

VOLMOED



BRINGING WHOLENESS
TO BROKEN PEOPLE

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January 2012

Dear Prayer Partners,

A prayer for the New Year by Eddie Askew from his book "Many voices, one Voice". We use and are greatly blessed by Eddie's books in our Morning Prayer time. They are available from the Leprosy Mission.

**Time, Lord, time
I've hardly a moment to think about it!
So much to do, so much to accomplish.**

**Lord, slow me down.
Take my foot off the accelerator and guide it, gently, to the brake.
Cool my overheated mind, slow my heartbeat.
Tell me again, and again, that the world, your world,
will quite possibly survive without my frantic support.
Remind me that it's not my great endeavour that keeps the earth's foundations firm.
But yours.**

**Yet I never sense you in a hurry.
Never feel you don't have the time.
When did Jesus rush around, shouting "Why aren't there 48 hours in a day?" like I do.
And he had a lot on his shoulders, including a cross.**

**After all, time is yours, and eternity.
The world's yours, and its people.
What's that? .. nice of me to admit it?
Lord, when I'm busy, dragged down, deep-mired in self-made burdens,
Put your hand on my shoulder, slow me down, help me to see
That people matter more than projects.
That listening and loving mean more,
than the endless whirling circles of activity that dizzy me.
Make me understand that if I go on rushing around
I'm no different from the rest of my world.
Give me time for people.
Because when I can open the door to them
You'll be able to step in too.**

**And that's where the difference starts.
And the joy.**

Yes, people are so important and have made such an impact on our lives over the years. Our connection with friends from the Protea Village and Cross of Nails, Coventry Cathedral have blessed us.

I asked Jenny Wilson (Cross of Nails SA) to write about our relationship and their recent stay at Volmoed.

"A visit to Volmoed is always anticipated with much excitement and joy knowing that we will receive such a warm welcome. On reflecting on our relationship, we became aware of the wonderful threads of connectedness we have that we feel so proud to be part of the greater Volmoed family. We rejoice with them in the growth and blessings on Volmoed since their earlier beginnings in 1986. Recently, eight of our Cross of Nails Group from St. Saviour's and Good Shepherd, Protea spent three days on a directed retreat with Barry Wood.

On looking back we realise what a significant role the folk from Protea Village (Kirstenbosch) have played in the lives of the Turkstra family before they moved to Volmoed. Our dear Aunty Florrie Carelse (Known as Nanny to the Turkstras) worked for them when Maarten and Penny were small before they moved to Volmoed. Jane says "Nanny and her friends, Maggie & Drieka, prayed us into the kingdom!". It was on the strength of this that Nanny and her church (Good Shepherd, Protea) were possibly some of the first visitors to Volmoed in 1986/7. Aunty Rosie Nomdo organised a bus and we spent a blessed day picnicking. I remember Bernhard taking us through a tunnel of alien vegetation in the river bed as that was all they had managed to clear by that time. Also, praying in the old pack shed for healing of Wendy Nomdo's eyes. Who would forget the very special weekend we spent at Volmoed celebrating the ninety-second birthday of our dear Aunty "Hatta" Frances van Gussling. A continuous culinary feast interspersed with much prayer and laughter.

When the Revd John Goliath became Rector of St. Saviour's in 1898, we started addressing healing the hurts of the past and reconciliation. We had received encouragement from the Revd Clement Sergel and Willie Hare who were at Volmoed at the time. Jenny attended a weekend workshop at Volmoed in October, 1992 lead by Cecil Kerr of the Corrymeela Community (CCN Centre) in Ireland.

In pursuit of encouragement, Good Shepherd connected with Coventry Cathedral in about 1989 and their story and ministry of reconciliation. In 1999 Canon Andrew White from Coventry, on hearing the Protea story of how the Protea community were forcibly removed from their homes near Kirstenbosch, how they kept their faith and dignity in adversity, how they stayed faithful to Good Shepherd despite having to travel many miles therefore to get to the Sunday service, how a new mixed congregation developed despite the apartheid laws and the Protea Community submitting their Lands Claim. Andrew invited us to attend the first International Cross of Nails Conference in Coventry in 2000 and to tell the Protea story and also tell them about how Canon Paul Oestreicher had visited Volmoed in 1991 and the Volmoed ministry of reconciliation. In 2001 Canon Chris Burch from Coventry Cathedral came to Volmoed and presented them with their Cross of Nails on Easter Monday. Once again, our relationship with Volmoed deepened.

While at Volmoed on recent retreat, Eileen Nomdo shared her testimony at Morning Prayer. How God has always been part of her life and that of the Protea Community especially during the process (sixteen years) of the Lands Claim and Court Case. Even dealing with the legal profession, God's spirit has been with us as we pursue justice for a community which suffered such brutality through the apartheid years. Eileen's great faith shone through as she related her story of the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)."

This, I think, ties in with Eddie's prayer about time for people and opening the door so that God can step in too and that makes a difference and people see the joy as did the legal profession during the Court Case of the Protea Village Community.

Please pray with us about our **friends at Karwyderskraal**. Over the years we have got to know many of the community living there and they have been our "building team" on many of the houses built on Volmoed but particularly the Chapel. Serghay, one of the Volmoed team, has recently built his own home there and you will have read all about it plus seen photos. One of our prayer partners from Hermanus and the United Church has, together with friends here and overseas, blessed the Karwyderskraal community with gifts of blankets, clothing, food parcels and in particular helping to equip the crèche with all sorts of things which has been fantastic. A problem has now arisen between the community and the land owners which will need much prayer and wisdom. They have been informed that they are "squatters" although some have been there for 50 years.

Please pray especially for Volmoed as we go into the New Year – **for equipment** (the irrigation pump broke down on the 30th December and could not be fixed until businesses opened again), **for drinking water** (we have had no rain to speak of so we are expecting the white water spring & borehole to dry up soon), **for protection from fires** as the fynbos is tinder-box dry, **for a happy, healthy team** who work to make Volmoed beautiful, and **for good bookings** to see us through the year.

Give thanks for Our Lord's continued faithfulness for almost 26 years and the "love gifts" from our faithful donors here in South Africa and overseas – without that extra "topping up" we would not make it and be able to offer Volmoed to so many. Give thanks for the many who have been touched on Volmoed and found healing and wholeness.

We pray that we will all experience God's miracles in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones in 2012,

God bless and love,

Jane