

CHERISH AND COURAGE ANNUAL 2022 REPORT

BACKGROUND

Cherish and Courage are programmes targeted at girls and boys between the ages of 9–16 years old, (and above for those not yet married).

The programme provides a platform for youth to be able to express themselves freely about issues affecting their personal lives. The youth are taught the Word of God as a guiding tool to help them make the right decisions in life including sexual relationships and health.



Girls at Takomana Cherish Club

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

In preparation for resuming the programme after a break due to Covid-19, Starfish conducted a two-day training for both cherish and courage volunteer leaders. The volunteers were invited from 10 churches and each church had a representative of 2 pastors (1 male and 1 female).

The 9 churches which are going to now run the programme are Africa Methodist Episcopal Church, Emanuel Christian Pentecostal, Winners Chapel International, Zambezi Evangelical Church, Pentecostal Holiness Church, New Samaritan Church, The Church of Nazarene, Pillar of Fire and Malawi Assemblies of God. The training was facilitated by Delia Chirwa from Lilongwe – the original trainer and founder of the work in Malawi.



One of the Centres for Cherish, Girls at AMEC

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED

After the training, they each received manuals for the lessons. The materials will help guide the leaders in how to conduct the lessons. It will also help them to have a time frame for completing the programme in 6 months.



Program leaders with manuals

Leader, **Zakaria Patsiyo**, shares,

“My name is Zakaria Patsiyo from New Samaritan Church, thank you Starfish for allowing me to attend the leaders training, with the aim of equipping us with skills on how we can teach boys to live a new life in Christ Jesus. I have learnt that it is not easy to change behaviour but with proper guidance and the Word of God everything is possible. I look forward to working with young people in this programme.”



Group member, **Rachael Phiri** also shares,

“My name is Rachael Phiri from the Holy Ghost Temple Cherish group. I have seen that the programme has impacted many young people’s lives. I never used to respect my parents but when I started learning about the Word of God through the Cherish program, I now respect my parents and come home in good time before it gets dark. I’m learning to believe in God for he created me in a fearfully and wonderful way, this has helped my confidence to grow. I would like to encourage my friends to start coming to the Cherish program.”

PROGRESS AFTER THE TRAINING

After the training for Cherish and Courage Leaders some churches started offering the lessons to the girls and boys, but some didn’t start immediately although may resume early 2023. By the end of 2022, most churches are doing Cherish for girls, while 3 are running Courage for the boys. We will continue to encourage more churches to also run the Courage course – this may need to happen on Sundays to avoid clashes with school timetables, etc.