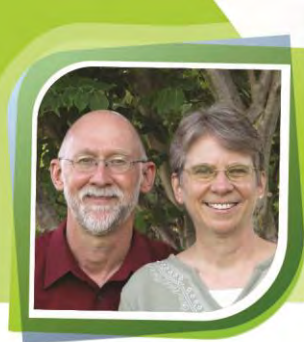


Tim & Joy
COPPESS

MISSIONARIES TO BOTSWANA



Project # 42.10008

TJCoppess@chog.org

February - March 2020

Learning Never Ends



Magdelene Molapisi

Whether in a new culture or a familiar one, all of us need to be life-long learners, especially in our faith-walks with God. Do we truly believe God can do all things and bring about good despite circumstances? About this time last year, we joined in prayer with *Moruti* and *Mma Moruti* (pastor and pastor's wife) Curtis and Magdelene Molapisi. They previously had been unable to conceive or to carry a child to full-term. As we closed the prayer, Tim prophesied that Magdelene would have a child within a year. Even with the best of intentions, these words of hope should not be spoken without the reassurance of Holy Spirit's confirmation. The proof of prophesy is whether or not it comes to pass. They are expecting their first child in May. *Modimo o*

siame! (God is good!) As a result, Joy is currently learning the many intricate details of how a baby shower is planned in Botswana. Joy and teammate Abby Stocksdale were recently invited to join a WhatsApp group of 150 women to plan Magdelene's baby shower! Imagine 150 women making plans by consensus! It has been enlightening, yet a bit overwhelming. Joy charged her phone for a few hours, only to discover 218 WhatsApp messages. "Preggy," as they have referred to Magdelene, made a list of desired gifts for the group. Batswana depend upon family and friends to be able to afford a crib, stroller, etc., for their firstborn. The WhatsApp group set a minimum gift of P200, which is approximately \$20 or two-day's wages. Donations are posted to encourage others to participate. It has seemed more like planning a top-notch wedding reception. Although Joy doesn't understand all that is being discussed, there has been talk of someone arranging a DJ for the event. There is also discussion on whether to order some delicious looking but expensive food platters or to fill everyone up on *papa* (the main food starch) and *braai* (BBQ meats). Magdelene asked for the decor to be salmon-pink and the dress code to be white dresses with gold accents. You read correctly. It is customary here to have a dress code for those attending! We shopped for quite a while and found a white skirt for Joy. We could not find a gold-colored belt anywhere, so a gold-colored necklace will suffice. The shower will be in late April. We will update you after the event.



"Interesting" range of baby shower cake ideas



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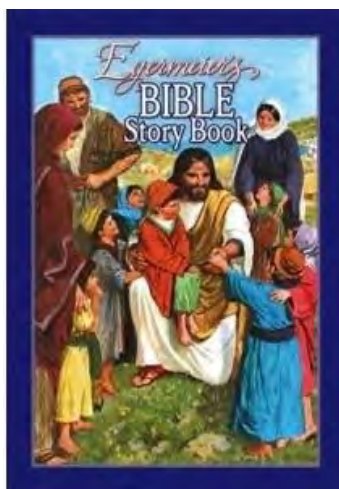
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Children's Discipleship with Limited Resources



The children's Sunday school teachers here have very few resource materials. They have used small booklets of Bible stories they received from Samaritan's Purse. With the approval of the local pastors, we recently presented *Mma Mog* and *Mma Teresa*, the Sunday school teachers of the branches in Maun, each with Egermeier's



(Top) Mma Mog teaching the Boseja Sunday school class
(Bottom) Mma Teresa and COP children singing

Bible Story Books to help in biblical training. *Mma Mog* from Boseja branch shared how the children loved the pictures and asked about each person in them. She told us they also recognized a story and excitedly wanted to compare it to the story from the Samaritan Purse booklet. Both teachers appreciated these resources and the children are eager to learn about God and His people.

Children of Promise (COP) Team Visits Maun



In mid-February, a group came for a week of routine on-site visits to audit the health of the COP program in Botswana. Heather Webb, co-director of COP, brought a

team from Salem Church of God in Clayton, OH, to record videos and to join in home and school visits, child interviews, and celebrate the new, flourishing program. Each member of the team was a delight to meet and work alongside. Patty, a good friend of the Stocksdale family, came to meet the COP child she sponsors. John and Gwen Johnson, our new regional coordinators for



Patty with her sponsored COP child



John & Gwen Johnson, regional coordinators for Africa



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COP office and grounds preparation

Africa, have followed Mike and Heather Webb in this role and joined the team for firsthand knowledge of the church and mission work in Botswana. It was wonderful group and a productive visit. Abby Stocksdale has the lead role in establishing the COP program in Botswana. We have enjoyed supporting COP in any way we can. We joined in preparing the yard



(Top) Interviewing a COP child

(Bottom) Some of the national COP committee

and some finishing touches to the COP office prior to the group's visit. As part of Team Botswana, we also helped transport the group and watched



Playing a game with COP kids

the Stocksdale children during some COP home visits and meetings. On the COP party day, we enjoyed getting better acquainted with the children as we helped two dynamic young ladies from the group, Erica and Olivia, teach the children games and songs while others interviewed children inside



COP children enjoying a back-to-back relay

the church building. To date, 36 Botswana children have been sponsored since starting up in June 2019. It is thrilling to see how God is moving through Abby, Tebby Kalayakgosi, and this program to touch the lives of many children and families. The team is expanding the program and has begun home visits in the small village of Shorobe, where the Church of God has a branch about one-half hour drive northeast of Maun. Love and blessings,
Tim & Joy

To help sustain the ministry and expand the Kingdom of God in Botswana, pray and give online at www.chogglobal.org/tjcoppress or call Global Strategy at 800-848-2464 and include our Project #42.10008.



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