



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



HIGHES AND LOWS OF FURLOUGH

Observing One Plus and Minus Before Our Return to South Africa

The Plus - Send us a mathematician to tally our spiritual mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters and friends that have embraced us during this four-month furlough. Such a number is too high for us; we cannot attain to it.

This surplus of comrades in God's family shouldn't surprise us. Jesus promised those who left family behind for his sake would receive back a hundredfold—not only in the future but the present (Mk. 10:29-30). We have found this to be true.

Parents and pastors would do well to keep this copper-bottomed promise of Jesus before their youth: leaving momma behind for Jesus' sake might be hard, but He'll reward you with many more—black and yellow, red and white (Rm. 16:13).

The greatest reward from our visit has been the fellowship with God's people. Almost every evening—after spending the day out and about with Christ's church—I whisper to my wife: *we are the richest people on earth.*

Are we rich? Not if defined by paycheck commas or zip codes in silk stocking

neighborhoods. But when it comes to spiritual family and friends—from one end of the globe to the other—we feel our wealth is unrivaled. Thank you.

The Minus - I'm still as stiff-necked as ever. After experiments with a host of meds and visits to various doctors, my nape is still in bad shape. The pain is now taking away sleep and stealing the ability to do some common activities.

Please pray for God's will regarding my neck and that I would rejoice in it all.

Highlights

No year-long furlough was necessary. On this trip, we reaped the rewards of our philosophy of missions (low number of supporting churches) by visiting each congregation in 8 weeks—sometimes spending over a week per church.

First times included kids seeing a July 4th parade and we as parents having a whole week alone. Mix in an Oklahoma rodeo and lots of ice-cream...Bravo!

We fly out Tuesday, Aug. 22. Pray for us!

For Jesus' sake,
*Paul & Melinda, Audrey, Nate,
Lawson, Owen, and Julianna*