

Hot off The Press

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

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As you read our last 2020 newsletter, we will be busy making final preparations for the 24hr journey to Cranbrook. Preparations to cover our leave, to find and fill our suitcases, and for our arrival in a lockdown land of cautious festivities. On the 1st of December we received confirmation of our hoped-for flight from Johannesburg to Heathrow. It came as a great relief after weeks of wondering. Yes, we fly on 16th December.

The atmosphere is one of hope and anticipation. What a wonderful thing it is to have HOPE. Not just a vague and formless longing, but a clear and steadfast expectation. When Kay told me she had received the confirmation email, my response was “Oh Yipee” and “Hallelujah.” At last, something certain, albeit with different procedures in place. The whole world is full of doing things differently now, even our way of thinking is changing. Christmas will be different this year, perhaps these differences will reveal the core values of our hearts. What’s the vision in your heart?



Over 2,600 years ago Habakkuk, inspired by God’s Spirit, wrote these strangely relevant words:

“these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.”

Three years ago, Kay and I were preparing for an unknown future in another land. Many things have happened that we didn’t anticipate. Tough times, difficult decisions, challenging chapters and rough roads.... But today we still have a confident hope because our hope is in one who holds it all, and who holds *us* in it all. God is still the God of the hope that will carry us through these days. It’s interesting that Habakkuk’s name means ‘to embrace’.

Our little flat was packed with almost 20 friends last Tuesday evening as we welcomed Len and Zelna from Pretoria to come and share encouragement



Len & Zelna visited us recently

from God's Word. This week we interviewed a young lady who will sit at Kay's desk in January-February whilst we are away in England. A lovely young Zambian with admin and I.T. skills and speaks a few African languages to boot.

This weekend a group from our Sunday group hope to visit Calvin's new church building, which we contributed towards. He's built this new structure because he has hope.



We are renewing our visas because we have hope. We're coming home to see family and home church because we have hope. We hope to see some of you too. We thank you for standing with us and bless God for His faithfulness through you... because we have hope.

And just in case you think we are being optimistic people who glide through life... I must also mention that we have hope because of verse four; we are here because we have been given faith. (Hab.2:4) Yes, we've known some really tough chapters this year, but we're discovering that when God gives hope, you *can* make it. So as we come home for this visit, we come rather tired and weary, but grateful to God for friends who have faithfully stood with us, prayed for us, supported us and encouraged us. Yes we thank God for real friends in this exceptional year. "Thank YOU."

We also thank God for:

- A new receptionist for January / February.
- Almost completed visa application forms.
- A sense of unity and cooperation at The Press

So to conclude, amidst our thanksgiving and gratitude, here are 5 matters to pray for:

- successful & speedy visa applications in London
- EP access into schools & prisons etc.
- a lecture hall to teach Christian leaders (Acts 17:11 & Acts 19:9)
- the right people for the new future here at EP.
- a good time in UK, complete with some rest too.

May God bless you with His peace as you step into a new year with hope on purpose.

With our love,

Peter & Kay



Some of the documents for out visa application