

Hot off The Press

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

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I'm happy to write of good news as we mark six months of our current chapter in White River. Yes, life continues apace with the unexpected becoming usual; not quite mundane, but we're never bored or too fussy about planning the details of living.

In February we welcomed friends Len and Zelna Weyers from Pretoria and Thursday evening slipped all too fast

into Monday morning when we bade them farewell. We took an excursion into Kruger National Park (KNP) but sightings were not memorable. It's funny how you can get used to having to slow down and wait while a family of elephants lumber slowly across the road... I really can't imagine that closer to home.

I was blessed to meet a couple with whom I immediately clicked. We agreed to meet again in April once they return from a home-visit to USA. They lead a Christian mission, SINANI, working with youth and orphans, and would love to use our Bible study courses. Also in February we were visited by our dear friend Domingos from Mozambique - I plan to visit his home and preach in his church at about the time you'll receive this letter.

We were delighted to attend an unusual party - a 39th birthday party for a friend who had never celebrated his birthday before. So, despite his embarrassment and awkwardness, we blessed him and showered him with 'family' love. We entertained another couple for a happy meal which challenged Kay's cuisine with no dairy, gluten or meat.



Elephants, up close & in the distance plus hippos below.



As March arrived we quietly celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary before launching into a flurry of activity. I had a new experience, speaking at the Nelspruit Christian School assembly and centred my talk around The Big Five. I challenged the students (6-18yrs old) to be BRELLiant. BRELL = The Big Five – do you know them? To be a BRELL person, you'll love the Bible, Read it, Eat it, Learn it, Live it. It seemed to find its mark.

I met with a few church leaders, introducing the concept of working with them in outreach, using our courses in God's written Word. The office has also been busy; good sales of Bibles and a flow of people bringing lessons for marking and renewing. In the Nelspruit church we have enjoyed a midweek meeting to seek the Lord; just a small number gathering, but a precious group longing to see something fresh and new in their church life.



Last weekend was exciting. I was invited to speak at an Emmanuel Press graduation about 180 miles north. We left home before 6.00am and travelled on clear roads arriving in good time. The event, scheduled for 11am, started towards 12 noon and lasted over 3 hours. We met beneath the roof of the new church building, glad for the shade from the noonday sun. Having congratulated the 24 graduates on their hard work, I preached to them and a swelled congregation on the greater importance of receiving God's approval.

After a lunch prepared for the crowd, we drove east to Phalaborwa on the border of KNP. The next morning, we drove on to Olifants camp, inside KNP, where I addressed the informal Christian Fellowship, a group of Park staff who love to gather and worship The Lord. Afterwards we stayed for a peaceful evening and enjoyed watching the sun go down over the massive Olifants plains. We spotted tiny elephants enjoying the water of the river far below us. Early on Monday we drove home, through temps of 35 degrees, arriving safe home by lunchtime. We were very tired but so blessed and grateful to have shared the best news in the world with dear friends who have so little in this passing world.

Dear friends, thank you for helping us be a blessing to grateful people in days when so much of the world is in tragic turmoil, and as more than ever so need The Lord. With our love and thanks for your kindness and prayer on our behalf.

Peter & Kay

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