

Jarred and Megan Etheredge

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South Africa

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The Etheredges serve in rural Johannesburg engaging the local community through agriculture, skill-building, biblical discipleship, and church-network pastor training. In addition, they equip lay people in evangelism and building up the body of Christ by planting churches in unreached areas.

Their goals include completing the training center so they can establish monthly, onsite training for 100 people and housing for twenty-five trainees. Once that is accomplished, they can install a local leader to shepherd the church into the future and hold three annual conferences through the pastors fraternal, which will continue relationships with local leaders and instill a passion for biblical teaching.



Their primary work is with the Pedi tribe of South Africa, the third largest tribal group comprising ten percent of the population. They still honor and operate under a kingship of the people and local chiefs of individual villages. Customs and traditions are similar to the Zulu tribe. Strong, proud, and formerly militant, today they are mostly peaceful.

Along with many culture, ministry, and language challenges, the most damaging ones are spiritual and a fallout of mass evangelism (without discipleship) that occurred in the 1900s. Many of those affected are now involved with syncretism - following the Bible mixed with traditional ancestral worship and believing that Jesus was alive but not God's son.

Zion Christian Church is the most popular denomination with 85% of Pedi people following its precepts. The deity they worship is Le Kanyane, their mediator who brings messages from God. Reportedly, their yearly gathering includes human sacrifices and a pilgrimage to Moriah, their compound.