

A house in Africa

If you've seen the film *Out of Africa*, you'll remember the famous opening line of Karen Blixen's autobiography: "I had a farm in Africa..."

Well, the Pillingers will soon have a house in Africa!

We spent a lot of time during the two weeks before Jen and Warren's wedding house-hunting. Armed with unknown addresses and a satnav, we cruised the roadworks on the Johannesburg motorways, usually getting lost but occasionally reaching our destination. Our prayer, wildly optimistic though it seemed, was that we'd be able to find the right house during this short period and start the purchase process now, in order to avoid a long time 'in limbo' after our arrival in South Africa in July.

Amazingly, the Lord answered our prayer at the end of the first week! After seeing half a dozen houses that mostly didn't interest us at all, we drove up to the rather unique house you can see in the picture. It's in Alberton, to the south of Johannesburg.



Within a few minutes we both knew that 'this was the place'. It met almost all the requirements we'd listed: a large office for me; a separate flatlet for colleagues from other African countries who will work with me from time to time on scripture publications; and an office for Johanna, who will work partly from home, partly commuting to the Wycliffe South Africa offices to carry out her member care responsibilities. The third bedroom and the flatlet will also give Johanna the space to practise hospitality, something she loves doing; and the attractive, well-maintained garden will be a place for weary travellers to rest.



The upper windows you see in the top picture are not a second floor: they light up the living room below. Overall the floor area is not much bigger than our present house; but there's room for everything we'd need. The house is a little run down; but for that reason we were able to agree a price considerably lower than our upper limit, which will leave funds available for repairs and improvements. (By the way, don't be misled by the thatch: in Africa thatch means a cheap roof, not a luxury feature!)



If all goes according to plan, the house will be ours by 1st July — so our belongings can be moved straight there from our UK house when we move.

Please praise God with us for yet another indication of His hand over this move.