



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



BE QUIET!

Why Missionaries as Fathers are Needed in African Villages

Matters of Concern

For the past year, Miyelani (meaning, Be Quiet!) has been attending our church. We met him through evangelism in River Plaats. He is 19 years old and in 7th grade. He struggles to read.

The majority of our ministry is aimed at the Be Quiets of Africa. Most of the young men in our village know little to nothing of their fathers, being raised by their mothers or more often by their grandmothers.

One 20 year old in our church has been raised from birth by his great grandmother. He told me that—though his mother lives nearby—he has never spent more than a month at a time living with her.

In the village, we are up against it. Low education. Few jobs. Fewers fathers. No missionaries. The latter group flees to the cities. The urban areas desperately need missionaries too, but the ratio of city to rural seems out of proportion.

Matters of Hope

Wisly (top left), a new convert, quoted 30 verses from Matthew 10 at church recently. He has some leadership potential. I spend a lot of time with

Reginald (above middle), who despite not knowing much of his father, is profoundly gifted. After an evening in our home recently—where he saw jocular fellowship, family worship, and a healthy male

presence—he wrote to me: “Thank you and your family for such a wonderful time. It is just a life I pray I would one day have with my own family.”

Matters of Prayer

1. Encouragement - Too many to count are the days we are discouraged by the fruit here. Should we move on? Am I gifted for this task? Pray that God would banish these megriums and give us hope.
2. Elders - We returned from furlough to find that our church had functioned indigenously relatively well. We had hoped to see a group of men anxious to grasp the leadership, but such is not yet the case. Pray that God would grant us an indigenous church with strong male leadership.
3. Electricity - For nearly four years we have tried to get power at our church building. No success. Evening ministries could result if God should grant us this earthly blessing.

The miasma of the village is all that most of these young men know. Pray that God would give me a voice, speaking out in love to the Be Quiets of our community—parroting and proclaiming *the* Father.

With much love,

Paul & Melinda

Audrey, Nate, Lawson, Owen, Julianna, and #6