

The Schlelein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa



MAY 2012 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Of Chiefs and Church Buildings

Conjure up a wily used-car salesman. Now a warring Shaka Zulu. Combine the two and you have the chief of our village. When I arrived in 2006, he allowed me to stay in an abandoned room at his home. No windows. Broken roof. Cobra hangout. Price: \$600/month, take it or leave it. The townspeople said it was worth \$70. In 2007, he gave permission to build a guest room for visiting friends. With the project underway, he changed his mind. I ate the expense. A week later he told me I had 24 hours to leave the village. For a year he told me there were no plots of land for sale in the village, but the truth is that there were dozens.

Since getting kicked out of our two previous buildings, our church now meets in a church member's garage. We purchased a nice piece of land where we can build, but the chief won't give it up--not enough jingle in his pocket.

So, we need you to continue praying. In many ways, this has been good for our church. First, it has driven us to our knees, as we have determined to fast and pray one day a week until this matter is resolved. Second, we KNOW people aren't joining our church for the facilities.



Our first church wedding was in March

Prayer for God's building

In light of this, pray that our church would continue to grow, not with brick and mortar but in love and unity (Eph. 4:16). Here are a couple specific prayer requests:

1. Pray for a piece of land on which to build.
2. Pray for the salvation of **Moses & his wife, Calvin, Manuel, Foundation, and Blessings**. Many of them are being drawn and are close to conversion.
3. Pray for the healing of one of our church members, Given Chauba--he is so faithful. He and I were involved in an accident with a power saw, and his finger needed to be amputated.

Striving to build up the church,
Paul, Melinda & the kids