The Schlehlein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



OCTOBER 2014 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Masculine Church Planting

A prominent Zambian pastor once told me that missionaries in poor, rural settings should purchase and build the structure for the congregation.

We decided against this for a number of reasons. Our people needed to feel the weight of responsibility, the value of patience, the thrill of ownership, the sting of theft, the worth of planning, and the joy of a job well done.

Our young men also needed an extended lesson in masculinity. How could our church develop masculine leadership that honors women when our unemployed men with no dads at home are getting a free church from the US?

So we worked until dark with flashlights. We rebuked tardiness and lauded teamwork. We examined detail and laughed at bruises. We discussed Romans and debated Barcelona. We prayed at dusk and wrestled at dawn. The building got done, the men felt pride, and the girls took notice. Trifecta!

Our Building in Numbers:

30,000 - Number of bricks laid

4,000 - Estimated number of labor hours

200 - Meals Melinda cooked for the workers

Dozens - items stolen, including cement, tools, steel, water and rocks.

2 - Number of functions at our new building this month, including our first pastors' conference.

0 - Number of bricks previously laid by any of us









Serving the Son of Man,

Paul and Melinda

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