

## **CHERISH AND COURAGE ANNUAL REPORT FOR** **2023.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Cherish and Courage are important programmes which help young people to make informed decisions during and after puberty. The Clubs meet once a week, during which the leaders teach Bible lessons, with chosen topics. The emphasis is on how much God loves the youths. The teaching also focuses on remaining pure in their Christian lives and refraining from indulging in immoral activities.

The programme commenced in 2017, and it targets adolescent young people from 9 to 16 years of age. Clubs are formed in various churches and currently there are a total of 18 clubs. Both Cherish and Courage have a total of 9 Clubs each. The 18 Clubs are led by a total of 18 volunteers. 9 ladies lead the girls Cherish Clubs and similarly 9 men lead the young men in the Courage Clubs. In total 84 girls and 35 boys attend these groups and are benefiting from the instruction and encouragement that they receive.

### **UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

We conducted a 2 days training course for Cherish and Courage, at the training each club sent 2 representatives. The training was a success as the participants acquired skills and knowledge that will help them in their teaching. The training was facilitated by Delia Chirwa who is from Lilongwe.



***Cherish Clubs Leaders in a training session.***

After the training the leaders received book manuals that will help them with right information, and they will also help them draw a time frame for the programme.

At The Holy Ghost Temple, Assemblies of God, they have started teaching a new group of children as the old group had completed their studies. This is amazing news!

The impact has increased as the number of boys and girls at this club, who now have knowledge of the Word of God, has grown.

## **NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED**

We received pencils, pens, books, soft cloth bags for the girls, games and cosmetics for women leaders, from Mission Direct. These materials were given to one centre which the Mission Direct team visited.

The resources will be of great use as they will help the children in their studies - for example the pens and books which they will be using at school.



***Cherish girls at Holy Ghost Temple with the new resources given by Mission Direct team***

## **CHALLENGES FACED IN THE PROGRAMME**

The programme faces different challenges of which these are some:

- Failure to continue weekly meetings by the Leaders in other centres saying that they are busy with their individual schedules.
- Some young people have left the Centres because of other worldly activities which seem to be good. eg the cultural activities which are common in our society.
- Other Centres failed to start the activities because the young people are finding difficult to attend due to the school timetable which clashes with the Church planned time.
- In other Centres it has been the failure of the Church Leaders to own the programme.

We tried to visit the clubs that are facing these challenges, but it yielded nothing. A resolution was made to be continuing working with the active clubs.

## **WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE THE CLUBS MAKING.**



**JAMES M'BENA**

**James Mbena** is one of the boys of Courage Group at Holy Ghost Temple Assemblies of God. He shares how the group has changed his life.

*"My spiritual life has changed as I pray and attend church services frequently which I could not do before joining the group. Not only has my life has changed spiritually, it has changed physically too as I do not skip classes.*

*I have received Jesus Christ to be my personal Saviour.*

*Thank you, Starfish, for introducing such programme in churches to help boys like me."*

explained James.

### **ZAKARIA PATISIYO.**



**Zakaria Patisiyo** is a leader from New Samaritan Church. He says the training they received has helped him as now he has skills and knowledge on how to run the programme at their church.

*"I have learned that a boy has a chance to change his behaviour. Even facing a lot of challenges and struggles he can still do well in life. As a leader I have also learnt that With Christ we can do all things,"*

shared Zakaria.

### ***Zakaria Patisiyo, leader for New Samaritan Church Courage group.***

Zakaria Patisiyo says he also learns so much when he is teaching lessons for Courage in boys

### **RACHAEL PHIRI.**



I am **Rachael Phiri** from Holy Ghost Temple Cherish group. I thank God for the group of Cherish at our Church because it has helped in many ways.

Before I was not giving respect to my Parents but when I learned more about the Word of God, through Cherish, I am now able to respect them and I've learned to come home in better time than before.

Again, I have learned much about believing God. He created me beautiful and special; this helps my confidence to grow.

I also love friends, a thing I couldn't do in the past.

I would like to thank God for the chance given to us to learn these things and I encourage my friends to enjoy the Cherish Programme.