

Hot off The Press

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

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Little could have prepared us for the Christmas season here in South Africa; it rarely dipped below 17 degrees even at night, the absence of 'old' friends and close family, no marzipan for a home-made Christmas cake and few available friends to help us enjoy it. The weeks prior were not filled with Christmas bustle, but struggles to complete renovations in one of the flats here. With our staff dispersed for the 3+ weeks, I assumed the role of groundsman, rubbish collector, works foreman, general factotum & resourcer.

Christmas Day was a 'first' for us: Before 10am we were home from a brief Church gathering. As friends dispersed happily to their family gatherings we returned to our quiet flat and WhatsApp'd our family to say, "Happy Christmas and we love you!" We had invited Simon & Susann to join us - what a dear couple. We laughed and talked together; ate together; prayed together. We savoured the moments as they graced our simple hospitality and then it was time to say goodbye.



Christmas with Simon & Susann

Quietness returned and only then revelation dawned... *We had spent the day with Jesus.* We cried a little on the inside at the realisation; this is what it's all about. No wrapped gifts exchanged, but love; No pretty cards displayed, but words were real; no roast turkey, but "apples of gold in settings of silver" (Prov 25:11). "Surely The Lord was in this place" (Gen.28:16) ... yet we almost missed Him!



Visiting a church for the graduation of 3 EP students

We did, however, enjoy our traditional Boxing Day walk! Gillian joined us on a perambulation about the outskirts of White River. The ladies 'glowed' and I sweated it out in the mid-morning sun, then it was home for a light lunch.

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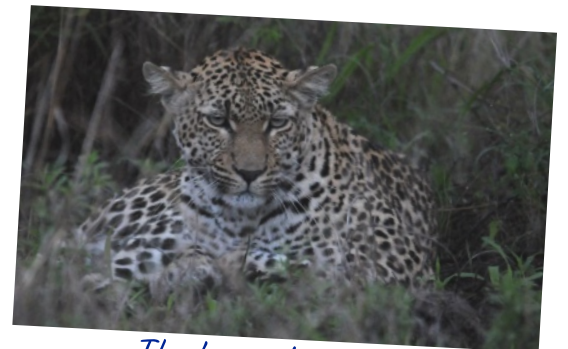
Our New Year retreat

We welcomed in the New Year behind closed eyelids and awoke to a year of promise. Knowing Jesus makes the unknown 2019 better than a known way, so we start this new year knowing God will work where we cannot. *Oh Hallelujah!*

With a little planning, and God's good provision through a kind friend, Kay secured a 3 day retreat for us. We drove an hour to 'Mountain Creek Lodge', and spent our time idly. For me that meant sleeping, musing, dozing and staring out across a green valley as the mist or the rain kept the temperature pleasantly down. However, the farm's cockerel kept us aware that time had lost all meaning for him!

On 4th January, after a relatively brief rendezvous, I thanked my dentist and gratefully paid the fee pain-free. Then on Sunday I preached from Isaiah 43:19, "For I AM about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?" The Eternal Newness of The Almighty spans the Bible. "Look I AM making everything NEW." Then quoting the apostle Paul, "In Christ we HAVE BECOME a NEW creation... The old has gone!" How? God can transform us into NEW persons by us changing the way we think!

The other day it was such a pleasure to welcome two special visitors for lunch. David & Vourny (our daughter-in-law Candy's parents) live in Durban, but came straight to us from their trip into The Kruger Park. Here's a copy of David's first shot of the day... Impressive eh!?



The leopard, up close.

Thank you for your continuing friendship and prayer and support for us. The challenges are, at times, more than we can naturally cope with but "friends... be of good courage for we believe God!" Your prayers on our behalf strengthen us for sure. We ask you to please press on praying the same as we asked last month:

- Pray that we see God's 'more workers' this year, with the passion to see people discovering Jesus Christ and becoming true disciples.
- Pray we discover God's strategy for The Press.
- Pray we live by faith with a Divine Daring that actually DOES!

With our love and gratitude to you, and to our Heavenly Father - Always Be Praise!

Peter & Kay

The latest EP newsletter is available on emmanuelpress.org.uk with the key points for prayer right now! Pray with open hearts... and God may speak to you!