



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



THE YAO & OUR SHOULDER TO THE PLOW How God answered each of our prayer requests

Our recent trip in January to Mangochi, Malawi was a success. Gideon Mpeni, Yamikani Katunga, my son Nathan and I thank you for your prayers.

We had three objectives. By God's grace & by the power of prayer, all three were met. Here they are in prayer form:

- 1. Lord, please show me if indeed the Yao are the among the most unreached peoples in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

Our previous Prayer Letter gave stats indicating Mangochi District in Malawi was among the darkest regions spiritually amidst the Bantu of Sub-Saharan Africa. The Bantu are a linguistic family spoken by about 350 people, roughly the population of the United States. The Yao in Malawi are over 2 million.

Everyone we talked to confirmed these statistics. The eye test also agreed that the Yao are steeped in Islam. For days we tallied the mosques we saw until they became too many. Every 500 meters or so was another mosque, a church or two here or there surrounded by a sea of hundreds of Islamic worship centers.

There are churches galore in many parts of Malawi, but not among the remote areas in Yao country. Islam dominates.

- 2. Lord, please show us a strategic location among the Yao where the needs are great and the laborers are few.**

We visited a northern town called Makanjila in a narrow, sliver region along the east coast of Lake Malawi. The GPS said it would take us three hours to arrive there from

our evening domicile. It took eight. Most bridges were washed out. Our truck got stuck in a river. It took another hour and two dozen men to free us.

It is to this region that I will be returning, Lord-willing, for a couple weeks in order to engage in more research of the people, the needs and the language.

- 3. Lord, please lead me to a group of strategic contacts among the Yao?**

We met a wealth of connections during our trip, men who have given their lives to the Yao people. We dined in their homes, were gifted some of their books, and received answers from hundreds of our questions.

The best contact was a Yao pastor in the northern region of Mangochi. He gathered a group of men that were thirsty for the Word. We interviewed them in hushed tones behind closed doors.

This pastor will serve as my contact during the next trip among the Yao.

Three Upcoming Events Needing Your Prayers

- One of our church members, Reginald Ntuli, passed his Ordination Exam last week. A group of elders will lay hands on him as an elder at Trinity this coming Sunday.
- GYM Camp Senior begins this coming week, with participants coming from around the country and speakers from around the world.
- I hope to return to Makanjila in June or July for a second survey trip.

Humbled and thankful,

Paul & Lindy

Audrey, Nate, Lawson, Owen, Julianna, Clara, Luke & Katie