

March 2018

Hot off The Press

News from Peter and Kay Goodchild at
Emmanuel Press in South Africa



Outside our new front door

In the summer of 2017, God clearly confirmed to us that we should offer ourselves unreservedly to assist in the work of Emmanuel Press. We did and were accepted by the staff and the EP board, and backed by our home church - The Vine, in Cranbrook. Then to encourage, support and further confirm, you have expressed your interest, love and support to stand with us in this new adventure for Jesus. **Thank you so much!**

It was that bitterly cold snowy Tuesday morning in February, with cars strewn across the icy road outside our home, that we gingerly carried our luggage 200yds down to the High St, to Chris' waiting car. Every road was treacherous with vehicles struggling on every incline. 1½ hrs later we had made only about 11 miles. How could we possibly make Heathrow in time? Thankfully with Chris' great driving, Joy's indomitable spirit + food supplies, and David's energy and personal survival kit, we made it! At check-in we repacked the cases, enjoyed a last coffee then said an emotional farewell. After an hour's delay, to de-ice the wings, we were finally off!

We touched down at Johannesburg Airport, 7.25am Wednesday 29th Feb. tired but happy. Dean Skinner, EP Director, arrived to whisk us away on our final leg(s!) to White River 340km (200+ miles) away, passing through Nelspruit, the original home of Emmanuel Press.

We rent a partially furnished 2 bedroom flat right next to the EP offices. Our first mission was to acquire a bed, a fridge and order a washing machine. Then, in a unique buying-flurry, we began to make this our home. May we say, "A very special BIG Thank you" to those who have given gifts with this initial expense in mind! How blessed we are! A new friend even donated a car for several weeks whilst we get organized here. GOD IS SO GOOD IN SURROUNDING US WITH SUCH REAL FRIENDS!

Last week the owner of offices next door organized an auction! One cabinet on his lawn caught my eye. I experienced my first S.A. auction all conducted in bullish Afrikaans! And yes, I kept my nerve and got the deal of the week! Our local shopping mall is a 5 minute walk away and has the usual array of shops including a good supermarket - PickNPay.



The Press as seen from the road

continued...



Should I mention the weather? The UK temperatures make us feel almost awkward. As I write it is 25 degrees and heading toward 30! (down to 16 at night). But yes, we are coping. The culture is different (appointment times can be very flexi!) but we want to live the culture of heaven's kingdom above everything.

Work starts at 8.00am every morning, and Kay is learning the receptionist role amongst other duties. I have an office upstairs and will be the Centre manager, have pastoral oversight of the team and give direction for the future of Emmanuel Press. It's not all desk work; I helped cut up a fallen tree in the garden and tomorrow I'll meet the builder about renovating kitchen in flat no.9, and the telephone engineer about a new system. Next week I will be sharing the Gospel with staff at the local police station.

This first month is a whirl of listening and looking, with a steep learning curve for us both! Dean & Wendy leave for Canada in April, so does the IT lady. They'll be away for 4 and 3 months respectively. I could write pages on the whole scene here: the small friendly staff team (10 plus us); the good accommodation; the sprawling town of White River; the local churches; and the tumble of thoughts and feelings we are experiencing....

As the dust settles, we're determining priorities. We have been introduced to all the team, the town and the challenging situation emerges. The danger is that we take our eyes off the LORD and think in limited human ways. Mary has the answer still true today: "Whatever HE says to you, do it". Prayer is our priority, and we want to be listening and obeying whatever Father directs us in. We want to 'hear' what JESUS is saying.

So, to conclude, we say "Rejoice with us that God has opened a door and we have walked through!" We're here, and that's the first major step. God has provided - great is His faithfulness!

Thank you for your partnership with us. Your interest, love & support encourage us forwards. We actually feel at home, because we are at home, because this is where Father has placed us for now...

It would be lovely to see you when we're back in 5 months' time!

Always with love,

Peter and Kay

- Points for Prayer
1. That we will bring JESUS into the centre of everything.
 2. The sense of real FAMILY will be restored to The Press, with UNITY in Jesus Christ.
 3. That we'll HEAR what HE is saying, and FAITH will grow for obedience and action.