

Bill BAKER

Bill Baker came to talk through the contents of the letter which he had sent to me.

He indicated that the letter was not one that he had found easy to compose nor one that he enjoyed writing. However, he felt that he had to put down on paper just where he was. It was a statement which sought to pinpoint the elements which by his own analysis of his present state in reflection and prayer he found that he could express. He felt that he needed a break; the things which previously had given him hope now did not stimulate him as before. There was nothing of the earnestness and zest in the performance of his duties that he had always managed to this stage to experience. He found that his relationships with people were not as spontaneous as generally he has known through life. We agreed that these factors can be experienced in life generally.

Should he change parish? He has been at Eltham for over 13 years. It is not becoming a smaller parish; indeed there has been considerable growth. Perhaps a change to a smaller parish would effect a remedy. Then, again, given his own active orientation he could easily get fed up in a smaller parish, not having sufficient challenge.

We agreed that it was wise not to make a decision of such radical nature as a change of parish when he was flat. We identified his situation as not being physical or physiological but rather psychological. The names of Dan Torpey, Bill Attard, and Peter Cantwell were mentioned. He decided that he would see Peter Cantwell and await his assessment.

12th November, 1991.