



DECEMBER 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

It doesn't seem that long ago that we sent out the first prayer letter of 2024 and now it is time for the last one for 2024.

This past year has seen many old and new faces coming through our gate. Both as guests using our accommodation and those joining us for our Thursday and Sunday services. Over the holiday period we look forward to welcoming some of our regular visitors. One family in particular will be spending both Christmas and New Year with us as they have often done in the past. There will be a number of weddings taking place, the first one being that of John and Isobel's granddaughter Thea.

The two events organized by Volmoed went off well. We started the year with an Icon workshop in February, facilitated by Danish Iconographer, Charlotte Pedersen. We are pleased to announce that she will be facilitating another Icon Workshop from the 23rd—28th February 2025. Contact the office if you would be interested in doing this workshop.

After much planning we hosted a retreat which was led by Rowan Williams. The sessions were recorded and are available on You Tube. If you are interested you can contact the office to acquire the link. Our email address is admin@volmoed.co.za.

As I write this letter I am aware that our American friends will be celebrating Thanksgiving tomorrow. Giving thanks never comes amiss so with this last letter of the year I would like to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your continued support in prayer and for those who support us with monetary gifts we are grateful to you as your contributions enable us to continue to provide a space where people can take time out to reconnect with God and nature.

So many of our guest enthuse about the beauty of the surroundings and gardens.

With grateful hearts we wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas season and a New Year filled with hope and expectation.

Esther

Dear Volmoed Family

A sight for sore eyes



I have to start with this picture today. After 5 days of fire in the mountains around us, meetings, evacuation notices and over 1000ha burnt, I arrived for the meeting this morning to find the fire engines “home” and being washed. Though we are not out of the woods just yet the prognosis is good! Again we want to give Thanks to the Lord for keeping everyone safe. It’s been an enormous task in the face of serious danger. We pray that there will not be serious flare ups and that there will

be a peaceful season ahead. Please continue to pray for every fire fighter, ground team, volunteers, helicopter pilots, administrative persons etc.

For a moment there the rest of the month seems a bit far away.

BUT the visit of Rowan Williams came after literary planning it for years, and what a blessing it was. Both the Colloquium and the retreat were well attended and enjoyed. The public lecture was widely reported on and many travelled a long way to attend it.



The sight for sore eyes continues with this picture; finally the day arrived that the new lines in the road appeared. Signs of road works are slowly disappearing Please continue to pray for the planning and outcome of the section of the road that needs to be rebuilt at the valley entrance, (after bits of it washed away in the floods last year). Please also pray for the planning of building a new bridge over the river so vehicles can cross without having to worry about too much water or even more sand finding its resting place where we need to cross the river.

In catching up with everything that stayed behind a bit this week, I’m reminded that it’s just about Advent time. May there be peace and blessings all-round.



Mathilda

From the Volmoed family

Mathilda, Tonja, John & Isobel, Alyson & Mike, Esther & Anton, Molly, Brothers’ Roger, Daniel, Luc, Aelred, Mpumolelo & Josias, Wilma, Tariro, Dorothy, Anna, Leana, Nomveliso, Maggie & Andries, Deon, Serghay, Lucas, Vuyani, Johannes & Ann, Yohane, Bradley

