



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



HOW MANY PEOPLE EAT AT OUR TABLE?

Double-digits is par... and the plan

For some of you, taking a trip out to see us would take the luster off the missionary's halo. We do mostly the same thing week after week, year after year. I have about 10 teaching/preaching slots per week. Melinda runs the home and schools the kids. Yawn? No so fast.

One thing that may surprise you is how many people pass through our home. We spell hospitality: J-O-Y. My wife and I make a pretty good team. For example, take a normal trip to a local establishment. Melinda is wondering how she can swing a deal. I'm thinking: "How can I get this guy over for a meal?"

We're a marital mullet: business in front, party in back. I carry the wallet, she makes it work. I'm the mouth, she's the hands. I'm the shepherd, she's the banker. I talk, she stirs. I buy the flour, she makes it rise. I'm the starting pitcher, she's the closer. I'm now mixing my metaphors.

Here's what hospitality looked like the last few months:

1. A young lady that loves to serve

Emma John comes from a great home in the US. She was with us off and on for a few weeks and is praying about what long-term missions may look like for her. She's got spunk, skill, and a servant's heart.

2. An IT guys from the States

Jake Mincy hopes to be with us for six months. He's been making websites & videos for our work. He plays soccer with the village kids. He eats at local chicken cafes with the church guys. He goes everywhere with his camera.

3. Missions on the Mountain

Our dear friends from Antioch Bible Church five hours south sent a team up to the villages here to see and to

serve. For a couple nights we had over 30 people staying on our property. Seth and I taught on missions. We visited the villages. We ate and sang and prayed and laughed. They had great attitudes. We hope they come back.

4. A Zulu gal with a story

Nondumiso Hlela was converted just a few years ago but her transformation has been remarkable. She used her vacation days from work to come visit us and watch Melinda in the kitchen and school. Like Emma, she too is considering what longer term missions work would entail.

5. Kempton Park Team

This week another Joburg church group of about 15 will be with our two families. This means more guests, more stories, and more benefits for missionary kids.

6. The Usual Church Hodgepodge

Add in the boys' best friends (Sedzeni and Nhluvuko), Audrey's best friend (Happy), helpers around the home (Sister Tinyiko) and a steady stream of church people, and our table is usually packed with good food, little voices and earnest conversation. None of this would be possible without the faithful contributions of our church partners back home. The guest house is always full.

Future Grace and Future Prayer

More guests are on the horizon this year, including retired couples, single girls, and families. Please pray that we would use our home to love others. As the Puritans liked to say, Lot's guests were his best friends.

Also pray for Melinda's continued emotional and physical health; she had a recent health issue. She's on the mend and full of moxie as always.

Longing for the Master's 'Come and Dine',

Paul & Lindy

Audrey, Nate, Law, Owen, Juju, Clara, Luke