



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



KATIE BAR THE DOOR

It is a blessing to raise another child on the mission field

In honor of the Supreme Court's glorious decision of striking down Roe v. Wade, we celebrated by having our eighth child. Baby Katie was born on Sunday, 26 June, at 7:30 p.m.

Lindy Katharina Schlehlein

8 lbs, 1 oz/ 21.5 inches

Mama is happy and healthy. Lindy is in honor of the name of endearment I use for Melinda. Katharina is a German name in honor of Melinda's mother. We'll call her Katie.

Ten Benefits of Children on the Mission Field

Children are a vital part of our ministry. Tsongas love children, despite the broken homes that imply the contrary.

Children enhance the missionary's life and ministry in a host of ways. They soften awkward moments. They speak the language properly. They are less threatening. They show the locals that their parents are committed. They provide comic relief. They help the missionary teach parenting. They serve in church life. They make the foreign field home. They attract other children. They guarantee the church won't be empty.

Why So Many Kids?

When people ask us why on earth we have eight children, I apologize and tell them it's because we started so late. The number would be higher had we kicked off earlier. We're trying to fix this by teaching our children to marry young.

The chief reason we have so many children is God's grace.

He opens and closes the womb. We deserve none of it, but as long as God keeps handing out blue and pink parcels, we'll receive them with earnestness and joy.

But the practical reason we want a quiver full is because we want to raise a household of troublemakers. There are two people given this moniker in Scripture. Achan is called a troubler (2Chr. 2:7) because of his unrighteousness. Elijah (1Ki. 18:17) is called a troubler *because* of his righteousness. We want the latter. We want godly troublemakers.

We want to raise kids so immersed in Scripture that they're a nuisance to Satan's reign, a distress to the world's agenda, and a problem for our culture's godless worldview. We pray that when the Citizens of Babylon see the Schlehlein kids coming, it's Katie Bar the Door. Trouble's coming.

How to Pray for Us

1. Strength

We are all very weary. The baby wants constant feeding. We just finished another building project. Most of the children have been sick and vomiting. The power cuts in South Africa seem to be constant. Our teammates are on furlough. Homeschooling can be overwhelming.

2. Conversions

Ask God to save every one of our children and to preserve them from a life of rebellion. Ask God to give new life to several in our church that are close to the Wicket Gate.

For Christ's Kingdom,

Paul & Lindy,
Audrey, Nate, Law, Owen, Juju, Clara, Luke, & Katie