



## Mawuli's miracle

*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

Mawuli lives in Allada, Benin, in West Africa. When Mawuli was a little girl, her father and mother got sick and died. There was no one to take care of her, so a friend took her to *La Casa Grande*. That means The Big House.

At *La Casa Grande*, Mawuli found people who loved her and took care of her. She made friends and went to school. She studied very hard because she dreamed of becoming a journalist or a lawyer. In Benin you have to take a big test to get into university. To take the test you need to show your birth certificate.

But Mawuli didn't have her birth certificate. Bienvenu, one of the leaders at *La Casa Grande*, didn't want Mawuli to give up on her dreams. He wanted to help find her family so that Mawuli could get a birth certificate.

First, he prayed that God would help him. Then, he followed the only clue he had—the name of Mawuli's mother's village. There, Bienvenu found Mawuli's grandmother! But she was still angry at Mawuli's mother for something that happened a long time ago. She wouldn't answer any of Bienvenu's questions. The grandmother was so upset that she started yelling and let slip Mawuli's father's name and his home village. Now there was another clue!

Bienvenu followed the clue and traveled to Mawuli's father's village. He found Mawuli's uncle!

Back at *La Casa Grande*, Mawuli was very happy to know she had a family. But she still didn't have a birth certificate.

Both her mother's and her father's families needed to come to the courthouse in her town to confirm who Mawuli was.

Because the families didn't get along, Bienvenu decided not to tell them that both families were coming. He prayed that God would work things out to help get Mawuli's birth certificate.

On their way into town, the two families met while crossing the river in a canoe. They realized that God had brought them together on the boat, and then they hugged each other instead of fighting! They all went to the courthouse together. This was just what Bienvenu had prayed for!

The family feud was over, but Mawuli still didn't have her birth certificate. It usually takes the court three months to do the paperwork. But God worked in the courthouse, too. Her family went to court on Friday and her birth certificate was ready on Monday!

Mawuli has now both her birth family and her *La Casa Grande* family. She can go to university and become whatever God calls her to be. She says, “God is powerful. I know God has a plan for my life because I received an unexpected miracle.”

### Questions for discussion

1. What stood out to you about this story?
2. How did Mawuli trust in God? How did God provide?
3. When was a time that you had to trust in God? How did God provide?

### Prayer

*Dear God, thank you for helping Mawuli find her family and her birth certificate. We are grateful for her trust in you! Help us to also trust you in difficult times. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



Photo by Lynda Hollinger-Janzen

**A bright future**—God used *La Casa Grande* in Benin to give Mawuli hope and a bright future.

### Our gifts can help support mission in Benin!

Mennonite Mission Network supports a variety of ministries in Benin. One of the primary ways that mission happens is by sharing the good news of Jesus through friendships and loving our neighbors. You can help them spread God's love by helping to send Mawuli, and other children like her, to training school. There's a saying that “when you educate a boy, you educate an individual. When you educate a girl, you educate a generation.” Here are a few ways you can help both boys and girls in Benin:

**\$10** helps buy school books.

**\$25** helps a student attend one class for a semester.

**\$100** helps a student attend a year of school.

**Gift designation.** All gifts to support ministries in Benin should be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Please indicate that the funds are for “**Mission Bank—Benin**” or “**Project #1820.**”

▶ For more activities and stories, visit [www.MennoniteMission.net/BeninMissionBank](http://www.MennoniteMission.net/BeninMissionBank).

