



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

Our best wishes to you for 2024.

As I was thinking about what to put into this first prayer letter of the year I saw the accompanying picture in my mind's eye. An array of colours for all the opportunities this new year will hold. Though the lollipop will probably taste sickly sweet, I couldn't help seeing lemons and limes in the colours—giving a different flavour. So I wish you a colourful year with an array of tastes and heightened senses to all the blessings that come our way.



One of our blessings is beautiful clear water coming out of our taps. See Mathilda's report for the details.

Another is the receipt of the promised donation which kickstarted our solar project, for which we are very thankful. Please keep this project in your prayers as we trust God for the remainder of the funds. We build our faith by looking back and seeing how funds have always come through in the past for projects like the Thanksgiving Chapel as well as the other building projects. As a precursor to the Solar project the de Gruy's have installed the first lot of solar panels on the Wellspring garage roof. What a difference it makes not to plan your life around load shedding.

The prepared boards for the Icon Course & Retreat from the 25th of February to the 1st March, which we are hosting, have arrived. This is something I am looking forward to, as I will be participating in it. (See the attached Brochure or ask at the office for more details—space is limited).

What a joy it is to welcome old friends who come and spend the first week of January with us every year. We might not see much of them but it is always good to see their names on the board and being aware of their presence leaves one feeling that the year has started on a right note.

Then we have the guests from faraway places who book online not knowing anything about Volmoed, mentioning that it just what they needed. This really gives us a sense that Volmoed is fulfilling its purpose of bringing wholeness to people.

**Esther**

#### **VOLMOED 50 FUND**

This simple fundraiser continues to raise funds for Volmoed every year - a big thank you to all who participate by contributing R50/month to Volmoed, paid monthly or annually.

The second lucky draw for 2023 was held on Thursday 21 December, at the chapel after the Thursday service.

The prize winners were as follows:

Free weekend for 2 at Volmoed: Lindy Bolt

R2000 cash prize: Don Shay

R1000 cash prize: Oban Gilmour

This year between June 2023 to June 2024, 42 people have pledged a total of R25000. Thank you!

If you would like to join the Volmoed 50 Fund and contribute to Volmoed in this way, please contact Wilma Jakobsen at

[safriawilma@gmail.com](mailto:safriawilma@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!

Dear Volmoed family



As many of you may also receive memories from previous years via social media or your smart phone, we were reminded earlier in January of the Fire we had in 2019. It's been 5 years ... vivid memories from all our senses remain in our memory bank. When natural disasters find its way into conversation we often try to compare the fire and the flood. Which would you rather face? The devastation and mop up are remarkably different as the disasters are too. The irony of the flood is that while there was so much water around we ran out of water over the Christmas and New Year weekends. But as with the fire, we were in a position of learning, a lot of science experiments and many a helpful scientist (from neighbours to the guys at the

treatment plant) brought us to a place where we can supply clean water to our residents and guests without worrying about running out. Although we have made progress as much as possible there is still a mountain of work to be done. As you may know, the trees that fell and threatened to fall during and after the storm were cut down. We are slowly but surely eating the elephant, clearing up the mess that was left behind. We hope to have lots of wood chips soon for our gardens, and also loads of fire wood for the winter.

Crossing the river with a vehicle stays a challenge, and as the water levels drop the amount of stones that washed down in the flood restricts the flow in many places. We hope that our meeting today with the Environmental Dept would be a help in this regard. There is still an enormous task waiting to clean and clear the debris after the flood. We give thanks to everyone who supports us in prayer and finance, for every encouraging word when we feel down.

Another big event this month was attending the clothing of Br Mpumelelo. What a privilege to share in this happy moment with him.



We give thanks for the path that lead the Brothers to Volmoed.



Mathilda

We end January with the a group of young people doing the 'Beloved Community Course' with Seth Naiker.

In February we have YWAM coming the first weekend.

We end the month with the Icon Course & Retreat

“Wishing you gratitude for years past, joy in the present, and hope for the future.”