

THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



G.Y.M. CAMP 2022

If Boys Don't Learn, Men Won't Know

This month, boys from all over South Africa gathered at a local farm for the second annual G.Y.M. Camp for boys.

"G.Y.M" stands for Godly Young Men, which also states the purpose of the camp. The boys were taught the biblical role of masculinity: 'Lead, provide and protect.'

We established this boys' camp as a way to reach boys, teens and fatherless homes with the truth of Scripture. Our initial hope was to pull from the boys in our local communities and village church plants. To our surprise, parents from distant towns and cities wanted their kids to attend as well.

There seems to be a growing concern worldwide about the feminization of our societies. One hundred years ago, our great, great grandfathers were 18 when they were tying the knot and plowing the field unaided. Many of today's young men are so emotionally scarred and confused, they're decades younger emotionally than Grandpa.

DETAILS FROM THIS YEAR

Last year, about 30 boys attended. We prayed for double that number this year. The Lord answered.

This year's camp had 80 boys from ages 7-15. They gathered for three days, slept in tents and ate hearty meals prepared by the ladies. Not only were they taught biblical lessons on courage and following

Christ but were educated with practical, manly skills. These workshops were called "BAMs" (Be A Man). Examples include:

- How to use a power drill
- How to tie a tie
- How to do a proper push up
- How to make a bucket shower
- How to hook up a trailer
- How to use jumper cables
- How to shine your shoes
- How to ride a dirt bike
- How to write a thank you letter.

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

The camp also included activities like swimming, driving lessons, pellet gun shooting, endless arm wrestling tournaments, and trailer rides. Cuts, dirt and scrapes were viewed as badges of honor.

But the main thrust of the camp was teaching the boys the Word of God. Campers were responsible to memorize verses on courage. Some learned dozens in just a few days. There were also sermons on the theme "Courage" from godly fathers in our network of churches.

We're hoping for even more campers next year. GYM Camp Sr. is planned for the end of March 2023 for those 16 and up. GYM Camp Jr. is scheduled for early October 2023 for those 7-15 yo.

For Jesus' sake,
Paul & Melinda,
Audrey, Nate, Law, Owen, Juju, Clara, Luke, Katie