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THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa

THE BEAUTY OF AN EYESORE

Churches Take the Reins of Responsibility When There's No Other Choice

The old wineskins of many African beliefs are not adequate to carry the worldview of Scripture. When God calls a man, a martyr once said, He bids him come and die. In the African context, when God calls a man, he bids him leave ancestor worship, multiple wives, the single-mother mindset, and the Prosperity Gospel.

This past week our church sat front row to see some with such radical conversions. A half dozen Africans in their 20's and early 30's traveled from urban Johannesburg to speak at our assembly in rural Mbhokota. They preached on the Five Solas: faith, Scripture, Christ, grace, and God's glory *alone*. They also came with their new brides (a real novelty!)--a matter probably more influential than the preaching.

Rose Munyai - River Plaats

The baptisms afterward marked the first time a convert from our River Plaats ministry openly confessed Christ before the church. She is a mother of eight (including triplets). Some of her children attend the evening services at her home.

Over the past year we have visited hundreds of villagers and held scores of Bible studies in River--most of which did not yield fruit. But her home was the very first place we visited. God used that early blessing to sustain us.

TRAVELS

Over the next two months--on and off--I will be traveling extensively in the US and Africa. In my absence, the leaders of the church will be carrying the entire load of preaching, planning, and pastoring. My presence at Trinity now often seems to *hurt* the dynamic. Would that I became an eyesore. We desperately want to hand it off.

For some time now we have been slowly pulling ourselves out of the congregation and more towards River Plaats.

Last year, a three week absence yielded a troupe of fresh faces to our church, only to leave when I returned. Like a newborn calf, our church's legs are wobbly, but ready to stand on her own.

A visit here could bring you this much mirth.

PRAYER

1. Spiritual growth for Trinity in my absence and *because of* my absence.
2. A new sense of responsibility from the leaders.
3. Safety for my Melinda and the children.
4. Conversions in River Plaats.

In His Bonds, *Paul and Melinda*

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