but still giving of yourself to the somewhat harum-scarum group of young people who gravitated to your home in the Rectory in Ladysmith. I remember Bill's arranging for special Communion services for the hockey team. Most of us were Anglicans!

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those we love. Having shared our life with all the intimacy of marriage, the physical separation that death brings is hard to bear. Yet I know that in all this you will be upheld and sustained by our Lord's loving presence, and your own strong faith.

Sally's prayers and mine, and our love are with you and your family at this time.

Yours in Christ,
John Henderson

myself, Pat Culverwell, Doug S., Edgar Brandon, Doug H., Les Mortimer and others - we made up most of the team. I remember the shattering news that Bill had been chosen as Bishop of Bloemfontein and my somewhat weak congratulations to him that he had been raised by the power of two - B3 at Michaelhouse, now adding Bishop of Bloemfontein to be B5! Yet we both enjoyed it and laughed over it. My quining talk to the young people in vestments and vessels, and getting bits of it totally wrong, and Bill's gentle twinkle as he corrected me in such a way that I did not look a complete ass. Your farewell in Ladysmith, with Vernon standing with his great girth and saying, "One thing is obvious - the Lord made me for comfort and he made Bill for speed." Then the joy of the enthronement in Bloemfontein, with the Ladysmith contingent there in force. Of that group of young people, Doug S., Vernon Muller and I all became ordained, and Bill had a profound effect on the lives and Christianity of the others. I remember my time in Ladysmith as one of great happiness and one where Bill and the fellowship of the Church nurtured and made possible my vocation.

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Yours in Christ,
John Henderson

Bill was a great man. He touched so many lives, with the challenge of Christ and the love of Christ. He was fearless in his opposition to evil and his work in the S.A.C.C. and in so much else, in a time where opposition was perilous, was an example and an encouragement and a challenge to our Church.

Sadly, our paths really parted at Ladysmith, since after that it was letters and Christmas cards. The last time I saw Bill was when he spoke at Ramsay Collin's funeral at St. Thomas' in Durban, now years ago.

Now Doug and Bill are both gone from this world. (Doug literally died in my arms and I am not really sure I have come to terms fully with his death yet.)

But I carry in my life and ministry something very precious from Bill - his touch on my early Christian development, his example to me as a priest after the order of Melchizedek, in short the example of man and priest, of courage, compassion, steadfastness and care of his people, and above all love of his Lord. It was good to have known him as my priest & friend.

Sheila, my deepest love and sympathy to you and your family. My wife, Sally, joins in this too.

Yours, in the love of our Lord, John Henderson

of one voice, the touch of the hand, the physical presence of those we love. Having shared our life with all the intimacy of marriage, the physical separation that death brings is hard to bear. Yet I know that in all this you will uphold and sustained by our Lord's loving presence, and your own strong faith.

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Yours in Christ,

John Henderson

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R.G.H., 4180.
Dec, 1994

The Rev. John Henderson The Rectory,
P.O. Box 262.

Ans 17. 1. 95

The Rectory,
P.O. Box 262,
SCOTTBURGH, 4180.
4th October, 1994

My dear Sheila,

Thank you for your reply to my letter. I am glad you found it helpful to you. Those Ladysmith days are still very vivid in my memory, and very precious as a most happy time.

I would be honoured if you saw fit to include my letter in Bill's autobiography, if you feel it would be appropriate. If you wanted a further memo about those Ladysmith years, I would be happy to contribute anything further, perhaps getting other contributions from others of those days.

I am sure that the lonely times are now upon you. It is, I think, only when the numbness of our original loss has passed that the true import of what has happened comes to us. However much we believe and trust in the promises and the reality of Jesus Christ, being human, we cannot but miss the sound of the voice, the touch of the hand, the physical presence of those we love. Having shared our life with all the intimacy of marriage, the physical separation that death brings is hard to bear. Yet I know that in all this you will uphold and sustain by our Lord's loving presence, and your own strong faith.

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Yours in Christ,

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