



DECEMBER 2024

Dear prayer partners,

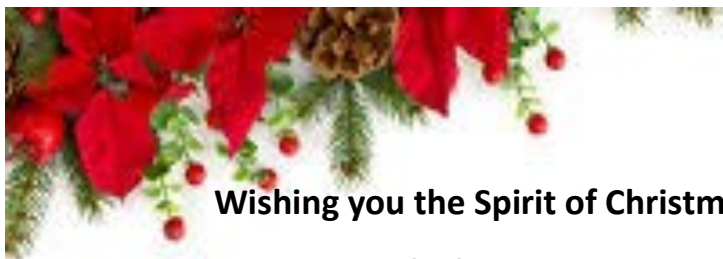
It seems like yesterday that we sent out our first prayer letter of 2023, and now it is time for the last one for the year.

We start to turn our thoughts and focus to things that pertain to Christmas, decorations, presents, family and food. We all have our own traditions that we follow at this time which adds meaning to the festive season. An essential part of the table decorations are the Christmas Crackers and as I turned to a neighbour during the week, Christmas Cracker in hand, it struck me that it is never easy to pull a cracker on your own. The helping hand of the person seated next to you is needed. This reminds me how much we need each other on our journeys and so I would like to thank you for journeying with us here at Volmoed this year. I was also reminded of the anticipation of the trinket and piece of paper with the 'corny joke' and the 'did you know' we are going to find in our cracker. We share both with those at our table. So we share what happens on Volmoed with you via the prayer letter and joyfully in person when some of you have the opportunity to come and visit.



The bang as we pull the cracker is a reminder that there are so many places in this world we live in that are at war. So as we enter a time of celebrating Peace and Joy we spare a thought for them as well.

Esther



**Wishing you the Spirit of Christmas,**

**Which is Peace**

**Blessing of Christmas,**

**which is Hope**

**From the Heart of Christmas,**

**Which is Christ.**





Dear Volmoed family

Last week Esther sent an email starting with "Its Christmas in a month's time" .....  
So waar 2024 is a blink away.

In the last month we were fortunate to be permitted to do another controlled burn to get rid of more debris from the flood as well as biomass we were supposed to burn when the flood hit. Slowly but surely we are making progress, even though it doesn't feel like it some days. It was finally our turn to get the guys cutting the trees to safely remove some of the trees that were overhanging the shed. Some have been cut down completely, some only "beheaded" What a difference it makes!!

Both the electric and Diesel pumps are working again and we were lucky to have the digger scoop some sand out the river so we have some depth for the pipes to suck water from the river again. We found the weir under 3m of sand .... It is still under water, but it's there and intact. Nature sure has left behind a lot of work for us.



The district has seen its first big wild fire and we ask for your prayers, also for the fire fighters and volunteers as we go into the fire season.

Some big Volmoed news is that Johannes turned 60 today (30<sup>th</sup> Nov) we give thanks for him and his green fingers in our beautiful gardens!

We say goodbye to Peterus, who decided to move on. We wish him well, and many happy miles! His persistence paid off and he finally got his driver's licence. Well done Peterus!

Mongezi will be joining the team full time now rather than just 3 days of the week.

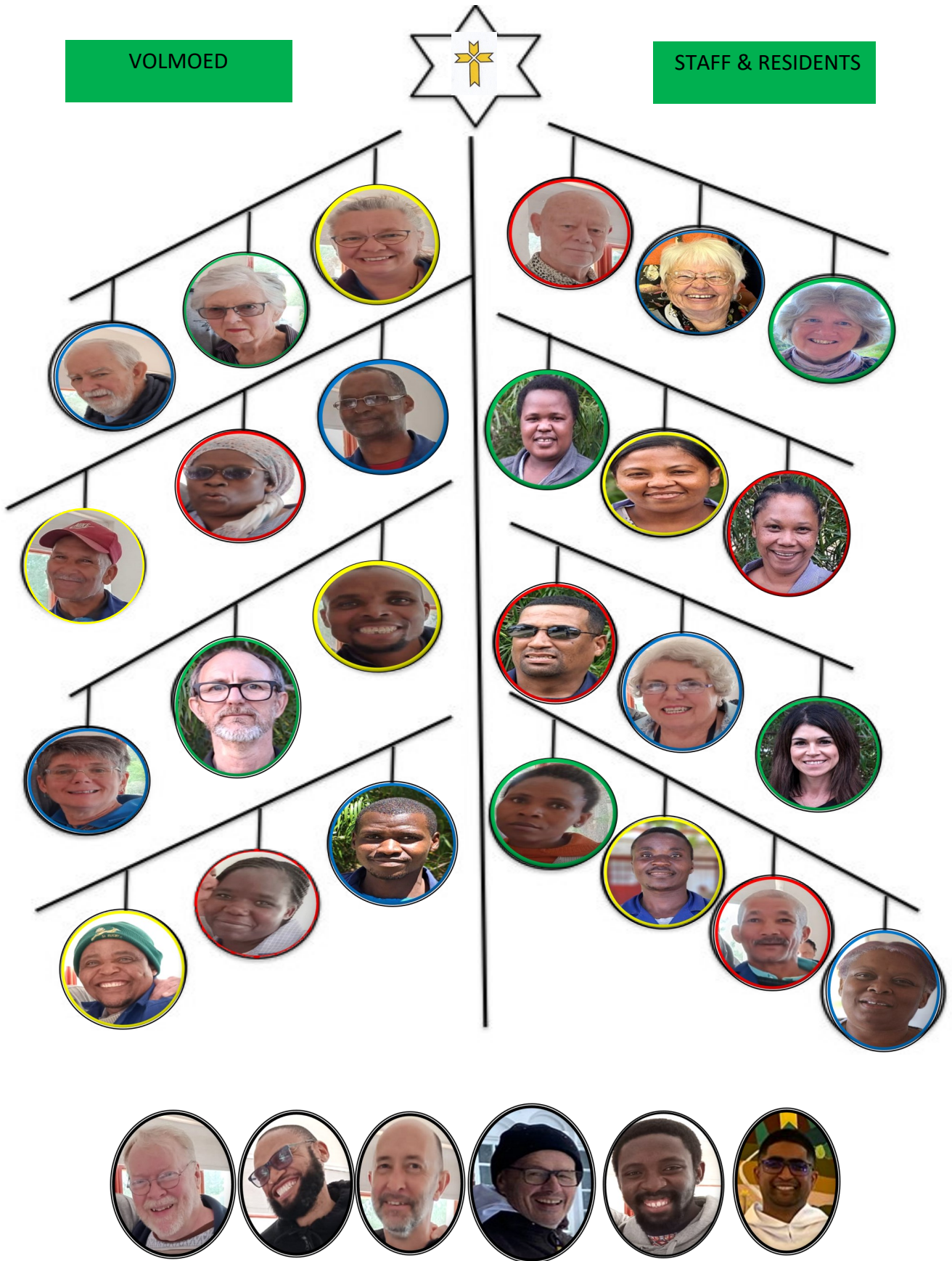
Of course the other news is the push for Volmoed to go solar. We give thanks for the huge gift we are receiving to make this all possible, and we give thanks for every other contribution which will help us to make up the R200 000 we still need to complete phase one of supplying solar power to most of Volmoed. This would mean that guests will be able to use the facilities after hours with lights on, no surprises with loadshedding stage changes. The Office block, Laundry, Kitchen/Dining room and some others will be supplied by solar power. Something exciting for 2024, we are also planning ahead on how to supply the rest of Volmoed not covered in this first phase.

Lastly I would love to say Thank You to everyone who supported us this year especially in the last three months that also felt like a year; Seeing to our physical and emotional needs, our safety and security praying for us when we couldn't pray for ourselves. Jy is kosbaar en spesiaal vir my.

Mathilda



We wish you a Merry Christmas & Blessings on 2024



From the top—Left to Right

John & Isobel, Mathilda, Mike & Alyson, Wilma, Andries & Maggie, Deon, Tariro , Leana, Anna, Esther & Anton, Vuyani, Serghay, Molly, Tonja, Lucas, Dorothy, Mongezi, Nomveliso, Yohane and Johannes & Ann

Brothers—Scott, Josias, Roger, Daniel, Mpomolelo and Edwin