

Hot off The Press

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

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During the last few weeks we have lived with expectancy, hope, caution and wonder as we've waited on God to direct our steps. You might say we've been taut, but taught and learning all the way.

There seems a certain inevitability about the diary as we approach 'deadlines' and yet, like never before, we are called to put our trust in The One who called us here almost 6 years ago. So, "why the nervousness?" I ask myself. On the 14th April our long-term South African visas expire. We believe our chapter of living predominately in SA is coming to an end so, by faith, we will not apply to renew new 3-year visas. Going forward we'll rely on the 90-day tourist visas.

As I write, everything ahead of us is under the title of, "Our plans at the moment are...." We fly into Heathrow on Easter Saturday and will be in England for about 3 months before returning to SA for what could be the 'concluding paragraph' in this chapter. We are keen to finish well and not leave the team here without God-given leadership into the future. We have hope, we have peace and we have confidence that God is guiding us in this period of baton-change as EP moves forward in its mission with God's word.

On Sunday 19th, after preaching at a church we often attend in Nelspruit, we witnessed a beautiful response from several young people who wanted to commit their lives 100% to The Lord. The following weekend I spoke on Jesus' command for believers to be baptised. (see Matt.28:19 & Mark 16:16). That same day, 12 people decided to obey The Lord and were baptised. It was a wonderful exciting occasion.



Back on the Emmanuel Press premises, the nitty-gritty of maintenance cries out. We decided to have the rusty old fence replaced with a new concrete wall. Our local security company promised to keep an extra eye open for our welfare as the old fence was torn down and work started, but our trust is chiefly in The Lord who surrounds us day and night.

Wednesday 1st March marked the start of our 6th year here in South Africa, but also our 48th wedding anniversary. We both forgot we must have been married in primary school. We celebrated with chocolate cake at a local coffee shop, then back home with a ready meal, a glass of red and 2 hours of reflective gratitude to the Lord who has blessed us in all our ways. Tired but thankful and knowing that God has blessed us more than we deserve: we marvel at our health; the miracle of God's provision through dear friends; the sweetness of seeing friends find God's ways in their lives; and of beginning to understand more of the massive wonder of God's grace to humanity when there's so much heartache and pain all around.

The tease of March thus far has been the certainty of knowing that, on the one hand, we're heading into a closing part of our story in SA but also that we're honour bound for a good baton change for the next runner, who at this point is still coming into focus. Just how our God guided us to our anticipated successors is a story in itself and someday I can share that with you. Suffice to say that, after a dream, a coffee-chat and conversations over meals, we walk forward carefully and yet carefree, listening for further directions and guidance.

"THANK YOU, THANK YOU." rings out again from our heart like a peal of echoing bells... or Browning's springtime thrush... "...he sings each song twice over, Lest you should think he never could recapture The first fine careless rapture." So, as the work here goes forward, we again thank you for your fellowship and for your prayer for God's good will to be done, here and there.

With our love and thanks again,

Peter & Kay



Our rather rickety "security fence" is well on the way to being somewhat more secure.

