



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



THROWING DARTS

12 Tips for Planting Churches in Africa

So you want to be a missionary in Africa? You want to be like St. Paul? You want to start lasting churches? You want to see new conversions? How is it done?

Rule #1: Follow Paul's example in Acts. Rule #2: Ya gotta figger it out yourself.

For the last several months we've been trying to establish a new church in Tiyani, a Tsonga village about 30 minutes from our home. That's Sam Kubayi and his wife above. We meet in a tent on his property. About 50 gather each Sunday afternoon.

Here's a few methods we've used along the way.

1. **Trust in God and keep your power dry.** Pray like it depends on God and work like it depends on you. Fast and beg Christ for souls. Work and point souls to Christ.
2. **Learn the language well and use it.** Tsonga is the golden key that opens endless doors. Looking different is an advantage and disadvantage.
3. **Throw a handful of darts.** If you throw a whole fist of 'em, something will stick. Scripture gives the standard; methods are flexible. Try homes, try schools, try shops, try open air, try early, try late, try humor, try fear, try books, try tracts, try Luke, try Psalms, try old, try young. The point: Try!
4. **Apply the Word.** If you lovingly expose common sins like witchcraft, ancestor worship, and fornication, your church will distinguish itself.
5. **Don't worry what people think.** I say to myself over and over: "Don't worry what people think." It puts a spring in my step. Then I go out and talk to every person I see about Jesus. I expect opposition and criticism.
6. **Cut your losses.** Paul tried in Bythunia (Ac 16:7). He ran from Damascus (Ac 9:25). Don't force a Ferrari engine on a moped. If a group isn't interested, move on. Look for greener pastures.
7. **Expect to be humbled.** God will never share his glory. I spent months marching into people's homesteads with moderate success. You know how I met Mr. Kubayi? He came up to me first.
8. **Keep the pedal down.** When someone shows real interest, don't lose the momentum. Strike while the iron is hot. Press him with the Word.
9. **Always take someone with you.** Timothy attended seminary while power-walking with Paul. Evangelize with your men during the week. Bring church people with you on Sundays. Have them sing, preach, and teach Sunday school. Multiply.
10. **Be cautious with foreign funds.** We had an African intern once that graduated from a Bible school busting at the seams with foreign funding. Our little church offered a stipend that *it* could afford, not what *America* could afford. He made tracks. Does overseas money build lots of churches? Yes. They look like the propped-up shopfronts in the old Spaghetti Westerns.
11. **Use some foreign funds.** Here's the rule for a proper balance: let the people feel the weight. When spotting for my son on the bench press, I use my finger to lift when his arms shake. Not too much help. So we used a generous donation to buy the new church plant a tent. We give free Bibles away to those coming ten weeks in a row. As Acts put it: "Be generous; let their arms shake."
12. **Hammer Prosperity.** God will pave the roads in hell with the skulls of heretical Prosperity preachers. Hit this hard in each sermon. Preachers must attack precisely where the devil is attacking.

In much need of your prayers

Paul & Lindy,

Audrey, Nate, Law, Owen, Juju, Clara, and Luke