

A place to play in **BOTSWANA**

Changing lives through sports

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-5: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord.”

Botswana is a beautiful country, filled with many good people. But sometimes, even good, smart, hardworking people can't find a job.

When Mothusi Kenosi looked around his home in Francistown, Botswana, it made him sad. He was sad that there were few jobs. He was sad that women and children had to make hard choices. He was sad when the choices sometimes hurt families.

So he decided to do something about it.

Mothusi didn't have many resources. But he had a dream for a better Botswana, a love for sports, and a supportive church.

That dream became the Bokgoni Sporting Club. (“Bokgoni” means potential.) The Bokgoni Sporting Club uses netball and soccer to teach young women and children. It models healthy exercise, teamwork, and helps young women to follow their dreams. They reached out to women and children because they often didn't have the opportunities that young men had.

Lesedi Kapaya is one of those young women. Before playing netball at the Bokgoni Sporting Club, she was living day-

to-day, with no direction in life. “Bokgoni has taught me ... the difference between healthy and unhealthy behaviors,” said Lesedi. “I feel confident standing up for myself and expressing my opinions openly. I also have learned how to treat my family and friends with more respect.”

Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever been a part of a team? Maybe you played sports, sang in choir, or played an instrument in band. How did the people around you change you? What are ways that you had an impact on other people?
2. Church is a little bit like being on a team. Everyone is important—no matter how young—and everyone has a special gift to bring. Some people bring their musical gift, others bring their gift of friendship, or the gift of how they see the world. What are some of the gifts that you bring to your church?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for surrounding us with a team of believers. Thank you that we can learn from and encourage each other to follow you more. Bless the Bokgoni Sporting Club and help it to continue to teach people how you would like them to live. Amen.



Photo by Jerrell Ross Richer

Changing lives—Mothusi Kenosi's dream has changed the lives of many women and 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.

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