

The Schlehlein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa



JANUARY 2011 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Book Club

In our day of Facebook, Wii, and Youtube, superficiality is king. So reading is important because it forces us to think hard. It clears the cobwebs from our minds and implores us to follow a well-reasoned thought.

At Mbhokota Baptist Church, we want our people to do more than think deeply. We want them to think deeply about God. In order to foster this, our church established a book club during the last quarter of 2010. Here were the rules:

1. You have 10 weeks to read at least three books.
2. These books will be loaned out by our church and will cover topics like theology, Scripture, missions and biography.
3. Write a one-page book review on each book.



To our surprise, the book club was a hit. Nearly the whole church signed up and ten accomplished all the requirements for receiving a certificate on Christmas week. In 2011, we plan on doing this again. Pray an interest in deep thinking grows.

Short Trip Home

For the past five weeks, my family and I have been in the US visiting friends and getting loads of work done. The primary purpose of this return was further graduate work in seminary, but we've also been able to enjoy family and friends.

For those of you that we were not able to see, we apologize that we had such limited time. In the future when we actually take a real furlough, we will relish the longer opportunities to fellowship.

Please pray for our safety as we return to South Africa. I am typing this in the London airport and the first leg of the trip Audrey vomited several times in the plane. Ah, but we still have it so much easier than the missionaries of old.

Kissing Through the Veil

An old rabbi once said, "Reading the Bible in a translation is like kissing your bride through the veil." In other words, reading the Bible in English is not as rich as reading it in Hebrew or Greek.

For the past five years, I've felt as though I were kissing my bride through two veils. When I preach, I still think in English and then translate in my mind to Tsonga. Every missionary longs for the day when he can speak *and* think in the native tongue. Being away from Tsonga for the past five weeks has not helped our language skills, so pray that the dialect will return to us quickly.

Standing on the shoulders of many,

Paul, Melinda & the kids