

Hot off The Press

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

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Hello dear friends, I'm sitting at my desk in locked down White River. Could we have imagined that 2020 would have seen such extraordinary days? A few prophetic words heralded change, but this was not expected by most. The crisis so many are experiencing has been real, personal and often painful. The ramifications have yet to be felt, and questions are multiplied for individuals, families, businesses, communities and whole countries.

The South African government called a lockdown just after the UK: No walking out or leaving home except for food, medical aid & a few other extreme needs. This has meant the closure of Emmanuel Press: no school or prison visits and no visitors to our premises, not even the postman. The mission of EP is halted, except for email students, but these too have been slowed as our staff here cannot attend. A wisp of good news is that we have connected with some students via our Facebook page as Kay posts daily encouragement.



Confined to home so baking it is!

Calvary Place is home to 6 residential flats, so fellowship is still alive here. We gather outdoors twice a week to worship Jesus, pray and share God's Word. Netanya, our guitarist who leads us in worshipping, said: 'There is no greater joy than to just worship Him and it is such a privilege to do it together.' The remnant of our Tuesday Fellowship group also meet to open God's Word and pray for the others.

Over the months I've wrestled with the tension of the urgent responsibilities, competing with the 'important' issues concerning the whole direction of our mission. There are always matters to attend to... outstanding legal docs to



A quick photocall after an outdoor worship time



This plant was growing out of our reserve water tank

update, cupboards full of old records to sort, preparing weekly studies for our fellowship group and, only yesterday, technicians replacing old cables between two offices.

Now, with freer days, I've started reviewing our courses; some are okay but others lack credibility for a modern, thinking, younger person. Some of the theological content also needs attention. Now I can tackle this large project with minimal distractions. The 12 lesson course on John's Gospel is my focus right now.

To maintain the momentum of our leaders' teaching sessions I'm trying my hand at WhatsApp audio messaging. I've found a few gardening tasks to help keep me fit as well. However, Kay and I feel deeply that our priority must be thus:

We have set ourselves to seek The Lord our God: to hear His Word and to pray His prayers (Romans 8:26-28). It is SO GOOD to know Father's presence as we bring our lives more into line with His holy purposes. Extra to our usual early morning personal devotions, we are taking a couple of hours to read HIS Word out loud. God's Word is alive. His presence is real. His peace is powerful. We want to give God more personal time than we give to any other attention-grabbing gadgets.



Me and youngest grandson, Rafferty, when we were back in the UK. He's now almost 4 months old

Diary update: My April Malawi trip is postponed and our summer visit home looks doubtful; our mid-June flight is on hold until further notice. We hear our visas will be cancelled if we leave SA. Therefore, we are here where God called us to be, and here we stay until further notice or permission granted.

Please Pray:

1. That we have clarity about the path ahead for Emmanuel Press.
 2. That God opens doors into wider purposes for our being here.
 3. That God's church across the world will rise in faith in this incredible season to see God's purposes unfurled in fruitfulness.
- Remember ALL things, including this current hour are working according to the counsel of His will.

We conclude by wishing you a very happy Easter, and pray the wonderful reality of Jesus will touch your heart in a new way.

With love and longing to see our family and friends!

Peter & Kay

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