



JULY 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

It is officially winter, and although we are experiencing some lovely sunny weather as I write this, it is definitely a winter sun. My morning walk had me puffing 'smoke' and gloves will be a good idea.

We are continuing to update our health and safety, so on Saturday the 22nd, myself, Anton, Yohane and Serghay set off early to attend a snake awareness and handling course. Serghay was the

only one who had already done the course and has relocated a number of snakes to the other side of the river. One advantage of doing the course in the colder weather is that the snakes were more lethargic.



Isobel continues creative sowing lessons with Mpumolelo and some of the youth from the Volmoed Youth Leadership Training program. In the accompanying picture Mpumolelo is modeling the stole before it was dedicated by Wilma.

As Edwin presided at the Communion he was the first one to wear it.

We are happy to welcome David de Gruchy as a volunteer for a few months. He will be helping in various areas and we believe his skills will be an asset to Volmoed in the time that he will be with us.



ESTHER

JULY VISITORS

8– 11 VYLTP doing a module on Reconciliation with Themba Lonzi

17-19 Tutu Foundation

The rest of the month various individuals.

We do have openings, so consider taking a Volmoed break.



Week of
Reflection
with
Rowan Williams

4-8 NOVEMBER

Dear Volmoed Family

It's cold this morning I know, its winter. But, my favourite day of the year (21st June winter solstice) has passed, the summer is coming!

I recently had the privilege of spending time in the mountains of Die Koue Bokkeveld. Yes, it was cold but great to be enveloped in God's creation, peace and quiet. Nature there is so very different to what we see every day. The mountains look like rocks that were stacked on top of each other creating interesting formations.



A highlight this month was having the Brothers from New York visiting Volmoed for the first time. Something we were looking forward to for a long time, and even though they were off to a rocky start it was wonderful having them here. I hope that they will be able to visit more often in the years to come. Attending some of their services, listening to all the extra voices was a special experience.



The trustees had a day of reflection yesterday (25th) and after describing "in pictures" what we experienced along our own path and journey with Volmoed, the intensity of the last 5 years was verbalised so lovely "maybe it's time to pause and mourn our losses". Words like devastation and unprecedented were often heard, the 100 year flood turned into the 200 year flood after damages were calculated last year.

I remember:

Jane saying after the fire, that it looks like the landscape turned into moonscape;

The day we locked up the houses, switched off the electricity and left open the fridges.

Having to go into quarantine for being in contact with someone who tested positive for covid.



Packing and moving things with and for Bernhard and Jane, sitting and remembering. The total defencelessness and vulnerability is indescribable, and then that only speaks to one half of you – your work life.



While we are looking forward with questions of: How to? What to? Where to? When to It made me think of two passages: Be still and know (Ps 46:10) Martha, Martha, (Luke 10:38)

There are scars and scabs and emptiness, but by the Grace of God we survived. Thank you for being part of the journey.



MATHILDA

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our AGM is coming up in August and we need to appoint new trustees. Their appointment also needs to be lodged at the Master of the High Court.
- There are various environmental issues, mostly arising from last years flood, that need to be expedited.

VOLMOED 50 FUND

On Thursday we had the lucky draw for the Volmoed 50 Fund. The following people won:

John Philogene— free weekend

Denise Schonegevel—R2000.00

Caroline Goatley—R1000.00

It is time to renew your subscription or join the Volmoed 50 Fund to help us. You can contact Wilma (safriawilma@gmail.com) or the office (admin@volmoed.co.za) to do this. Please share this with your friends as well. We appreciate any extra funding to keep things running smoothly.