

# The Schlehlein Family

## Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa



JANUARY 2012 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

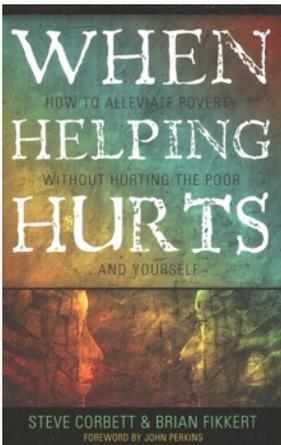
### A Padlock and A Piece of Land

A month ago, we arrived at our borrowed church building only to find the door padlocked against us. We have since been meeting in an adjacent building that has only 3 standing walls. After a year of trying to purchase a field for our church to build on, one man changed his mind and sold us the wild field across the street from our home. It's a prime location because the road is busy, and is big enough to plant a crop to raise funds for building.

### When Helping Hurts

Americans love to help, but sometimes, helping hurts. We believe that in order to build a church that will last beyond our departure, it is imperative that the people build with their own resources, including time, labor, and money. Too often, when the American dollar leaves, so do the people. So, we spent our first church work day collecting large stones to use for the foundation.

If you wonder about the church's role in poverty alleviation, we recommend Corbett & Fikkert's book *When Helping Hurts*. It will give you a peek into our philosophy of church planting. Every pastor and Christian interested in missions must read chapter 7: "Doing Short-Term Missions Without Doing Long-Term Harm."



### The Crippled Hand

Two years ago, Yvonne Maluleke's hand was crushed in an auto crash; her sister and her husband's sister died. But this tragedy led to her conversion. Her change of heart is obvious; she is hungry to learn and eagerly attends Bible studies.



**Solani & Yvonne**

Though her right hand is disabled, Yvonne still came to collect stones with the rest of the church. Just having a married couple in our church is amazing, but they are even more special because they are enthusiastic! Please, pray that their marriage and walk with Christ will continue to grow.

### Good Health

We enjoy good health, but were reminded to be thankful for it when just as everyone left from the church workday, Nathan had a febrile seizure. He recovered quickly and is back to normal.

*Building for Eternity,*

*Paul, Melinda & the kids*

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