

# Hot off The Press

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



The month of September has flown past like few others. We can hardly believe that we have already been back in South Africa for four weeks. After negative PCR tests, final packing and goodbyes, we were off to Heathrow and then 38,000 feet up before touching down in Jo'burg. Netanja arrived in her

bakkie (pick-up) and we

were on our way to White River. It had been an extended time away from Flat no.3, 260 days in all, but friends had made it a welcome home to return to.

We hit the ground running. Within 48 hours of arriving I was preaching at one of the community churches. This first month back at 'home-base' in Mpumalanga has been marked by renewing friendships all around: cups of coffee; catching up with local happenings and news; sharing our own 8-month-story.

A by-the-way benefit meant that we left England as the summer began to wane and arrived amid signs of spring. Just to help my sense of continuity, I needed to visit the local dentist to deal with infection under my recent crown.

Having enjoyed the easing of regulations in the UK, lockdown here continues to affect most areas of life. Masks are mandatory and churches are under strict limits too. The effects of the lockdown are also very evident here... strain on household relationships; personal battles of minds, emotions and troubled people surrounded by growing unemployment and



big uncertainties. There are more shops boarded up and more desperate criminals at large. Only last Sunday afternoon friends of ours were out walking when their phones were snatched at gunpoint – in broad daylight. They were grateful to walk away with their lives. We thank God for His hand upon us, even in troubled times.

Although life in the office is fairly quiet at the moment our team devotions are a daily highlight. We gather at 8am, one of us will read their chosen scripture, comment briefly, and lead our prayer. Last Thursday, Netanja joined us with her guitar and led us in songs worshipping The Lord. Forty mins later we dispersed to the three offices, filled with God's peace and joy.

One things we love is sharing a meal with friends; this past week has been busy for Kay as chef. The other week we met with friends at their home. Then a wedding anniversary meal with a couple after church. Earlier this week we invited another couple - our former schools visitors, and more recently a fellow director with his dear wife.



Just to remind you... we are not an earth-bound business venture; investments we make now, will make returns for eternity. We have an expectation of a good future, but only God can make it all happen in a way that will really count. Sad hearts given solid hope and lives changed forever by God's Word, is what EP is all about.

May I ask you to pray for God's guidance as the EP Board meet Friday 8th October? We are united in wanting Him to lead us and expect clarity and unity as we interview potential new members. There's hope of new openings beyond Sth Africa too. Last Wednesday I managed to Zoom with friends in Malawi who are interested in using our courses to spread God's Word amongst their many contacts in schools and churches. It is a new day, and if we can know with confidence and solidarity the opening of new doors of opportunity, that will be wonderful.

So, thanks for standing with us, and yes, thanks for standing for us. We appreciate you from over 5,500 miles away, as we start our 2nd month in this chapter.

With our love,

*Peter & Kay*

