



March 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

February, the commercial month of love, with its heart shaped chocolates and roses, is behind us. We welcome a new month of 'green four leafed clovers' and Saint Patrick and then Easter. All these celebrations are a celebration of love, because love is what it is all about. We remain aware of not only God's love for us, but our love for one another as we will be looking at the 'Volmoed Covenant of Love' during Lent. (You are welcome to



request a copy from the office.)

There will also be a discussion group during Lent on John de Gruchy's book Faith Facing Reality on Tuesday afternoons.

Life in and around Volmoed remains busy. The roadworks continue, and will for a predicted year and a half, and above Wellspring we have a drill going as the Municipality is revisiting one of their boreholes.

For four weekends we have had the sound of drums emanating from the Chapel as the drummers, who have been entertaining the people of Hermanus, held their practice sessions. On Saturday the 25th they joined local pianist and poet Lara Kirsten who was doing a piano recital in the amphitheater in Hermanus.

Volmoed had the privilege of hosting a joint fundraiser with Lara during January. It was a very entertaining afternoon and I am sure many of us were introduced to music we hadn't heard before.

We have welcomed old and new visitors to Volmoed during this month. It was good to catch up with some of the groups— if only to say welcome back. Many of the first time visitors have said they would be back and some of them have already booked again.



More often than not with hellos come goodbyes and so we are sadly saying farewell to Blazio who for the last three and a half years has faithfully milked and tended the cows. As well as helping with the making of compost. We wish him well.

We have also said farewell to a regular at our Thursday morning services and a stalwart in the intercessory prayer team. Alison Eustace we will miss you.

We are grateful to have Serghay around to keep some of our other permanent residence out of harms way, and in so doing keeping our residents safe as well.



With love from the Volmoed team

Esther

Dear Volmoed Family/Prayer Partners

We have had an interesting month.

I think the very peculiar February weather stands out, pushing the needle of the Barometer way down, leaving a beautiful rainbow resting on the valley.

Of course the ongoing road works (which we were told might carry on another 18 months)

We had our first environmental meeting re the Onrus River, H&A Valley, alien growth, water usage and more. Drilling on the municipal bore holes started and brings interesting visiting equipment, "scary" noises and Geography lessons.



Brother Robert's visit from New York came to an end and we look forward to having him back again. Br Luc is also returning to New York soon for his Life Profession of Monastic Vows. What a joy it is having so many Brothers around and joining in their prayer services. Of course we are also looking forward to Edwin's Clothing Ceremony in two weeks. It's a busy time at the Priory.

The diesel pump should be pumping again soon, and we can rest "easy" heaven forbid there is a fire and load shedding at the same time

With the first week of Lent almost behind us (by the time you receive this) we pray also that you will have a Blessed time in anticipation of Easter 2023. May the warmth of the wine in your body also warm your soul. May we understand that the Grace of God is so much more than what we can fathom. May we never make it smaller so we can understand it. May we never think we have the right to withhold it.

We continue to pray for our children and families, the year old war between Ukraine and Russia, people losing loved ones due to earthquakes and floods.

Please pray with us for safety on the valley road, the people working on the road, big machinery moving around and stop & go attendants. Things get scary sometimes; tempers, speeding, collisions and general frustrations with added extra travel times and in that losing time.

Until next month
Big hugs and blessings



Mathilda

MARCH VISITORS

6-8 Helderberg Uitryk & VYLTP

26-30 Tutu Foundation

The rest of the month's bookings are individuals.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

- The leadership team and the Trustees as they plan and give vision.
- For the issue with the Master of the High Court so the new trustees can be registered

As I start this letter, February with its hot days is passing, thankfully, so far, no fire. I hope this continues. Veld fires are a great danger at this time and we need prayer to keep Volmoed safe. We hope to have a new pump in the next few days (hopefully this will be in place when this letter goes out), but this was an expense that we had not budgeted for. A strong reliable pump is necessary for not just water for the houses, but water for fire-fighting. Please keep Volmoed in your prayers. The basic infrastructure is old and we seem to be replacing everything at the moment. It is maybe a reminder of the cycle of life and the need for renewal. Volmoed is going through its own processes. We celebrate the years of service which give rise to the emergence of the new. I guess that we will always be in the eternal dance between the old and the new. Now we start lent and again we draw close to the terrible cross in the expectation of the resurrection. I wax lyrical, but it is no fun coping with the wear and tear of life, as most of us know! Still, apart from praying for resources to keep Volmoed beautiful, I am also experiencing the gratitude of being cared for by God. Thank you and the many souls whom God uses to bless us all at Volmoed.

In this lent we start to work through the covenant of love. This is another step towards work on what it means to be an intentional community. In these tough times, we need to build community as a priority. This is where Volmoed has an opportunity to rise to the high calling in Jesus and become more and more what it is. (Yes, I know that it sounds Irish, but hopefully you know what I mean. No offense to the Irish amongst us!) The covenant is a strange instrument. It is not a law. It is a guideline of love that can be a nudge to us in all we do. In this way it puts some flesh towards the vision of healing and reconciliation. The importance of this in these dark times is crucial. However, this is not a magical process. It will need to be covered in prayer. I invite you to participate in this process as we attempt to make this an inclusive process. We will be having a season of prayer and fasting before our Lord Jesus as we seek God's face for Volmoed, SA and the world during these difficult and wonderful times. We will start these on Wednesday 21st February. You are welcome to join us or join from where you are. Volmoed is more and more becoming a space of healing and reconciliation and we want to be in step with God's heart. (That sentence sounds quite presumptuous, doesn't it? Not intended to be so).

Let me just write about fundraising, because it is one of those thorny subjects. Mother Theresa of the Sisters of Charity regarded begging as a necessary discipline. Many of us are not as comfortable about asking for assistance, but one of the Volmoed Community told me that asking for an investment should be seen as normal, important and very natural. It is part of building partnerships and being a community of faith. On the other hand, I have always had a problem with people who have that miserable look on their face and come with long dubious stories of woe. When it comes to asking about money, to this day it is not something I relish, although I recognize that this is often just sharing in the responsibility of our shared Volmoed. Please pray that as I have started the Volmoed fundraising group at Volmoed that we will be given wisdom and favour in our work. If you are one of those who could contribute their wisdom please come forward. Soon we will be setting the fundraising targets for the year.

At this time of lent, we lean into our vulnerability and we draw near to Jesus Christ crucified. We experience our commonality with all humanity as we stand in awe of the love that is so great that although we are weak, yet we are strong. Have a great month.

Love Tony



“Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my
left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.”