



AUGUST 2022

Dear Prayer Partners



Baby Hope

July has been full of surprises—some that have warmed our hearts with joy, and one which has drawn us, as a community, together in prayer.

The joyful occasions were the arrival of Grace's first calf, whom we have called Hope. The other was the arrival of Graham Ward for a short stay after an absence of 3 years, mainly due to COVID. He was here for our Thursday morning service and did the meditation.

Michael (Mike) Guy's sudden illness has drawn the Volmoed community together in prayer. It was a humbling experience one morning during our staff morning prayers when Lucas suddenly stood up and said—'let us hold hands and pray for Mike'. It has been 3 weeks and after several test and hospital beds, (from Hermanus to Worcester to Tygerberg) there are still no clear results. We are waiting to hear if there is any damage left in his heart due to the infection in his body. If the last test comes back negative he can come home to home care. If not he will continue with antibiotic treatment for another 5 weeks. This will hopefully be closer to home. First prize would be for him to come home and recover in his home environment.



Mike Guy

There has also been an outpouring of love and support for Mike and the family from the wider Volmoed Community and prayer partners.

On the topic of Prayer, we have over the last couple of months set aside 15 minutes on a Wednesday to pray together as a community.

Please keep this initiative in your prayers.

AUGUST VISITORS

2-3 Institute of Healing of Memories

12 –14 Houtbay Ingoma Choir

15 –18 Lena van Wyk

18—21 Michael Battle

19—21 Karen Nebe

26—28 School Reunion

29—1st Sept All Saints Plumstead

Individuals during the course of the month.



OUR AUGUST PROMOTION IS:

A **10% discount** for all the ladies coming to stay on Volmoed. So come and enjoy the tranquility of Volmoed during the month of August!



Bless to me, O God, my body and my soul
Bless to me, O God, belief, condition whole;
Bless to me, O God, my heart, my speaking too,
And bless to me, O God, the things my hands to do

Catherine MacLennan



PRIORY



Our relationship with Volmoed community itself

has steadily deepened, and we are continuing our discernment of how best to be a part of Volmoed's future. One way that has emerged is participation in the youth ministry that has been developed at Volmoed, particularly through the regular Taizé youth days that bring significant numbers of young people onto the property. Volmoed is a place for healing and reconciliation, and we very much hope to be a part of that. It was good to be able to share a festive meal on St Benedict's Day with the residential Volmoed community and with all of the staff, who make all that happens at Volmoed possible.

The Superior and Council of the Order had agreed for Br Daniel to step down from his position as Prior of St Benedict's, and asked Br Roger to take on that role. This became official at the Chapter meeting. Br Daniel has been granted a well-earned six-month sabbatical, after ten years of leading this monastic community through several challenging transitions.

Following another week of being together with the larger community, Br Roger and Br Scott returned to the Priory together with Br Luc, who will be here for several months, having spent three months with us at the beginning of the year. Br Luc is now the Vocations Director for South Africa, which means he guides and accompanies men who are discerning a vocation to monastic life with our community. Br Scott has been appointed the Assistant Formator for South Africa, so he will be responsible for the initial monastic formation of men who enter the Order through this Priory.

Grace to you and peace from the Brothers at St Benedict's Priory.

VOLMOED 50 FUND

A big thank you to all who supported Volmoed through membership of the Volmoed 50 Club in its first year. We started small, and their faithful giving netted over R16 600 for Volmoed during the past year. We are grateful! In its first year there were a total of 33 pledges of R50/month, many of whom paid their R600 annual total up front.

We held the first lucky draw in December 2021, and prizes were won by Nicky Krickorian (R1000), Lyndall and Andrew Murray (R2000), and Gill Whitfield (free weekend at Volmoed).

The second lucky draw was held after the Thursday eucharist on 7 July, 2022. The lucky winners were Lettie Velthuysen (Free weekend at Volmoed), James Gribble (R2000) and Sal Carter (R1000).

If you would like to join, the pledge form and information is attached to the prayer letter. For further information please contact Wilma at safriawilma@gmail.com or ph: 060 7540348.

Many thanks again, for all the generous support and prayers for Volmoed.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Warm greetings!



As always, gratitude abounds! I am grateful for Siyabongo Vonco, who works part time for VYLTP – it is a joy to work with him. The past month brought wonderful fruit of hard work and prayer, as VYLTP facilitated gatherings that brought young people together. Our Youth Taizé Day with theme 'Holy Spirit Send Us!' was the largest attended thus far, about 65 participants, with enthusiastic groups from Zwelihle and Khayelitsha, and individuals from around the Western Cape, many of who are now regular attenders. The day ended with a beautiful service of prayers around the cross and prayerful singing in harmony that resounded all over Volmoed.

The biggest joy was the in person one week workshop, our first since Covid-19. Nine young people from Zwelihle, Hawston and Karwyderskraal lived and learned about Beloved Community with facilitator Seth Naicker – usually this is the first week of our ten week residential program. Siya's preparation of the group which included attended a couple of the FynArts events, built a strong foundation and young lives were changed. We continue to build local capacity and foster relationships with them as some attend the Thursday morning eucharist and future events unfold.

I have been busy coordinating with Michael Lapsley and Fatima Swartz of the Institute for Healing of Memories workshop. They come to Volmoed next week to begin a healing of memories and sharing of stories workshop with Volmoed staff and residents. Please keep us in your prayers.

I am grateful for the recovery of my voice and for losing a persistent cough. After more than six weeks I am finally recovered.

I m grateful for family - my sister and brother in law are visiting from Australia for seven weeks so there is also the joy of family time – I last saw them more than three years ago.

Thank you for all your prayers and thanks be to God for so many gifts and so much grace!

Wilma