

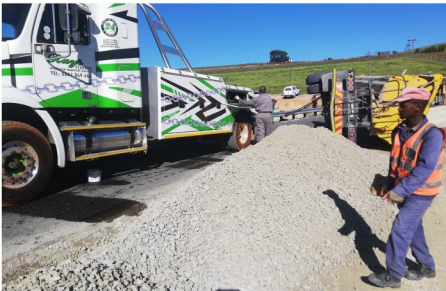


MAY 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

The sands of April is running out and May is peeping around the corner as I start writing. Today (19th) we quietly said goodbye to Daisy, Mia, Grace and Hope (the cows) as they left for their new home at Camphill. Freesia will be going to our neighbours at Vrede Farm. So our pastoral scene of the cows on the field has come to an end. Also the phone calls from our neighbours alerting us to the fact that the ladies had gone wandering off the property.

The time has also come for us to start putting wood into the cottages with fireplaces. Early mornings and evenings now have a decided chill announcing that winter isn't too far away. This affords me the opportunity to remind you of our winter special. A family break during the school holidays where children 12 years and under stay free. In preparation for the winter rains we cleared out the river at the weir as well as behind the berm to ensure that we keep the water flowing.



Sometimes in life you don't take the high road or the low road but the long road. Recently that is what we had to do when one of the trucks working on the road tipped over and the road was closed for about 6 hours. Needless to say this caused a lot of disruption to all, especially guests attending a funeral service. Work on this section of the road is coming on apace and our entrance is nicely compacted so we no longer have to wheelspin in the soft sand when leaving the property.

Please continue to keep our staff in your prayers, especially Peterus who is facing a difficult time as his Oupa, with whom he stays, is not well at all.

Esther & Team

MAY VISITORS

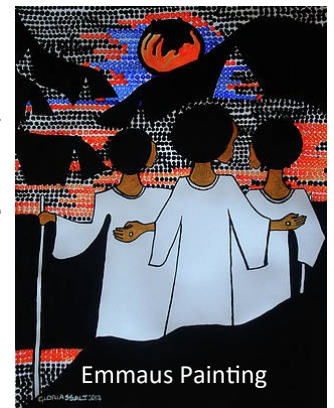
- 5-7 Diocese of Cape Town Postulants
- 8-11 Dioceses of York & Cape Town
- 15-17 YWAM
- 26-28 Jubilee
- 29 –1st June Rondebosch Archdeaconry

WINTER SPECIAL



PLAN AHEAD
JOIN US FOR A WINTER FAMILY BREAK
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The day after resurrection Sunday, Easter Monday was proclaimed a public Holiday: Family Day. This was also the anniversary of Volmoed. Of course, each year it will be different for Volmoed, although it is safe to say that the birth or founding of Volmoed is closely linked to the crucifixion of our Lord and His rising again in resurrection. This 37th year I want to reiterate this appropriate spiritual connection. The mystery of our faith is indeed the very lifeblood of Volmoed, which is why it cannot be anything but a covenant of Love, written not in rock, concrete, paper or even digitally. It is not in the apple tablets, but the tablets of our hearts. More than that, it is written in the heart of God, a Holy “relentless knowledge”. As such, there is a Volmoed journey being written that is beyond the written pages of any book, a communal and even a community of “Heilsgeschichte”, and I am so aware each day that I come to Volmoed that I walk on holy ground. I am aware that the narrative or holy history of Healing and Reconciliation stands on a new threshold, in the context of a wounded nation of broken people. On this family day (and beyond), it is time to build families, including the Volmoed family. This is where my heart is for Volmoed. Yesterday, a small group of us had lunch together with one of the friends of Volmoed, visiting from Switzerland. I was struck by the need for us to actively appreciate our relationships. Please make this a point of prayer. There are days where we walk in the hope of the resurrection and days like the day after the resurrection, where the challenges of Volmoed feel too much, and we feel the burn of Christ in our hearts, but as in the Emmaus Road, we do not recognize the risen Christ with whom we walk. I have repeatedly experienced that in my own brokenness, my eyes have been opened and I had a glimpse. Of course, if we can share a meal together, like the disciples, even better! Were this not so, I would have given up hope. We have a unique family to build, and it is not just the inner family. Volmoed is an intentional community that struggles to embody that which it is. There is also a monastic community that lives and shares a community with us. There are local people, like you, who call Volmoed your own and others in SA, Africa and UK, Germany, Holland, USA who recognize Volmoed as part of their own journey.



Today in the Wednesday morning prayers, which includes residents and staff, I marvelled at the miracle of diversity and unity that comprises Volmoed and as we sat in a circle, a level playing field before God, we could all say: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”. When I was little, this psalm used to baffle me. What was the point of the Lord being my shepherd whom I did not want? Now it is one of my most meaningful psalms. Although, on a side note, I often recognize that His thoughts are not my thoughts. I guess that that slight discomfort or burn in our hearts is part of the reason why we do not always recognize Jesus, even while He walks with us.

Please pray that God will continue to be known amongst us and that all of our eyes may be opened that we may recognize the Christ within us all and amongst us and that we start to choose freely the way that God chooses for us, especially at Volmoed.

Please continue to pray for financial provision. We are not out of the place of constraint yet and there are still some expensive tasks to do, apart from the normal expenses.

May Grace and peace be with all. Whether we recognize it or not, Jesus is walking with us. Keep warm and enjoy the colour of autumn. May you and those around you have a blessed May. One of my favourite times of the year.

Love Tony