

CHERISH AND COURAGE MID-YEAR REPORT FOR **2023**

BACKGROUND

Cherish and Courage are important programmes which help young people to make informed decisions during and after their puberty period.

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 lead 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.



New Samaritan church Cherish girls after a session.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Cherish provides lessons that helps the girls realise the negative effects of early and unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The impact has increased as there have been no unwanted pregnancies in the girls attending Cherish. This also has the effect on reducing teen marriages.

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?

Ida Zakaria is one of the volunteers at the New Samaritan Churches Cherish Club. She says that after attending training on how best they can be good leaders at the clubs her life changed spiritually as well as physically.



"I had anger issues at first but after the training I am now able to control my anger, I also remember some time back I was about to commit suicide but after hearing the lessons at Cherish Training my mind changed. I now know that God loves me and suicide is not a solution to problems. The programme has also helped the girls to love education. We encourage them to love and enjoy school as it is their future."

Ida Zacharia, a volunteer at the New Samaritan Church Cherish Club.

JONATHAN LEMON

Jonathan shares,

*"I am **Jonathan Lemon** from the Nazarene Church at Gwirize Village. I am one of the boys who are benefitting from the Courage Programme. Before I attended Courage I was a boy who was into immoral activities like smoking, drinking beer and I would hate going to church.*

A friend introduced me to Courage and ever since my life is not the same as I have changed for the better. I now go to church willingly. I don't drink beer or smoke anymore, as we are taught at Courage that our bodies are the temple of Christ so we should not defile them."



The Cherish and Courage Programmes are implemented and supported by Starfish. We thank God for the change that we see in the young people that attend the groups and our thanks to the group leaders who faithfully give of their time to teach and encourage.