

COURAGE SOUTH AFRICA YOUTH Camp 2024

Camp Theme: Know Yourself

This year, we joyfully restarted our beloved Courage Youth Camp after a five-year hiatus due to Covid and financial constraints. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, we gathered 59 learners and 20 staff for a transformative 4-day adventure.

I hope you enjoy this heartfelt narration from a Courage Youth staff member, who vividly captures each day's experiences—the moments of healing, connection, and miracles that unfolded.

Day 1

Team Building through Flag Paintings & War Cries

Our Courage Youth kids came together to grow in Christ and build Team Spirit! To kick off our journey, the kids were organized into five teams at the very start of the camp. Through Team Flag Painting and powerful War Cries, we celebrated how God created us uniquely and for His glory. The teams reflected the beautiful components of God's design for humanity: Team Spiritual, Team Emotional, Team Mental, Team Physical, and Team Social. We are so grateful for this time of learning,



unity, and fun as we grow deeper in Christ!



Next Up: Braai & Stokbrood (Grilled Pastry) Competition

Our Courage Youth teams fired up the grills and their creativity in a spirit-filled barbecue competition! Each team brought their best to the table, barbecuing their own meat while showcasing teamwork and gratitude for God's provision. The winning team was crowned at dinner, taking home the trophy and hearts full of joy!



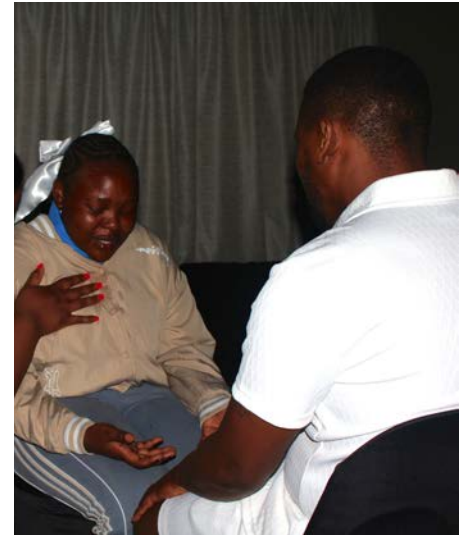
Ending Day 1 with A Time to Heal: "I Am Your Parent" Session

At Camp 2024, our Courage Youth learners were given a safe space to open their hearts and share their burdens. Through this deeply emotional session, they could privately express to staff members what they've been too scared to tell their parents. We thank God for His presence in this healing moment and for the opportunity to provide counseling and emotional support to these young souls.

Day 2

Deepening Healing: I am Your Parent Session Continues

On the second day of camp, learners who couldn't find their voice during the first session were given another chance to express themselves through heartfelt letters to their parents. This exercise became a powerful outlet for releasing inner pain and sharing long-held secrets, bringing emotional healing and a sense of freedom. We thank God for guiding these young hearts to a place of honesty, courage, and restoration. His love continues to heal broken spirits and bring hope.



Next Up: Obstacle Course & Mud Pool Fun!

Camp 2024 brought an unforgettable outdoor adventure for our Courage Youth kids! The Obstacle Course and Mud Pool challenged their strength, teamwork, and determination—all while having a blast in God's beautiful creation. Through every splash, climb, and muddy moment, we were reminded of the joy and freedom that comes from fellowship and embracing life's challenges together.



Continuing the Fun into the Evening: Pillow Fight – Letting It All Out!

At Camp 2024, our Courage Youth learners were encouraged to release life's frustrations in a fun and therapeutic Pillow Fight! With each punch, they let go of stress, tension, and burdens they've been carrying. This simple yet impactful activity reminded us that even in life's toughest moments, God provides healthy ways to heal and find joy.

Last Activity of the Day: Campfire & Marshmallow Braai – A Night of Healing

On this special evening of Camp 2024, we gathered under the stars for a bonfire that symbolized release and renewal. After a joyful 25-minute walk, learners came together to burn their morning letters, signifying the letting go of hurt, pain, and unforgiveness.



Day 3

"Mirror Reflection" Session: Understanding Self

The morning of Day 3 was life-changing. During the "Understanding Self" session, learners reflected on their Spiritual, Emotional, Physical, Social, and Mental selves while looking into mirrors. We focused on the most vital part of self: the Spiritual component. As the Spirit of God moved powerfully among us, many youths were inspired to respond:

- 18 learners gave their lives to Christ.
- 41 rededicated their lives to Him.
- 3 facilitators also gave their lives to Christ.

Every learner present responded to the altar call, and even the camp manager was moved to tears!

Next Up: The Gala Dinner – A Night to Celebrate!

To close Camp 2024, we hosted a Gala Dinner fit for royalty! Learners dressed in formal attire and were treated to a delicious three-course meal, lovingly served by the Courage Youth staff. This special evening was all about making our learners feel celebrated and valued. It was a time to honor their participation throughout 2024 in Courage Clubs and at camp. We also recognized outstanding achievements with several award categories, celebrating their growth, dedication, and teamwork. A night filled with joy, gratitude, and God's love, reminding us all that we are fearfully and wonderfully made!





Spotlight on 2024's Courage Youth King: Wiseman Mncube

In a world where many are faced with unimaginable challenges, the story of Wiseman Mncube, our 2024 Courage Youth King, is one that truly exemplifies strength, resilience, and the power of hope.

Wiseman's journey began in Mozambique, where he tragically lost both of his parents. He was recruited as an illegal miner in 2022, desperately trying to survive in a foreign land. At just 16 years old, he found himself in South Africa, alone and uncertain of his next steps. Yet, in the midst of his struggles, Wiseman made a life-changing decision: he wanted to go to school. Despite being too old for Grade 6, his story touched the hearts of a school's staff, and they accepted Wiseman as a student with open arms. He worked tirelessly, pouring his heart into his studies, and completed Grade 6 and 7. In 2024, he was promoted to Grade 9, skipping 8th grade!



Though his life has been marked by hardship, Wiseman has found a home with a retired pastor who opened her home to him. She provides him with shelter and shares her pension money to help him. This kindness, amidst his struggles, has been a lifeline for Wiseman.

Looking ahead, Wiseman has big dreams. He is determined to study Electrical Engineering, and with his unwavering drive, there is no doubt that he will achieve it. It's been a privilege to work with Wiseman at Courage Youth and contribute to his inspiring journey.