

Hot off The Press

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



It's interesting how words like unprecedented, unrivalled, extraordinary, unusual or unparalleled have become almost ordinary. We try to maintain a sense of continuity in the face of so much change and yet, as Christian believers can truly lean upon The Rock of our salvation. It is so good to know, and to say with the Apostle Paul, "Take courage for I believe God!"

Here's a little ABC of our year, perhaps it will strike a few chords for you? You could write your own?

Absence Bereavement Confidence Decisions Expecting Family
Gratitude Hope Isolation JESUS Kindness Loyalty Missing(you) New
Opendoor Provision Questions Risk Singing Tiredness Unity Virus
Waiting X-ray Yearning and, of course, Zoom.

Have we ever known a year to pass with so much unexpectedness and yet so swiftly? Just one year ago in December... flying back hoping... but then Christmas with covid, distanced from family 'n friends, renewing our visas, an operation, new opportunities and plans that changed, then the wedding and whisked away. Now, new pressures and The Press, but God's Presence our greatest present! To summarise in just three words, "What a Year!"

We have been busy in the detail of living here, and we've been back for three months already. Inevitably we find ourselves caught up in the lives of friends here, and we continue to be involved in helping and counselling, preaching and hosting with all that entails.



Some of the summer blooms currently by our front door.

As the cold gets a grip on England, the heat is increasing here. We close the EP offices on Wednesday 15th December and enjoy three weeks rest and hopeful refreshment until we reopen on Thursday 6th January. The roads are especially busy at this time of year when, it seems, the whole of South Africa goes on holiday for 3-4 weeks, so we've decided to keep our travelling to a reasonable minimum. Maybe some days with friends or a visit to The Kruger Park, and possibly a few odd jobs around the home. Yes of course we will miss seeing family and you, but that day will come.



Our calling and purpose remains crystal clear and it is never difficult to lose the focus of that. We want to include a real heartfelt 'thank you' to you dear friends in particular, who are "standing with us" in a practical, spiritual and evidenced way every month. Your commitment to us is tangible and we are so grateful. So, THANK YOU for your ongoing love and kindness through your gifts and gracious intercession. We feel it and we see it.



Some of our friends and co-workers at The Press

Keep praying for us as God guides you by His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:15-22 will help you in this). The other prayer pointer I'm stirred by is in the directive that Jesus gave in Matthew 9:37-38. With God's workers in the place, the harvest happens. Hallelujah!

As an aside, take care when praying for patience... In times of frustration, delay and the unexpected, I'm dryly assured, "Peter, this is Africa." Sometimes I need to 'go with the flow', whilst at other times I know that I need to make a difference. Knowing when to do what, is key.

So as we 'sign off' for this year, minus the frosty festive atmosphere, we conclude this letter sending our love and best wishes, and a 'forever' thought for you...

"We wish you well in every way,
and pray God's blessings on your day.
In all the fun and festive play,
remember Jesus had the final say."

How much have you agreed with Him?

Until next time, with thanks and love,

Peter & Kay