

Hot off The Press

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

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It seems unusual weather patterns are global... one day it's 19° then two days of top twenties and then down again. We've not had floods here like some parts have had, it is just very dry. There has been so much to twist any routine out of an average week, but let's start with a UK update.

Shortly after writing our last HOTP update we lost the buyer for our house, but things have moved on since then. Yes, The Barn is now SOLD (s.t.c.) to dear friends in our home church in Cranbrook. Pete & Grace hope to complete their own sale and purchase The Barn within the next few weeks. There's no available house on our horizon at the moment, but Forsaking All I (we) Trust HIM - FAITH! We don't know when we may return for a quick visit to oversee the removal of our earthly goods to a new space.



Back in SA the past couple of months we've been pushing on with a variegated routine here at the Press.

If we're not already up, the alarm wakes us at 6.15am. After making the early morning cuppa it's quiet until almost 7am providing time to read The Word, worship, meditate and be still before the day starts. We commute all the way next door to work, for team devotions at 8.00am. On Fridays we also host a few local supporters who join us in praying for the work of The Press.

At 8.30 the coffee and computers are on and the work begins. Tea break is at 10.30am and then before we know it, it's 1.00pm for lunch. At 3.00pm the ladies like to have a cup of Earl Grey then, what with keeping in touch with Calvin, Tebogo and Ezekiah in the offices here, suddenly it is 4.00pm – the working day ends.



In the EP White River office

There are currently seven of us that work in the White River office. Barbara, Tebogo, Kay and I

peter@emmanuelpress.org ~ kay@emmanuelpress.org



Kay preaching as Esrom translates at Kruger for Jesus at KNP

live on site. Gillian lives nearby but, Calvin and Ezekiah live about 10 miles away. Being on-site has its advantages, but they can be a disadvantage too. Kay and I often work well beyond the usual 8 'til 4 – writing emails; making calls; fixing what needs fixing and doing whatever needs doing.

In the main office, the daily routine of lessons coming in for marking, registering new students, updating students' details, printing tracts, lessons and certificates is frequently punctuated as

visitors pop into the office. They may bring completed lessons from friends and contacts, or come to browse the shop.

I'm often at my desk writing emails, reports, lessons and newsletters, new material for the website or notes of thanks to our wonderful donors. The other afternoon the couple who lead Kruger for Jesus came to pick up the lessons for two camps. Whilst here, I shared an idea with them for producing simple encouraging studies for park Rangers who lack Christian fellowship for weeks at a time when stationed in remote outposts. Yesterday we had visits from two men who show a keen interest in supporting our work.

Evenings are varied, but follow their own routine. On Mondays we help run an Alpha Course from 5–9pm in White River. Tuesday our church home-group meets, sometimes in our home but often others will host. The rest of the week may include having guests for dinner, preparing to preach, or just collapsing with ipad, laptop and phones to catch up with friends and family.



Meeting with the EP Board

Like traffic on the motorway, pressures come. Coping with changes at several levels is always challenging and drives us to prayer. Whether at Board level or in a satellite office, relationships in the team or managing the urgent above the important, or even the recurring practical issues of water, electricity and general maintenance, there always seems to be something going on.

There have been cascades of uncertainties lately, some difficult to carry, but we are reminded of a great old hymn that has these words:

*Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

It's worth reading the whole hymn and thanking God for His faithfulness.

Once again, THANK YOU for your love and prayer and support for us as we walk on trusting Him who gave everything for us!

Peter & Kay