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THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa

SETH'S SCORE OF STEADFASTNESS

Celebrating My Teammate's 20 Years of Faithful Service

We have reasons to rejoice recently, as our cluster of churches have enjoyed a spate of conversions and baptisms. Sixteen were baptized on Reformation Sunday, many through the influence of this letter's focus.

But that is not my purpose here. Back in 2018, I wrote a letter entitled "Closer Than a Brother", which celebrated the 40th birthday of my friend and teammate Seth Meyers.

2024 brings us to another special milestone: Seth's 20th year of missionary service in South Africa. This deserves another tribute, especially since most missionaries don't make it to year five. And working with a mongrel like me, if you count in dog years, he's been on the field for 140 years! That's a long time.

One disclaimer: I do not aim to flatter or man-please. Seth and I honor the fifth mark of the Protestant Reformation: Soli Deo Gloria. We give Christ alone all the glory. But Hebrews 13:7 also says: "Remember your predecessors who preached the word to you."

I want to do just that. Seth arrived among the Tsongas in 2004, married Amy in 2005 and I arrived in 2006. Over the past 20 years he has remained faithful and steadfast. I'll highlight three ways.

1. Steadfast in Preaching

Seth preaches a dozen times per week in Tsonga, a tongue that enjoys a fraction of vocab words compared to English. Many important ideas have no words.

But his preaching has seen fruit, with lives changed, churches planted, elders trained and families built.

But the challenges remain. Despite the difficulty, the years of hard work, the dangers to his family, and the professors that have fallen away, Seth saunters on knowing all will be worth it when the King returns with a reward in His hand.

2. Steadfast in Family

Seth's family clearly loves him. All five of his children have made professions of faith and hold mission work among the nations in the highest regard.

With Amy and the kids, Seth maintains the balance of sobriety and joviality. The gospel is dead serious but God has also created a world that deserves smiles, laughter and merriment.

3. Steadfast in Holiness

Rarely do I escape a conversation with Seth without discussing prayer, Bible reading and the other spiritual disciplines.

Seth's pursuit of Christlikeness has not waned as he's matured, unlike the way a young man speaks less to his mother as he grows into adulthood. He wants more of Christ, and strives for Him with unbounded enthusiasm.

Conclusion

So to the man who once pushed me out of a tree and carried my unconscious body down a mountain (until he too passed out) and to my brother of many joint prayers, punches, pow-wows and preaching, God bless you for twenty years of faithful service to our King.

May He give you twenty more.

Cordially in Christ,
Paul & Lindy
Audrey, Nate, Lawson, Owen, Julianna, Clara, Luke & Katie

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