



NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

The psalmist encourages us to 'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good! For His mercy endures forever.' Ps136:1. How true this has been over the last month as we and our neighbours in the valley have tackled the task of mopping up after the flood. We put out a message that if anyone needed sand and stone we have lots available. The up shot of that was that we have had two trucks and a digger loader for over a week carting away sand and stone to help rebuild some of the farm roads. This has helped us to clear up some of the mess as well as trying to give the river a more defined course.



We are thankful that despite the water going through the pumphouse and submerging the newly installed pump in the process, the pump is operational.

Initially to get to the other side of the river we repaired the boat that was in the shed. Now we can wade across the bridge at the weir, which is still intact, though only a section is visible. The rest is somewhere under a mound of sand, while a third section is still under water. The bridge at the Grotto floated away again and came to rest at the pump house along with the No Swimming sign from the waterfall. As the water has subsided we were able to go on an expedition to the waterfall. See Mathilda's report on that.



We are also thankful that all the guests who booked for October arrived despite long delays at roadworks and driving the Karwyderskraal Road, which is gravel.

Thursday morning Chapel services have continued, even though they have mostly been attended by those resident on Volmoed. Two of our faithful visitors, not to be deterred arrived on foot on an occasion and by bicycle the next time. Continuing with our theme of Thanksgiving it was decided to have a special Thanksgiving service on Thursday morning the 2nd November, to which we have invited all our valley neighbours.

Esther

NOVEMBER VISITORS

1-3 ACESS group

3-5 Colloquium

6-9 Diocese of Saldanha

During the month we have various individuals staying over.



SAVE THE DATE

9 TH December

**Volmoed's fundraising Christmas
Carol Picnic will be going ahead.**

Dear Volmoed family

We seem to be finding our feet again after the floods. Our biggest Christmas dream now, is that the road at the beginning of the Valley from the Wine Village side will be fixed soon. With the N2 open now at Botrivier we are excited that the road works are on the go, to open the R320 as a stop and go for the Holidays.

While we live in hope that the road will be open soon, businesses in the Valley are hurting desperately. Restaurants and Tasting rooms are not doing any or very little business. These people are part of our Valley family and friends. After surviving Covid and the road works that started in 2021 – this lack of business might be the last nail. Please keep them in your prayers too!

So Esther, Anton, Nico, Dawid and I went bundu bashing on Sunday afternoon in search of the waterfall. Yet again you stand in awe, looking on to the destruction of the water. Unfortunately it is by far not safe to let you go to the waterfall yet. There is still an enormous amount of plant matter strewn all over. I'm sure all the rocks that washed down and filled the pool a few years ago, have all been thrown on the field with this storm. Again, it's a big water filled pool. Of course I will never hope for a big claw that can clean out the Kloof for us from all the debris. The last time I thought that might be a "cool idea" we had a roaring fire sweep through the valley. It did clear all the debris, but I'm not sure I'm up for one of those again. It will take some time before the path to the waterfall will be ready again. In the mean time the cycle track is a good back up that gives you a view from the top. I believe we are close to being able to cross the river safely.

Away from nature, we still battle with **red tape!!** Having to ask the same people the same thing over and over again is exhausting to say the least. So I guess that would be my biggest prayer request – progress. We need good weather to do a controlled burn so you can add that to the list.

Ending on a positive note: as a guest said to me yesterday after we discussed our hope that the road will be open to use as a one way in December, "we are the World Champions after all"

Mathilda



INTERESTED IN AN ICON WRITING WORKSHOP?

We are planning an Icon Writing workshop

25 –29 February 2024

Contact the office if you are interested.

admin@volmoed.co.za



PRAYER REQUESTS

- As always staff safety is a top priority, especially at present as we transport our staff over bumpy roads.
- Good weather for the continued mop up operation.
- Various projects where we are continually coming up against red tape and are unable to complete them.
- Safety as our guests travel a busy section of gravel road to get to us.
- An effective and speedy solution to the repairs on the R 320.