

Hot off The Press

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

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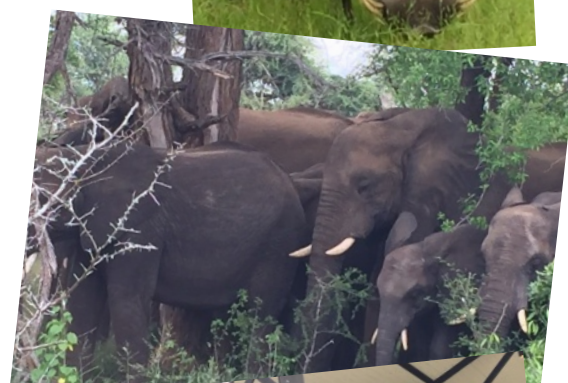
The New Year began well for us. At 9.00am on the first of MMXXII we met with friends from the church to worship and pray in unity for God's purposes in the year ahead. Many people want to move on from extreme caution and restrictive mindsets. Life is for living!

After a 3 week break, the EP offices opened on 6th January.

In that interim holiday season, struggling to capture a Christmassy feel, we maintained quite a busy schedule receiving visitors and being in different places. I was the guest speaker at a Christmas day service, then we welcomed Steve & Mercia back to ours for Christmas dinner. The following day we were both asked to speak at another church, a 45mins drive away. We could have done with a 4x4 but five friends and a keyboard made it through the mud in the sturdy old Honda CRV. Life is about friendships and we sense that God works through these too.

One day we joined a little team of friends to help a family move home. I think that was our 'workout' for the year but the day went well and we had good fun. The following day we visited The Kruger National Park with two friends. We had sightings of all creatures great and small; impala by the hundreds; elephants by the score; hyenas and wild dogs; comical warthogs. The occasional buffalo, crocodile, a hippo (well, just its nostrils & eyes) and birds in abundance. We took a coffee stop at the Skukuza Railway buffet bar.

The beautiful massive locomotive now quiet and laid to rest-aurant.



In recent days, we have 'received' this verse from Isaiah's prophetic declaration three times. "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun. Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." (Is.43:19) It strikes a chord in our hearts for the months ahead. Yes, God's wonders have taken place in history, but The Lord is a God of unique 'newness'. God is calling us to trust Him for something beyond what we have seen, for something yet new again. Here in South Africa we believe God has plans beyond what we currently see; we have seen some encouraging developments over these past years, but there's more.

As we step into the new year holding hopes, heaven in our hearts and a host of questions, we are carried by God's goodness and His written Word. There will be struggles and sadness but hope springs... God is the God of New things... It's what we pray for, it's where we focus and fix our gaze.

We are grateful for a New Year. God works in years and through the years. How great is this; the God of eternity, of foreverness, works within and through time for one purpose - beyond time. Kay and I are living here away from home and family, in time, for a purpose that's beyond time. Now here's a question for you: "Are you living your beyond-time purpose?"

THANK YOU for your kind words in the holiday season and your steadfast support of our living and steps. We look forward to sharing details of the 'something new' as we trust to see, "God's pathway thro' the wilderness and new rivers in the dry wasteland" (v.19) There are conversations to be had and visits to be made, and I'm sure the diary will soon fill up. Please pray we pursue the right paths and let God lead us.

So finally, with thanksgiving for HIS faithfulness, three prayer points for those who will pray:

1. That we see the new thing that God is doing; we want to follow well.
2. That we hear God concerning key friendships and church connections
3. That we keep a clear focus for faith ventures and actions.

A happy new year to you and a heartfelt 'Thank you' with our love,

Peter & Kay

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*Kay with two of our neighbours...
and a christmas cake!*