

Hot off The Press

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

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Hello again from South Africa, where it's well into autumn here in the southern hemisphere. We've been in Lockdown Land for about fifty days and, like many other places, there are signs that many people are struggling to maintain the level of lockdown the government demands. Face masks are now mandatory for anyone venturing out. It's a legal requirement with fines if you offend. Kay got busy making some, but it's good to have a

spare, so we've some shop-bought models too.

It's been a mixed month and we are so grateful for the 'family' of EP residents that have softened the sense of isolation. Last week we had a staff team meeting on-site. For the foreseeable future we cannot have an open door to the public but the eight of us met to talk, pray & decide the best legal way forward. To help us all and to continue with behind-the-scenes responsibilities, we plan to all be here each Wednesday morning. During the rest of the week those of us on site can fulfil any necessary duties.



Ready to face the outside world...

Sunday mornings together continue to be a blessing. At 9am in the carport we worship Jesus then focus on The Written Word of God and prayer. It's then time for a cuppa and some home-made cake before we join the youtube livestream from The Vine Church, our home church back in Cranbrook.

Last week's highlight was being able to baptise a new believer in Jesus! Darrel had come to stay on site with his parents during lockdown. Unexpectedly for him, Jesus met him on our first Sunday; he says his life has



Being church where we are each Sunday morning.



Getting ready to baptise Darrel in a nearby pool.

been totally turned around. In a borrowed pool he was baptised on confession of his new found faith in Jesus Christ as His Saviour and LORD! It was such a special occasion with 17 witnessing the event.

We host an EP residents' Bible study in our flat on Tuesdays. Currently we're working through the book of Acts. It is challenging and somehow very real as we reconsider, "how do we do church in this new normal?" We're finding that other pertinent questions are arising: What is church really all about? What did Jesus intend for us to be?

Our habit of reading God's Word aloud to each other continues apace. Having completed the New Testament we plunged into the Old and from Genesis, are now passing through 2 Kings. One is able to stand and see God who works all things in the counsel of HIS will, despite wayward mankind. He will have a people of praise. He will take glory to HIS Great Name. HIS purposes will be fulfilled!

As to our diary, it is difficult to see when we can return to the UK. Neither the SA or UK governments are making international travel easy, and of course there is the issue of our visa renewals in January 2021 and quarantine both there and here.

Let me conclude with the answer that satisfies us today! His Word holds us on course:

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

In this, the 23rd HOTP, Psalm 23 seems very appropriate: *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need... He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to his name... Surely your goodness & unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.*

Please read the whole of this Psalm, praying it over your life, and ours. This is The Word of The Lord... He knows the way that we take (Job 23:10) and His promises are good!

Thank you for your love, your interest and your prayers that work in our lives, for His great glory! We'll meet again.

Always with love,

Peter & Kay

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EP Residents together after Darrel's baptism.