



THE SCHLEHLEINS

Missionaries to the Tsongas of South Africa



MUCKRAKING THE RIVER

Months of Evangelism in a Nearby Village Reveals the Absence of Gospel Light

The placard over the village of River Plaats just 5 miles from our home should read Ichabod.

Scores of Bible studies in efforts to plant a church there show a great ignorance of the gospel. We're not asking them for an apostolic explanation, just something that resembles the way of salvation. So we teach. God is working.

River is more remote than Mbhokota. Many houses are cut into the sides of the mountain. Midday you'll find oodles of women gambling under shade trees and men getting hammered on traditional beer. In the photo above, I'm overlooking River Plaats nestled to the right. Mbhokota is just around the bend on the left.



This hilly hamlet is brimming with the usual suspects of cagey clergymen that preach prosperity and stir up apathy.

Moby Dick's Herman Melville once compared the pulpit to the prow of a ship, setting the direction and course of society. If River Plaats ever hopes to escape the pale of degradation, it must come from Bible preaching.

This past Sunday afternoon we had about 25 adults in the River Plaats church service. A third were our own people who are coming to support the work.

SHADRECK, MESHACH, AND A BOREHOLE

It is rare we appeal for funds but this is vital.

Shadreck Zireva, a godly Zimbabwean pastor who graduated from our three-year Bible Institute, is in real need of a well. The droughts these days are severe, making survival in poverty-stricken Zimbabwe even more difficult. A well would allow him to plant his crops, nourish his family, and support other small business ventures.

A well costs about \$4,000. With Christmas around the corner, would you consider helping Pastor Zireva? If you support us but can't fit in Shadreck, drop us for a month and send it to him. Checks posted to our mission board with "Zireva--Well" in the memo line will go straight to his doorstep.

For more details about Shadreck, click [here](#) and [here](#).

UPDATE ON VISAS

We are much obliged for prayers and concern about our visa issues. They expired weeks ago but we are allowed to stay until the results trickle in.

The only one thus far approved has been Julianna. The bright side is that if our family should have to return, at least our 11-month old will be able to stay behind.

Please pray earnestly for the work in River Plaats!

Most Cordially in Christ,
Paul and Melinda