

# A place to play in **BOTSWANA**

## Listening for God

Read *Joshua 6:1-7, the battle of Jericho.*

In the capital of Botswana (called Gaborone), there's a neighborhood called Bontleng. A long time ago, it had a playground with swings and shiny new slides. But with time, the swings and slides broke. It became unsafe to play in or pass by.

The people of Bontleng wanted to clean up the space. Together with mission workers, they formed a plan. They would use recycled materials to build spaces to garden, gather, and play sports.

Before the first brick was laid, the group prayed for God's blessing. They knew if they wanted to rebuild the park, they would need God's help. They didn't get a verbal answer, but they were reminded of the battle of Jericho. That's when Joshua led God's people to the Promised Land.

Like Joshua, they decided to walk and pray around the park, every day for seven days. And they listened for God's blessing.

On the second day they walked around the park, a boy came along. They talked about their hopes for the park. The boy joined them to walk and pray. Soon, the mission worker realized that he didn't know the name of his new

friend. Surely it was a common name like Thabo, Kagiso or Lesego," said the mission worker. "But rather, it was a name we had never heard in Botswana before or since."

"My name is Joshua," the boy said. And with that, the group knew they had God's blessing to rebuild the park.

### Questions for discussion

1. The title of the story is "Listening for God." God talks to us in many ways if we are ready to listen. In the Bible and in the story you just read, how did God talk to people? What are other ways that God spoke to people in the Bible?
2. If God has no physical mouth, how do you think God speaks to us?
3. Sometimes God talks loud and clear. Other times, it's very quiet and easy to miss. How do you think we can be ready to listen to God?

### Prayer

*Jesus, thank you for speaking to us. Open our hearts; open our minds so that we're ready to listen to you. Amen.*



Photo by Gonna Lewis. Reprinted courtesy of *Impact Botswana*, Peolwane, Air Botswana magazine, March 2017

**Community building**—The new park brings joy to many children.

### Our gifts can help support mission in Botswana.

Mennonite Mission Network supports a variety of ministries in Botswana. One of the primary ways that mission happens is by sharing the good news of Jesus through friendships and loving our neighbors. In Botswana, this happens by working with children and youth through sports activities. Giving children a clean, safe place to play is very important and something everyone can help provide. Gifts will fund the Botswana ministry, including coaching, organizing events, equipment, and clean water.

#### Did you know?

**\$25** buys enough seed for a small community garden to provide fresh produce.

**\$50** buys three soccer balls for girls and boys to use for practice and games.

**\$100** helps support teachers and coaches from the community.

**Gift designation.** All gifts to support ministries in Botswana should be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Please indicate that the funds are for "**Mission Bank—Botswana**" or "**Project #1814.**"

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

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