



Letter from South Africa

Bill Smart has received a very long newsy letter from David Christie, who was locum at Polmont for a while during our last vacancy. Parts of the letter are reproduced here, but if anyone wishes to read the complete letter, please speak to Bill.

Saturday 18 October 2008

We have had a fairly uneventful year, which is pretty much what we have longed for. Jan has been so well and had time for non-essentials, like smocking and gardening, and school lifts on Fridays with the grandchildren. The pace of life in Villiersdorp is not fast, and most of the recent South African political chaos seems to have passed us by. Our concerns are rather, “is the water running”, and with every dam in the Cape overflowing with a vengeance, we actually have too much for once. The price has been a very cold winter with lots of snow. I have already swum twice with the children, and both times it promptly snowed the next night! The bonus is that it is utterly beautiful; standing on the first tee one could be in Canada or Switzerland, and it’s a lot cheaper here!

I am actually having quite a lot of fun. Golf, swimming, gentle mountain walking. James (*his son*) was here for my 70th, and after what I considered a good 3 hour walk, when we got back to the car, he announced he was “just going to run home”. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

I was helping out at no less than 6 churches, scattered over a wide area, but now that I am formally helping at the local Anglican church here in Villiersdorp, I have cut the rest out. It’s wonderful to walk round the corner to the beautiful little thatched church (restored after being burned down last year).

I’m also a research associate with Stellenbosch University, and it’s amazing how one’s lifetime experiences help with understanding the local security situation, (xenophobic violence etc.). I have been asked to do a paper for the Institute of Strategic Studies, (Pretoria University), on peacemaking techniques. Even had an article quite well received about how the current goings on in the Anglican Communion were dealt with in 17th century Scotland, by the Cameronians no less.

It but remains for us to wish you well and every blessing for the Christmas season and the year ahead. I am glad we depend on the Lord, and not the economy!

With very best wishes

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If you would like to subscribe to Life and Work, contact **Bill Anderson**, ☎ 711882



THANKS!!

We would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, flowers and cards received when we celebrated our Golden Wedding

Alan & Jan Raleigh