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THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa

LETTERS OF PURE GOLD

Prayers for Missionary Wives, Those Saints So Easily Forgotten But Indispensable to the Work

Like the helium propelling a colossal zeppelin, the missionary wife is often the hidden substance that keeps the ministry afloat.

When Jesus urged believers to take up their cross and follow, my wife checked the box just as passionately as I, though our roles make one of us more visible. But, O, how she still needs your prayers. Consider these three requests:

1. Schooling the Children

Homeschooling one's children is a tall task, especially for five children 7 yrs. and under. Add to this the adventures of African village life and life can get downright Gordian.

To illustrate, last week—while preaching in a neighboring village— I received this text message: "Green mamba outside our door; pls kill when u return. M." She then returned to the kids' next lesson in Latin and the preparation of peanut butter sandwiches for lunch.

2. Opportunities for Discipleship

Duty #1 is family. Agreed. But Melinda has learned the language because she loves the people. Pray for more open doors to edify and educate the ladies in our village.

3. Spiritual Stamina

When it comes to a missionary's relationship with his wife, his time with her must be like the Red Sea: deep and split down the middle. The former because she's craving conversation heavier than Dr. Seuss. The latter because his ministry ratio must never overwhelm his time for her. Much of Melinda's spiritual growth comes from *me,* so pray for *us.*

Let this 'SOS' list of requests be a reminder to you as you pray, not only for my dear wife, but for those litany of missionary helpmates around the world.

MADE FROM SOLID CLOTH

Perhaps the greatest eulogy to the heroism of missionary wives comes from the son of John Paton—famous missionary to the cannibals of the South Seas. His son spoke candidly about the noble share of toil and sacrifice his mother bore—far from the cultured societies and warmth of relatives.

"The green hillsides that rise from its blue waters show here and there a gleam of white—the coral graves of the sainted women who laid down their lives for Christ's black children. The full story can never be written in the pages of human literature, but every word of it is written in letters of pure gold in the heavenly records of the Son of Man."

My wife's story and her love for Jesus will one day be written in that heavenly record. In the mean time, please escort her to the throne of grace.

Cordially in Christ,
Paul & Melinda

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