

The Schlehein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa

MARCH 2011 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

AFRICAN ECONOMICS 101

Africa is the only continent that has actually become poorer over the past 20 years. Here's a glimpse at some of the economic issues we face.

Money and Priorities

Our neighbors, a family of five, live in a 8' x 10' cement room with no plaster. Their outdoor kitchen is made of scrap tin. But our last visit revealed their latest purchase: a TV satellite dish! Others have cut down vibrant mango trees because they blocked the dish's reception. People here are willing to live without the bare necessities provided they have a nice cell phone and lots of channels.

Money and Family

What would you do if you were an African family man seeking a job: find work in the big city but be away from your family and church for most of the year OR stay home with your wife, children, and church family and be jobless?

The benefits of small-village ministry are many, but the difficulty is the realization that the smartest and

strongest men in our ministry will almost inevitably leave the village.

Money and Ethics

Community leaders have come to me asking for a pastor's signature to approve donations for local school buildings. This was a great opportunity because we want to be viewed as a great help to the community. The problem is that the money comes from the South African Lottery - one of the biggest causes of poverty in the nation. I wanted to sign but couldn't.

Money and Government

According to President Zuma, buying the membership card of the ruling party has eternal rewards: "When you vote for the ANC you are also choosing to go to heaven. When you don't vote for the ANC you should know that you are choosing that man who carries a fork and who cooks people. If you leave this organization... the ancestors ... Hintsa, Ngqika and Shaka will all turn their backs on you."

Prayer

- *For Wisdom and Fruit for Labor* - There's a list of new challenges and decisions for LBI, including a possible change in facilities and curriculum.
- *For Open Doors for Zim Grads* - 2011's graduating class is five Zimbabwean's who are serious about their faith. They want to plant churches in one of the poorest countries in the world.
- *For Health for Mama and Baby* - Our third child is due August 2011. Melinda's feeling great!

Striving to be rich in the next world,

Paul, Melinda, Audrey, Nathan & ?