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To my dear Cathedral family in Grahamstown

I wanted to write and thank you all for your generous financial gift and for all the special cards and letters. Over the past weeks I have been dipping into the beautiful memory book which Rev. Claire put together for me. I have been deeply moved by your messages of love and support. I have also felt upheld by your prayers since I left Grahamstown.

It has been a blessing to take a good break here in Cape Town and am feeling rested and relaxed. I have been going to St Stephen's in Pinelands, the church where I first started my journey as a church musician back in 1999. It has been wonderful to be back in a familiar place with many familiar faces and routines. I am feeling embraced by their love and care at this time. The wider church family is such a gift, isn't it? What I am particularly enjoying is being able to sit in the pew and simply participate in worship for a while. No doubt I will soon be missing leading worship and music, but for the moment, it is a real blessing simply to be fed spiritually by others.

I continue to look for an appropriate job and would value your prayers as I discern where to go next. In the mean time I am continuing with my Post Doctoral work through UNISA and I am refining the South African Hymn Book which we started using at the Cathedral last year. I have been gathering translations of vernacular verses and including them alongside the main text so that people will know exactly what they are singing. I am also slowly putting together the musical edition. My hope is that it will be finished by the end of the year.

Last week I saw a wonderful film on TV called "Risen". If you haven't already seen it, I recommend it highly. It will remind you of the insightful Good Friday sermons this year, looking at the cross and resurrection from the perspective of a Roman Tribune.

May God continue to bless the ministry of the Cathedral and all who worship there.

Much love to you all
AJ