



APRIL 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

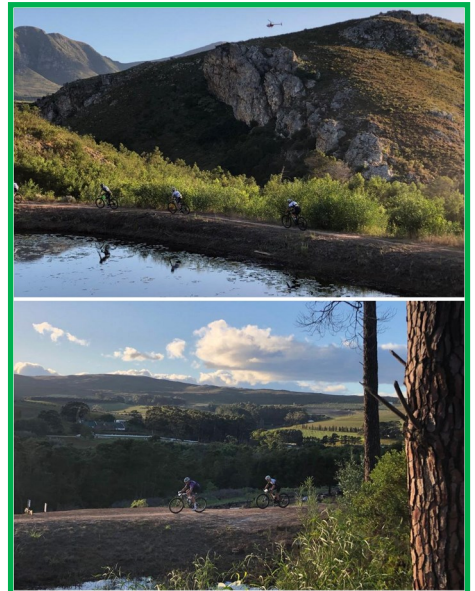
Autumn is knocking on the door, the days are getting shorter and the mornings and evenings cooler. Around us the greens of summer are starting to change into the browns and oranges of the changing season.

As the seasons change we continue to make changes too. All our changes are aimed at improving the infrastructure so that our guests' stay will be a pleasurable experience. To this effect we have been laying piping under the road just above the office to improve the runoff of rain water. (See other water related issues in Mathilda's contribution.) This should prevent the regular erosion of the road that occurs during heavy rains.

To make the Boma more user friendly all year round we are covering it, providing shade and shelter from sun and rain. The view will be unchanged but you will no longer be able to see the stars when sitting around the fire pit.

A group of people who might have been sitting, but definitely not sitting around, were the cyclists riding the Epic who came through Volmoed. On the Monday morning most of the de Gruchy household took a walk up to the pine dam to watch them cycling up the valley. Prior to that we had some of the organisers staying in Old Farm House while setting up the route markers and making sure that all would run smoothly.

We are also coming to the end of this years Lenten season, with Easter not too far away. So we wish you all a very blessed Easter, may you experience the resurrection power in all the areas of your life where it is needed. We also wish all of you who will be travelling over the Easter Weekend a safe journey.



Esther
&
Volmoed team

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The continued health of our staff as the season changes.
- Safety of the staff that travel from Hermanus with the roadworks.
- Getting the trustees registered with the Master of the High Court.

APRIL VISITORS

6th—High School DF Malan Brass Band
Easter Weekend—individuals
17th—24th Benedict & Sabine Schubert
27th -30th Grant Hopkins (silent retreat)
The Artists Way continues every Friday morning

So we approach the holy week in the Christian calendar and I wonder at how the cross can be seen as unoffensive, even beautiful. Well, it is beautiful to be loved in this way, but we often forget that the cross was an instrument of human rights abuse, of torture. As we approach Human Rights Day, this may be a valuable comparative contemplation. In the meantime, as a kind of parallel, the study group on John's book of Faith and Reality continues during lent. This is "tacky hits the tar" Christianity and I guess it is a continual dialogue between the two, not least at Volmoed.

With glee, we watched as we were given the instructions and a demonstration of the new pump engine, which should be able to see to all the pumping needs of Volmoed for the next decade. Most importantly, we have now more protection when it comes to fighting fires, when we need significant water pressure in the pipes. I hope to start a letter that updates some of the developments at Volmoed, as there are other potential projects awaiting. The projects are an attempt to upgrade the infrastructure, provide greater security and even save money. I will share more with you as time moves on, but do pray for wisdom for us all as we grapple with the best way forward.

As we move out of COVID, I remind us all to remember those who still battle with this and for those who struggle towards a new "normality". Let us not let the effect of COVID off our prayer lists. This includes not only the sickness itself, but also the social isolation and economic hardships that we still feel.

This lent we have been focusing on the process of the Covenant of Love at Volmoed. I was going to write "new", but actually, the work has been a fairly long process. We have copies of the covenant in the office, if you want one, at a nominal cost. The Thursday messages on the covenant of love have been recorded if you would like to go through it a bit more. However, I am mentioning this as another item for your prayers. The covenant is one thing, but the process of introducing and embodying the covenant is another instance of faith meets reality. Please remember that for those who would like to join, there is prayer and fasting for Volmoed every Wednesday in lent, at Midday to 13h00. Although we are meeting in the chapel, you could join in wherever you are.

Please also pray for our beloved country, which has been violated times without number. One of the projects that we need to do and fundraise for, is the upgraded security system for Volmoed. This is an integrated system that will cover almost all areas of Volmoed. It is a sad commentary on our country that in all our development, we are still struggling to become more human. Please pray for us and for SA as we all experience the collective wound and groan in our inner most being for our land to be healed.

And so, we come to the call of Volmoed to be a special place in a special time for God's special purpose, for healing and reconciliation. There are signs of this in abundance, but these are like tender shoots and in some way very vulnerable. Great prayer is needed that Volmoed rise to its high call in Jesus Christ. Who knows if Volmoed came into being for just such a times as this. Thank you for sharing your prayers with me and my concerns. In God, the promise is very bright, even in these dark times.

As I write this, on the 20th March, staff could come to work, despite the protest action, the epic riders are winding their way through Volmoed and around me is beauty. Within me I am thankful that again, God has come through for Volmoed. We live in a huge measure of blessing. May you also and your loved ones be blessed.

Love
Tomy

WINTER SPECIAL



PLAN AHEAD

JOIN US FOR A WINTER FAMILY BREAK
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We are thankful for the guest reviews we receive. Sharing them with the staff helps them realise what a good job they do.

Beautiful peaceful retreat centre.

Volmoed is just as described on its website. Its grounds are very beautiful and peaceful, the chapel and opportunities for worship and meditation are rich, the staff kind and caring. Accommodation is relatively simple, but clean and comfortable. We love going there for retreat, refreshment and replenishment.

Dear Volmoed family

Another month has passed, and it seems we had a lot of water related things happen.

We replaced some more pipes damaged by tree roots, some pipes were replaced with wider ones. We also split the water flow in two places to help rescue the road from “washing away” in rainy weather.

The drilling of the bore hole is still ongoing, and we are getting used to the sounds of the equalizing of air pressure. The new pump is indeed pumping away, and with Fire Busters’ annual visit to check all the fire extinguishers and hydrants, the water was gushing out! What a great moment.

The 17th marked St Patrick's day and we shared some green cake for the occasion that was well timed with John’s birthday.



You may remember seeing pictures of Ed and his team cutting up some of the trees we had to take down last year with his portable sawmill. Our 2nd project is underway – putting up a canopy at the Boma. Our 3rd project in the wings will be a new/extended stoep at Keurboom. We are very excited that we can use our own wood for these projects. The road works are continuing and it seems to be moving along. It’s often a bit scary to be on that narrow bit of road with the big construction vehicles around you! The new storm water drain built next to the new road has potential flooding issues for us, so we have to prepare for that as the water will come through to Volmoed from our neighbours and on towards the river.

Helderberg Uitrek came for their annual visit and blessed us with their song, and we were privileged to join them during one of their sessions. Thank you once again. Sharing in Edwin’s clothing ceremony with his family and friends was truly special. We wish him many blessings. The cyclists from the Cape Epic passed through Volmoed this morning (20th) and if all goes well we will see them again on Wednesday (23rd) as they make their way to Grabouw and onwards. We wish them all a safe journey especially with the bad weather conditions.

Keep well

Mathilda

