



SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear prayer partners,

I am continually reminded that despite all the turmoil around us in the world the words of Louis Armstrong's Song still rings true—'I see And I think to myself what a wonderful world.'

There is so much we see which is wonderful. The beautiful blue super moon we had at the end of August. Others we see with some technological help, as this leopard which was caught on camera near the grotto early one morning.



Not only do we see beautiful things we also experience moments of beauty in being there to help others whether it is in big or small ways. Having the space to welcome those who's footsteps are guided to Volmoed in ways that only can be seen as the hand of God.

Then there are times we can help someone outside the Volmoed community and guests as happened when Anton set out to discover whether we had another cat coming into our house eating the cat pellets. We were eventually able to trap a beautiful Maine Coon, which the Animal Welfare was able to return to its owner.

The Volmoed Covenant

"We love because God first loved us."

We commit to follow Jesus, to care for Volmoed as a place God has set aside for the ministry of healing, justice, and reconciliation, to welcome friend and stranger, young and old, and to love one another as God in Christ loves us.

On Thursday the 29th we held a special service re-committing ourselves to the Covenant of Love which we instituted last year. We were happy to welcome Leon Louw one of Volmoed's patrons at the service. Unfortunately the other two were unable to attend. We were reminded that Volmoed is a place where God is present and the role the Moravian brothers played in establishing Volmoed.

This was followed by the AGM in the afternoon.

Reading through the covenant again I cannot help to be aware that there are also times when you will be left thinking to yourself that you have just not been able to follow through. That in the light of those thoughts you need to let go and trust that the prayers you pray for that situation will be answered and that healing and reconciliation may take place. If you find yourself in that space, may you find peace.

Esther

September visitors

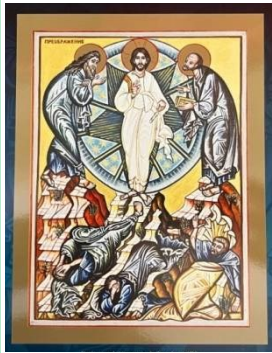
- 1-4 Helderberg Archdeaconry
- 7th Wedding
- 8th group walking the Pilgrimage of Hope
- 16 –20 Group from St Martins.
- Individual bookings

Prayer requests

- The health of our staff and community, especially for Isobel as she recovers from a back operation.
- The trustees, as they make decisions
- Mathilda and the rest of the management team as they carry out their duties.

Dear Volmoed family

A while ago I wrote about a meeting we had where the memories of the last 5 years were discussed. I asked the staff to write down their memories too and would like to share them bit by bit here with you.



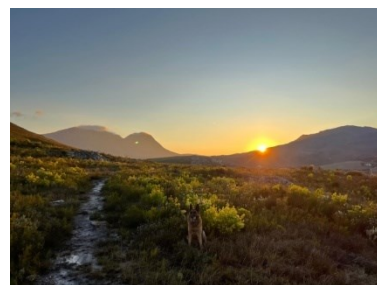
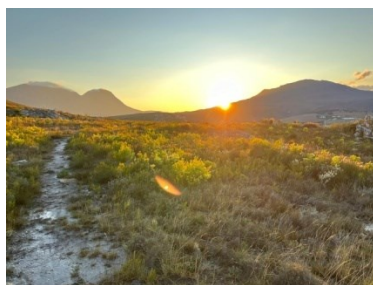
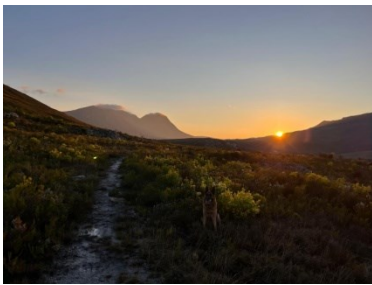
We had a similar meeting today and it was remarkable to me how the Lord speaks to us. After the foul weather we've been having, we are experiencing some glorious days.

Serghay and I stood outside this morning, looking at the mountain and talking about the changing of the season. How much more of the sun is visible on the mountain compared to a few weeks ago. He said to me I would like to be up there, and I confirmed the same feeling.

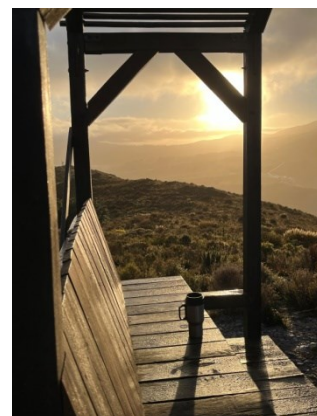
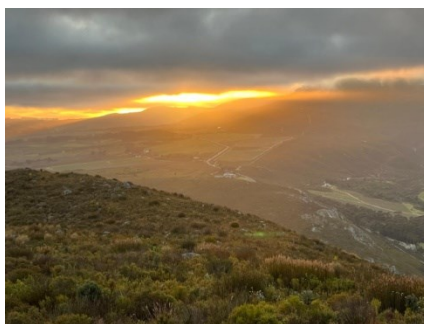
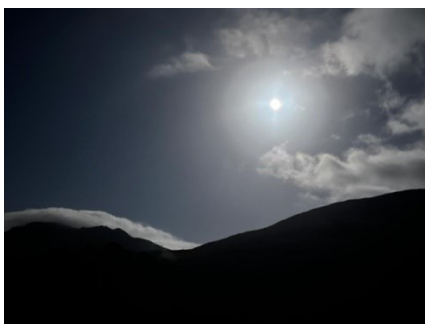
During prayers we read about the night that will come again, and that we have to make sure our faith is strong enough to defy the darkness (which is not necessarily night time).

During the reflection time of the meeting Wilma used the Icon of The Transfiguration (which was celebrated that day), to guide our thoughts. Serghay and I happened to sit next to each other and again, we were looking up the mountain at the Son again.

On the Thursday morning we walked up the mountain (and came half way) to meet the sun.



We decided to try once more, leaving much earlier to reach the bench up on the mountain.



What an incredible blessing and spiritual moment to have the first rays of the sun touching your face!



This month we also celebrated two of Volmoed's mothers, both Jane and Alyson had their birthdays over the long weekend, and we wish them many blessings. Br Josias squeezed his in just before the month end, letsatsi le monate la tsoalo.

I share with you the staff's thoughts about the 2019 fire:

Translations in italics

2019 Fire:

*Almal was bang vir die vuur en almal moet die plaas verlaat het
Everyone was afraid of the fire and we all had to leave the farm

*ek onthou op n stil vrydag als was so normaal, net kort na lunch word ons vanaf die kantoor ingelig van die vuur wat oppad is. 3 dinge in my gedagtes: my huis, Volmoed en veiligheid op werk vlak
I remember a quiet Friday, everything was normal, then just after lunch the office informed us that the fire was on its way. I had 3 thoughts, my home, Volmoed and safety at work.

*Brand was gevaarlik en baie fynbos verloor. *The fire was dangerous and a lot of fynbos was lost*

*Die vuur was gevaarlik. *The fire was dangerous*

*Scared that the farm would burn and I would lose my job, I was scared that the people would lose their houses

*I was scared, the fire was too big

*vrees v lewens *fear of lives*

*On the day of the fire I was at the market in Fernkloof, I was so scared and worried because I couldn't help, My worry was will come back and everything is gone

*I was very scared we lose the farm

*I were scared that the bungalows would burn down I were also worried about Jane and Bernhard and the de Gruchy's house and I were scared that we would lose our jobs.

* Mingled with the real sense of danger, there was a certain amount of awe. How fast it spread, leaving so much devastation in its wake. There was the frustration of the back and forth with the folks, yet also the understanding that they wanted to be in their own space. The activity around all of it didn't leave time to ponder it too much and once it was done life went on and though the evidence of the fire was to be seen so long afterwards at no stage have I felt any long term effects of it, other than a sense of caution when it comes to the combination of wind and fire.

Please continue to pray with us that we will always look up to the Son, and not to ourselves.

We seem to keep being stuck in red tape, be it The Master or now UIF – the situation seems a bit dark. May there be light too.



MATHILDA

Week of
Reflection
with
Rowan Williams
@ Volmoed
4-8 NOVEMBER



Save the date

Public Lecture @ Dutch Reformed Church
Hermanus

In collaboration with Fynarts

Friday 8 November @ 18h00 Price R250

Tickets available from fynarts@hermanus.co.za or
whatsapp 060 957 5371

Spring

She does not come boldly, And with a firm step,
Sweeping aside the trappings of winter,
But tentatively, tip-toeing in with a light touch of colour
Or a tantalizing scent,
And then is forced back by stubborn winter's last stand.

But she is dancing lightly over the earth,
Teasing us with signs of her presence:
A lightness in the morning
That the birds sense
And respond to with song,
A balm in the air
That draws up the sap
To swell the buds,
Until one day
The sun shines on such a kaleidoscope of colour and scent and sound
That we exclaim,
Now Spring is here!

From Between Heaven and Earth by Isobel de Gruchy