

C&N News

Fish are confusing.

Semi-occasional updates from Colin & Norma Peckham serving the Lord with Origin Ministries & St James Church

July 2011

Dear friends,

Sorry it's been so long since we were last in touch! Here are some highlights for you:

Christmas was busier than ever – the weather in the UK led to the cancellation of the outdoor event for the City of Edinburgh council, but our own event, **Light of the World**, went ahead (simply because it would have cost more to cancel it!). While attendance was down substantially (almost all other events had been cancelled or moved due to the extreme conditions), there was a great 'do or die' atmosphere in the hall, and the event went really well. We were encouraged by positive feedback afterwards on how the Lord takes even the most difficult situations and uses them for His glory!



A quick dash back to Cape Town and we had the **launch of the Cape Town Gospel Choir** and the **St James carol service** on back-to-back days the next weekend. Exhausting but so rewarding. The launch of the choir was such a blessing and went very well and to rave reviews from people present. Sadly it was a fairly major financial loss, but that seems to go with the territory these days. We then had a big concert at the **V&A Waterfront**, and also sang at the **Western Cape Rehab Centre** in Mitchell's Plain for their carol service. There were many muslims and other non-Christians there, and we pray that the seed found some good soil.

After Christmas we desperately needed a **break**, as all the pressures of so many large events in such a short space of time had really pushed us beyond where we could cope, and we headed off into the Karoo and up the coast both camping and staying in National Park accommodation. Little Andrew loved his first camping experience (at just five months!), and we so enjoyed spending quality time with him as well. We visited seven National Parks (Tankwa Karoo, Karoo, Camdeboo, Mountain Zebra, Addo, Garden Route, Aughulas)! It was so good in some places to be out of mobile range and to stay in some places that had no electricity was great. We returned to find the house flooded and over R50,000 (GBP 5,000) of damage. Happily the plumber's insurance (eventually) paid up as he had installed a faulty pump, and the house is finally back to normal after weeks of living with concrete floors and the smell of damp everything...

On our return we were straight back into it. Preparations for Origin Scotland's Easter event – **RESURRECTION 2011** had started some time before and Colin had lots of arrangements to write, and Norma undertook management of the box office, so the phone was ringing off the hook a lot of the time.

We had to pray hard when Andrew's birth certificate was delayed by Home Affairs (without which he couldn't get his UK passport and come with us to the UK in April). In the end prayer, accompanied by near daily calls to the department concerned yielded last-minute results, and we took Andrew on his first flight – to Joburg to apply for his British passport. Later we also took him up to Durban for an overnight to visit his aunt, who we last saw when she came



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down to Cape Town after Andrew's birth to release Colin to go to his mom's funeral. He coped just fine with the flights, which was just as well, as he had 13 to complete in his first 10 months (almost all of which went very well).

RESURRECTION 2011 was probably the finest event we have been involved in. There was just such a sense of God's presence in the planning, and in the execution. Everything came together so well on the day – the music, the drama, the message – and we've had so many reports of lives touched, and one of someone saved after the event. We are grateful to God for every aspect of it.

The next day we flew to the USA to meet with representatives of Artists in Christian Testimony International, having been invited to discuss membership of that mission sending agency for artists. Following our meetings in Nashville TN, we took a little over a week's holiday in the US, ending up in New York, one of our favourite places! Lots of pizza and cheesecake later, we returned to the UK to go on the **Origin Exec annual retreat** and the **Spring Praise Night** in Glasgow.

It was great for Andrew to spend time with Norma's parents, and Colin and Norma took advantage of having friends living nearby and of the grandparents to have some babysitters for once! One thing we realised about life as missionaries in Cape Town is that we have no babysitters, so we very rarely get to go out together. The fact that the church we attend is so far from where we live – as Colin was invited to St James to help with the music –



means that we don't have local fellowship groups or many local friends in our area. Something we never really thought about, and something that we need to be more aware of as a challenge for missionary couples. It was hard to tear ourselves away from all the welcoming friends in the UK, and all the lovely meal invitations and head back to SA!

The road ahead is again heating up with busy-ness as we head towards Christmas again, although this time there is probably not going to be a large Cape Town Christmas event with the choir, due to a lack of funding. We do have a large **Spring Praise Night** coming up

in partnership with St James Church in Cape Town soon, for which we'd value your prayers.

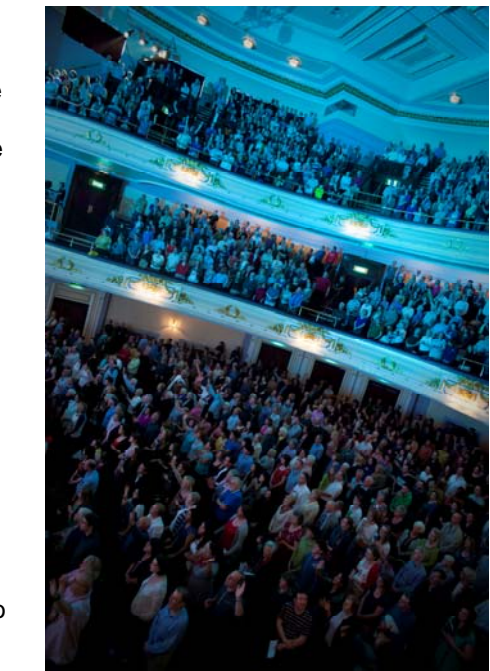
We are planning a large distribution of the Cape Town **Tourist Church Guides** to hotels before summer arrives, and we are starting to work with people on the ground in the UK to distribute the **Student Church Guides** in Scotland. Thankfully it's not a re-print year, so there's not as much admin or research needed. Next year will be a lot harder from that point of view, and historically Norma has taken on much of that work.

Please pray for our time management as we balance the needs of so many. As ever, Colin's web development work has been a lifesaver in terms of income, and so we are so grateful to God for steady work from a major client.

Thank you for your continued prayers. We praise God that Colin's blood pressure has come down quite a bit, and that the other party's insurance company paid up eventually for repairs to the car. Please pray for financial support for the ministry in the UK and South Africa, both of which are in a fairly desperate state financially.

In His name,

Colin and Norma



UK friends can call us on an Edinburgh number: 0131 208 2853, no matter what country we are in.

SA friends can call us on a Cape Town number: 021 813 5853, no matter what country we are in.

Event schedule since last prayer letter

Light of the World, Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Christmas with the Cape Town Gospel Choir, City Hall, Cape Town
Annual Carol Service, St James, Cape Town
Carol Service, Western Cape Rehab Centre, Cape Town
A V&A Christmas, V&A Amphitheatre, Cape Town
Picturehouse gig, HMV Picturehouse, Edinburgh
RESURRECTION, Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Spring Praise Night, Glasgow
UK Exec weekend retreat

Upcoming commitments

St James Church, training, playing, preparing weekly services
Foot Stomping Gospel, Festival Outreach, 26-27 Aug, Edinburgh*
Festival Praise Night, 28 Aug, Edinburgh*
Spring Praise Night, 17 Sept, Cape Town
City Praise, 2 Oct, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
Anniversary weekend, 30 Oct, St James, Cape Town
Edinburgh's Christmas, 27 Nov, Edinburgh
Christmas Concert, 3 Dec, Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Carol Service, 11 Dec, St James, Cape Town

*not present at the event, but involved in the preparation and overseeing the planning.