

The Schlelein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



DECEMBER 2014 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

Break In

Many of you have probably heard by now about the violent break-in at the home of our dear friends and teammates Seth and Amy Meyers. Some material items were stolen, but God in his grace spared them. At this time their greatest need is prayer for wisdom. They will be returning to the US for two months as they heal emotionally and make decisions for the future.

Many have asked about us too. Our family is not frightened and we feel safe in Mbhokota, though the holidays have brought out the petty thieves. Last week they broke into our church and stole several items (including Bibles) and robbed two of our neighbors.

Of Straw Mats and Cinder Block

For weeks a church leader and I have been doing village evangelism on the mountain. We set up the Bible studies in advance and encourage them to bring their neighbors. When Tiyani and I arrived today, we sat in a half-built cinder block room adjacent to their thatched roof kitchen. We were welcomed by a table adorned with a white cloth and cups of water.

We sat on chairs (as the men always do) as the five women sat on straw mats, legs straight out, sometimes barefoot and always with heads covered in bright cloth. It's proper to greet each person, not the whole group, and hold your elbow when shaking their hands.

We spent the first 90-minute study laying out the bad news from Romans. We'll return next week to begin the cross. Distractions abound. Half couldn't read. At my feet were a half dozen eggs a chicken had just laid. Kids run in and out. Lots of repetition is needed. I drew illustrations on the dirt floor, helped them find the verses and reviewed *ad nauseum*.

Our next Bible study was at the homestead pictured to the right. In our era of social awareness, they would be prime candidates for well-drilling, AIDS awareness, and mosquito nets, all of which have their place, but only as quick fix. What they need is Jesus. This takes time, patience, and a good pair of hiking boots. Pray that God would convert them from the error of their ways, and polish them as jewels for the Redeemer's crown.

Birth and Christmas Plans

Melinda's due date for our fifth child is December 26. Ministry and the holidays always brings added pressure and responsibility, so please pray that God would give us calm in December and a safe and healthy delivery.



Cordially in Christ,
Mzamani & Sesi Melinda