

December 2011

Dear Prayer Partners,

2011 is almost at an end and what a year it has been. A challenging one, but with the knowledge that God is faithful, we have managed to get through the year and give Him our grateful thanks and praise. We also thank YOU, our prayer partners for your continued love and support and prayers.

When I started to think about this Christmas letter, I got together with Alyson to discuss ideas. We thought about things associated with Christmas and I said the word "nativity" and that sent Alyson off! She said "we could do a nativity photo" and she already had a picture in her mind. She was amazing and used her skills from being involved in Christian drama, dancing and clowning. The picture in her mind came together and she worked out what everyone would be and then started on the costumes, using her painting skills to make cow, sheep and donkey ears! She rummaged through her material trunk and came up with bits and pieces which became costumes. We then had to find a day when everyone was at Volmoed and find a photographer to take the photo! The morning dawned and the excitement was tangible. Alyson set out all the costumes on chairs in the Meeting Room and one by one we went in to be dressed! It all came together easily under Alyson's guidance as "Wardrobe Director". I hope you will enjoy our photo and feel our love and joy going out to you. May it bring a smile to your lips and warmth to your heart.

I asked the Volmoed Family to share with you their prayer thanks and requests for 2012.

"Al wat ek vra om vir my en Deon te bid dat die Here ons nog jare vorentoe moet kan by voeg by ons werk en vir beplannings vir ons, in die jare vorentoe. Bid ook vir ons aftree huis wat nog op pad is dat die Here daardie deur vir ons oop maak. Dankie vir elkeen se gebed die Here sêen u."

"I would just like to ask on behalf of Deon and myself that God would give us many more years together in the future, that we can add to His work and can make good plans. Pray also for a retirement house for us to be on the way, that the door would open for us. Thank you for all the prayers. May God bless you". **DEON & HENDRIKA**

"Ek is regtig dankbaar vir 'n voorreg wat Roland gekry het om vir die Boland onder 18 akademie span te kon speel. Dit het my as ma baie trots gemaak. Want hy is baie lief vir rugby speel. Dank die Here daarvoor. My 2012 gebeds versoek is. Bid dat die Here op sy regte tyd iemand spesiaal aan my sy sal plaas."

"I am really grateful for the privilege that Roland has of playing for the Boland under 18 Academy team. This made me very proud as his Mother. He loves playing rugby. I thank God for that. My 2012 prayer request is: that God would place, in his right time, a special person at my side." **REINETTE**

"Ek is bly vir nog 'n jaar wat die Here ons deur gedra het vir my, die kinders en familie. Vir gebed vir die jaar 2012 vra ek net dat u vir my in u gebede sal hou as enkel ouer vir krag sterkte en moed baie enkel ouers gee moed op, maar ek vertrou op die Here dat ek nooit."

"I am grateful for another year that the Lord has taken care of my family and myself. My prayer for 2012 is – I ask you to pray for me as a single parent for strength, energy and hope. Many single parents give up hope, but I trust in God." **WENDY**

"Ek wil net dankie sê aan almal vir Volmoed wat baie vir my beteken

"I just want to thank everyone for Volmoed that means so much to me. Ask them to pray for me and thank you for the year that the Lord has brought us through. Thank you to everyone at Volmoed" **PETERUS**

"Vir al u gebede wil ek baie dankie sê. So 'n mooi jaar 2011 wat God ons uitgespaar het staan einde se kant toe. Mag u 'n gesêende Kerstyd hê en 'n jaar wat voorspoedig sal wees. Bid vir Caitelin waar sy vir die eerste keer skool toe sal gaan. Bid ook vir goeie reënval in die seisoen vir ons water-bronne.

"Thank you for all the prayers. A wonderful year of Gods grace draws to a close. May you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year. Pray for Caitelin (daughter) as she goes to school for the first time. Pray too for good rains in season for our water tanks." **SERGHAY**

"I am grateful for all the love, affirmation and encouragement received, bringing such joy. Pray for a clearer vision for the future development of Volmoed and the wisdom and resources to implement God's will" **BARRY**

"I am so grateful for the gentle death of my Mother, Beryl (95) who died in March and for the beautiful funeral that Barry took in the Thanksgiving Chapel on Volmoed. Our first grandchildren – twins! Are due in January 2012. Please pray for their safe delivery and that it will be possible for us to fly to London to help" **MOLLY**

"I just wanna say thank you for the Lord who helped us through this year. Please pray for us for next year because nobody knows what the year holds for us. Thank you" **MARGARET & ANDRIES**

"I want to say thanks for the prayers that you pray for us every time in Volmoed. My wife has got a full time job. Please pray as I want to build my house in 2012 but I trust God that He can help me." **LUCAS**

"I am grateful for love, life, good health and my family. I would like everyone to pray for the healing of corruption within all spheres of South Africa, and a return to good old-fashioned values of honesty, loyalty and discipline" **PENNY**

"I'm thankful for the prayer partners, Volmoed and my colleagues who was praying for me and my husband through this year. We appreciate it. Please keep on praying for us as we are going to start IVF treatment in 2012" **ANNA**

"I want to say thank you to the Lord who carry us through this year. It has been a very difficult one. We need your prayers so that the Lord will bless us in the coming year." **JOHANNES**

"I am grateful for God's continued hand of protection on my life and loved ones. My prayer for 2012 is that my family and loved ones would grow in their knowledge of God's love and put their faith in Him. Also that I would be able to adapt and accept whatever changes and challenges come my way" **ALYSON**

"Thank you for Volmoed and the people we meet. Pray for continued good health" **MIKE**

"Once again we have felt Our Lord's presence with us during the year – ever faithful and near when times were tough and for this we are very grateful. We go into 2012 trusting Him in all things in the life of Volmoed and also with our children and grandchildren – may they know He is with them too" **JANE**

"We have been so blessed over the last 25 years and although we have been through a very lean winter we look forward to a good year ahead. Most important of all is to ask you to continue to pray for those who come to Volmoed- that they may be touched and find a measure of healing and wholeness in their lives" . **BERNHARD**

"I am grateful that my health is as good as it is – that my Parkinsons is not worse and that we were so blessed in our travels to the UK & USA. Please pray that the Parkinsons may not progress any more and that God will continue to give strength to John and myself and Marian, our daughter-in-law, and the three grandchildren, as we manage without Steve." **ISOBEL**

"Grateful for? Why, of course, for life at Volmoed and the wonderful support of the community and our wider circle of friends. For a great visit to family and friends in the UK & USA. For safe travelling. For work to do, books to read, mountains to climb, golf balls to lose, wood to turn, and a bed to sleep in. For good food and the best wine in the world. For computers and tablets, the internet, TV, and great movies. For laughter and conversation, for tears and hugs

2012? Could I ask for more than already received in such abundance? But let's hope and pray especially for peace and justice in the Middle East, for greedy bankers and corrupt politicians who are messing up their own and everyone's else's lives, for those who think they know everything and want to run the world and everybody's else's lives their own way, and for Christians and church leaders who are honestly trying to follow Jesus, and may all Volmoedians near and far have a good year." **JOHN**

May your eyes shine with the love of Christ as you look at others,
May your ears hear love words of Christ which you pass to others,
May your heart be full of the love of Christ
and may your hands touch others with the love of Christ
at this time of His birth, and always.

God bless and love from the Volmoed Family

The Volmoed Family wish you a peaceful Christmas and many blessings in 2012



Back Row: Jane, Bernhard, Barry, John, Anna, Deon, Peterus, Reinette, Johannes, Andries, Mike, Penny
Middle Row: Maggie, Molly, Hendrika, Isobel, Wendy, Alyson
Front Row: Lucas, Serghay