



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



NO MORE HENRY FORD

The flock doesn't much need me anymore...and that's just great

Henry Ford used to say you can have a car in any color as long as it is black. In the early days of our ministry, the people could have the preacher be anyone, as long as it was me.

The church was so small and immature that the ability and interest in teaching the Bible was minimal. What they had to give from Scripture was about as deep as a puddle on a flat sidewalk.

Things are different now.

Flying Solo

Of the many ministries we have during the week, below are eight of them that our people do on their own.

1. Ladies Bible Study — I tried to lead this a couple months back. It dwindled until I left. Then it grew.
2. N'waxinyamani Bible Study — our church sets funds aside each week to give transport money to two men so they can travel to this village to lead Bible studies.
3. Kid's Club — a couple dozen children come to play soccer and hear Bible stories from our young leaders.
4. Youth Group — the youth are expected to do their Bible reading during the week and then be prepared to question and discuss it together.
5. Inner Three (elder training) — I'm actually part of this gathering. But other men chair the meeting and only they decide the order of service for Sunday.
6. Ezra Groups — after Sunday AM preaching, the church gathers for its second service where they review the memory verse for that week and then gather in small groups to discuss the Scriptures.

7. Sunday Evening Services - I only teach in this service once a month. Otherwise, two or three young men do the preaching and Scripture memory each week.
8. Choir — we've been emphasizing initiative in our Saturday leadership class. One of the ladies took months to organize a choir. They sang last Sunday to everyone's delight.

The benefits of indigenous churches are legion. It allows us to minister elsewhere. Moreover, when a Tsonga is preaching to a Tsonga, he's less afraid to preach high and inside. He knows where the hidden scabs are.

A Return Home

This coming Tuesday our family will be flying to LA for a few days to be at the Master's Seminary.

Then we'll be returning to Wisconsin for a few months to minister in the Midwest and the East Coast. We plan to see many of you and are eager to serve the body of Christ.

Prayer & Praise

1. Elders: that Trinity would add "Tsonga pastor" to the list above
2. Established churches: presently, we don't call the Bible studies we have in other villages "church plants" but there is always the hope that new congregations will develop from our efforts there.
3. Edification: that we would build up US congregations

Yours in Jesus,
Paul & Lindy

Audrey, Nathan, Lawson, Owen, Juju, Clara and ?