

# **PEACE in the RIVER**

## ***Racial barriers bow down to higher visions of PEACE in SOUTH AFRICA...***

*by Mariana*

*This letter came to us from a beautiful Peace in the Water family in South Africa. It humbles, inspires and opens WIDE our perspective for the greater possibilities and purpose of this project. The power of unified intention works in great and mysterious ways... we are grateful.*

**To my friends and prayer partners for Peace in the Water,**

Early this morning when the dawn opened the door to the sun and divided the darkness from the light you became part of the pleasure I was experiencing. Sitting at the side of a mighty river just thanking God for all the blessings in my life and thanking Him that I can be part of a global network of people who have a passion to live with the creatures in the ocean. Humbly I want to share with you the profound effect of this project on people in my small community.

When I heard of the 33 day prayer for our oceans I was eager to share it with others. It dawned on me very quickly that many people in my community have never seen the ocean, they have never heard the ocean, and they have never seen a creature that lives in an ocean, because there are no money for books or televisions let alone money to travel. Prayer for our ocean seemed impossible if there is hardly food on the table. I asked God for wisdom and a way to share the energy of this project ... **He showed me the RIVER.**

The river is well known to many in the community and also provides food on the table for many. And so I began to focus on the river and to share the greater vision for Peace in the Water through our connection to this river. For many, it was the first time they realized that the river actually ends in the sea and that we need to care for this river. I believe we need to care for this world as we would like the world to care for us.

As we are working on a piece of land next to the river I felt it would be good to share with everyone and pray together during the 33 days of the Peace in the Water vigil. There was just one problem: there is still strong hostility towards black people and obvious racial division between the black and white communities... Praying together is not as normal for everyone as for our family, let alone being or working together for any purpose.

I went and sat at the waterfall and asked for guidance... I saw streams of human creativity, goodness and caring plunging down the rock. The energy I felt inspired me to share with everyone that this river is our responsibility; we need to care and collectively come to our senses and restore some kind of dynamical balance. Praying for Peace in the Water will bring peace to the soul. I shared this vision, and to my amazement... Black and White took hands together (for the first time EVER), and started to pray.

It filled me with tears of joy. The praying continued everyday for the 33-day vigil, and still continues every Wednesday morning.

As a result, RESPECT for the water is growing, and RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER moved into a whole new dimension. In the past, black workers have walked for two hours each day to work. Now they are being picked up and driven by their white co-workers. Meals are being shared and cleaning programs have also begun. We have begun sharing the information and films on the website, and it is wonderful to see how the song of a dolphin and the words of a whale bring a smile to many faces and transforms the way people think and feel -- in ways that were impossible to imagine. We have indeed experienced the power of prayer.

During this time, our work at the river has also been blessed. As a result is possible to fund a school trip during the holidays to -- yes you guessed -- THE SEA. The children are so excited and we are standing in faith that they will come back and share with others. We will continue to cultivate capacities for learning and growing and believe transformation will happen in our midst - as it already is.

The 33 days called us to live our lives as if they really matter, not just for ourselves, but for the world. I am joining you to share our unique beauty with the world in the precious time we have and to leave the children a legacy of wisdom and compassion in the way we live. No intention is too small and no effort insignificant.

I am sending you love  
and peace from the  
river,

Mariana

