



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



CONVERTS, C-SECTIONS, AND COUNTERFEITS

Ministry in Tsongaland keeps on rolling...

Baptisms are a highlight at Trinity. Just not quick ones. A few weeks ago we had several newer converts enter the waters of baptism. They gave their testimonies after a multi-month (for some, a multi-year) process.

First, they participated in public & private discipleship classes we translated into Tsonga booklets.

Then their testimonies were written out in full, which afterwards were evaluated line by line by the church leaders. They rewrote, tweaked, revised, added, and deleted passages. They practiced. The written testimony phase alone took weeks. But when they stood before the congregation to declare their faith in Christ, their gospel proclamation was theologically robust and saturated with Scripture.

Each testimony was unique. Each testimony was the same. Yes, the testimonies in Acts probably weren't done this way. But baptisms then could get you killed. Baptisms here today could get you a badge.

Twisted Scripture

Recently we finished a 18-part sermon series called "Twisted Scriptures." We covered some of the most commonly twisted Scripture passages used by false prosperity preachers (e.g. Isa. 53:5). One lady who gave her testimony at the baptismal service wrote:

"I remember after I gave birth through a C-Section, the pastor (of the false church I attended) said that my faith

was so little because I did not deliver naturally. She said that demons had attacked my baby—that is why 'the baby did not want to come out'. Sadly, I believed her. [Now I know] according to Matt. 17:20, small faith does not matter. Small faith can do wonders in Christ. Our faith must always be submissive to God's will."

Notice how "she" is used for "pastor". Notice the emphasis on demons. She went on to write:

"The timing of the series was perfect....This was exactly what I NEEDED. I have wasted five years on the false teachings of prosperity gospel. I did not only waste time, I also wasted thousands of rands. I was blind. I was foolish. I had neglected God's word, and I think that is why I fell prey to the wolves. If I had been reading and studying the Bible, I would not have been a victim of the prosperity gospel."

Prayer

1. That God would raise up a fit pastor in Mbhokota.
2. That our church would be flooded with a greater desire to pray, pray, pray.
3. That Zimbabwe would turn to God. The trials there today may even be worse than under Mugabe.

Praise

* We loved having the Des Venter team from Durban (above) visit our village last month.

Yours in Jesus,

Paul & Lindy

Audrey, Nathan, Lawson, Owen, Jujus, & Clara