

# The Schlehlein Family

## Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa



JULY 2011 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

### Trees Communicate

The logo for our Bible college is a tree with deep roots. This picture illustrates our theology, ministry philosophy, and deepest desires. For example:

1. Big trees have deep roots. Strong Christians desire meat and the deep things of God.
2. Strong trees withstand harsh winds. Christians persevere among persecution and trial.
3. Big trees take time to grow and so do Christians (contra one traveling missionary I heard in college who claimed that he had planted over 700 churches in the Philippines.

In a 30-year ministry, that's a church planted every couple of weeks!).



### Jastone Sebola: A Growing Tree

Watching a former student grow and excel in the ministry is a joy, akin to the pleasure Moses must have felt



Jastone Sebola: LBI grad; church intern

when seeing Joshua lead Israel. Jastone Sebola, a 2010 LBI grad, began interning at our church in June. His twin brother is interning at Seth's church in Elim. He has dived into the ministry with tasks like: daily kids clubs, evangelism, weekly preaching, and writing a doctrinal statement for his ordination.

While a student, Jastone discipled a young member of our church who is now teaching his own kid's club. Jastone has now moved to a different area of our village where several teens have made professions of faith and are being discipled. Our people love him and we long for a man like this to pastor our church one day.

### What Our Church Is Studying

- At Wednesday home Bible studies we are studying key theological terms such as repentance, justification, apt to teach, imputation, and redemption. We make sure a concise definition for each idea is made clear in Tsonga.
- In Sunday School we are learning about cults and false teaching, and emphasizing the most common ones in our area, like the Jehovah's Witnesses, the ZCC church, and the Prosperity Gospel.
- In morning worship, we are just finishing the book of Romans - forty sermons in all.
- For men's Bible study, we are reading through an adaption of *The Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689*.

## The World's Largest Baobab



Recently, our family traveled just an hour from our home to visit what is called "The Largest Baobab Tree in the World". The tree is considered to be six thousand years old, and though it is not very tall (62 feet), it is very wide and the roots are deep. We even visited the pub they built inside, as baobabs supposedly hollow in the middle after a thousand years.

But like most things, baobab trees start small (like the tree to the right; Melinda and the kids are in both pictures). The Christian life does

not equate to a prayer or a name on a decision card. Justification is instantaneous, but Christian growth takes time. Pray for our ministries. Our school and church are small. Many of our converts are still immature. And we as missionaries have many areas to grow in as well.

### How to Pray for our Ministries

- That God would give our church an African pastor.
- That our school's relocation to the city would bring more students.
- That Melinda's delivery would go smoothly. She's due in three weeks.

That seedlings would be giants,  
*Paul, Melinda & the kids*

