

Taking to the air

The Pillingers will very soon be taking to the air!

On **Sunday 30th January** I (**Steve**) will be flying to **Nairobi** en route to South Africa for our daughter Jen's wedding. I'll be in Kenya for a week to attend **annual staff meetings** with my new colleagues in our Africa Area administration, to which I am now assigned. This has worked out very well: I'm delighted to have this early opportunity to meet and chat with the people I'll be working with in years to come.

Then on **Friday 4th February**, **Johanna and I** will both take to the air—Johanna from Heathrow and me from Nairobi—flying to **Johannesburg**, where we'll be for the two weeks leading up to **Jen and Warren's wedding**. Johanna will be able to spend time with Jen in the run-up to the wedding; and we'll both be doing some **house-hunting** for a long-term home after our move in July. We'll also be meeting our future colleagues in **Wycliffe South Africa**, with whom Johanna will be working as Member Care Co-ordinator.



The **19th February**, of course, is **THE BIG DAY!** **Stephen** will be flying out from Manchester to join us on **Wednesday 16th**; and after the ceremony itself on the Saturday we'll all be staying at **Leopard Lodge**, not far from Johannesburg, with a number of other close relatives and friends. On the Sunday we'll enjoy breakfast together before the happy couple head off on honeymoon. This will give Jen a little longer with friends and family who have travelled all the way from England and Holland for the occasion.

Because of our different arrangements, it has worked out that Johanna will **return to the UK** on **22nd February**, while I will be there a couple of days longer, returning on the **24th**. This will leave time to tie up any loose ends regarding house-hunting or future work arrangements.

But after I return, there will be no rest for the wicked! (Or, as I'd prefer to say, the conscientious!) A little over a week later, on **5th March**, I'll be leaving for **Thailand**, DV. This will be for a so-called '**Publishing Summit**' of colleagues worldwide involved in typesetting and publishing of all kinds, to discuss the way ahead as we seek to meet the goals of **Vision 2025**. I'll be in **Chiang Mai**, where we have a regional centre, for ten days, returning on **15th March**. These will be crucial meetings, which will lay the groundwork for my future work in Africa as part of a global strategy to publish God's Word in both old ways and new to reach every single language community that is still without it.

From mid-March the UK Pillingers will be grounded for a while (though not idle!—we'll be selling our house, visiting our partners across the country, and preparing for our move in July); but the South African Pillinger — **Jen** (now **Melnick!**) — will take to the air in **late March**, returning to the UK with Warren for the **UK celebration** of their wedding on **26th**. This will give an opportunity for family and friends in the UK and Holland who were unable to come to South Africa to rejoice with them and wish them well.

So there in a nutshell you have the movements of the airborne Pillingers over the next couple of months. *Please thank God with us for the way all these journeys, meetings and celebrations have dovetailed together; and pray that we may be aware of His presence, blessing and enabling throughout.*