

Hot off The Press

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



“There is a hope that burns within my heart...” these words from a song we sang recently at a dear friend’s funeral, carry powerful poignancy and peace. It refers to the hope that we, who believe in Jesus Christ, are holding on to, *knowing* we shall see Him one day. The hope of eternal life we experience carries us through the deepest of sorrows and anxieties that cross our path. In this

season of uncertainties we have a hope that stands the test of time, that lifts our eyes beyond the present. But here we are, in the real and rugged present, so let me state it simply: “God is really helping us to live life now.”

Over the last year all of us have thought, said and done things we never thought we would. Words like lockdown, zoom, streaming, pandemic, social distance (or maybe unsocial distance?) and furlough have unexpectedly become common parlance. We are adapting to the climate of change as life moves forward. Some have bravely faced the reality of new questions, whilst others have retreated to the security of ‘surviving’. So, let me share where we are up to.

At the beginning of April the SA visa office in London opened and we secured an appointment for 7th April. We presented our documents including a required flight booking, to fly near the end of May. Within 14 days we received our passports with the new visas, delivered to our home. We were granted two years rather than the requested three, but we’re grateful. Then... an email announcing our flight had been cancelled. We booked again but that too was soon cancelled. Researching international flights we discovered pervasive uncertainty on several airlines throwing a return to the UK into question.



In August I have the exciting duty of walking our favourite daughter down the aisle, and so this question: "Should we try to return to SA before then, or wait until after the August date?" That special day is an appointment non-negotiable and, only in the past few days, we have decided that we will stay here until the end of August when we shall return to God's place of calling and service for our next chapter in SA.

We are in contact with the dedicated team in White River each day, directing and overseeing remotely as we, like so many others across the world, are "working from home". Kay continues to write more lessons for the new children's course. Every week we send each member of the team some thoughts or encouragement from a passage in the Bible. On the basis of the messages we get back in response, these are very gratefully received.

We continue to ask God to make a way for His Word to reach those who want it. As the EP board of directors consider a future new chapter of fruitfulness, I was pleased to propose the name of a new, younger, prospective board member recently.



During March and April, we have made good use of our 'garden room' receiving local friends for coffee & chat. It's been encouraging to make contact with several of you over the weeks here in England, and although travel has been greatly restricted, connection across the same piece of land/country does actually feel closer than being 6,500 miles away.

In White River we experienced the coldest winter for 30 years, and now, here in Kent we've just tasted the coldest April for 60yrs. In spite of that, the sights and sounds of an English springtime have been delightful amidst a very overgrown country garden. If you would like to visit... please just ask us.

Thank you again for helping and supporting us to run the race set before us. We have the baton firmly in our hand, and we want to run with clear focus, steady determination and a God-given mandate! "We focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. We press on to reach the end of the race..." (Philippians 3:13pp)



With our love,

Peter & Kay