

ReachOut™
YOUTH SOLUTIONS



**Country Leader
Reuben Zivagwe**

2023 UPDATE

ZIMBABWE



A world in need of a Savior...

Reach Out's global impact in 2023



Reach Out Global Map

God moved mightily through our Reach Out team in 2023, more than we ever could have imagined! Investing into the training and equipping of youth leaders is crucial in spreading the message of the gospel to the younger generation. Our Country Leaders witnessed God's hand in allowing our team to train and equip more than **5,000 youth leaders** this past year who are now implementing the six essential characteristics taught through Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry into local churches in countries all over the world. Accounts were received about the impact of our JFYM Forums that brought newly certified Eagle Leaders (leaders who are now equipped to train other leaders), churches planted, and onlookers saved. Over **18,000 students were saved** through the ministries of those trained in **Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry**. And thousands more are currently being disciplined into disciple-makers for their generation!

JFYM Forums have sparked the establishment of **85 new churches in just one year**. These churches addressed crucial needs in areas where JFYM Forums were held. Thousands of students also participated in biblical training when our teams were allowed to enter schools in certain countries. Students were given the opportunity to participate in activities that impacted their spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. One of our Country Leaders has even been invited by their government officials to create such a program in their nation!

New opportunities were plentiful in 2023. Youth leader training started in **Pakistan** and **Belize**. Translations were completed in **Hindi** (India) and **Kirundi** (Burundi). And, we were able to add **Ukrainian** as an additional language to our JFYM online training platform! We also trained Links International missionaries from multiple countries in JFYM.

Reach Out hosted its First Annual Golf Tournament early in 2023, which was a great success and was enjoyed by all who participated. We were also able to highlight Reach Out Youth Solutions and Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry at the Southern Baptist Convention, the Texas Baptist General Convention, and Movement Day at Dallas Baptist University.

Thank you for your generosity, support and prayers throughout 2023 to help us extend God's love to the countries we serve. We would not be able to do it without you and your faithfulness in coming alongside us. **Thank you!**

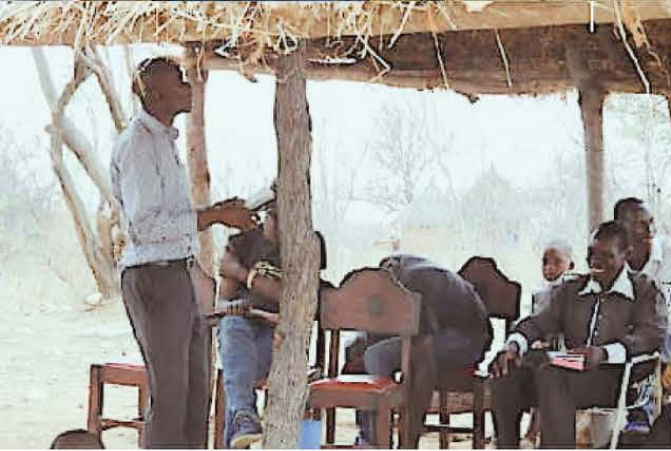


God gathered His flock...

with numerous leaders being prepared for the future...



Our team's first JFYM training of the year brought more than 28 youth leaders [see p. 6]



Following a previous JFYM Forum, ***a new church was recently planted*** in an area where few churches are available. Our team was ecstatic to be able to help them start this church for new believers to come and learn more about Jesus. The building has begun!

With a deep understanding of what it takes to establish a new church community, our team was well equipped to support the leaders of this church. It is important to build relationships with the community, and create a welcoming, supportive environment where individuals can grow in their faith and learn more about what it means to follow Jesus.



God pressed their hearts...

after a JFYM there became a need...



God preparing the way...

as youth leaders become empowered to lead...

The role of a youth leader is not just to organize events or deliver sermons, but to empower young people to reach their full potential, discover their purpose, and grow in their faith. Through intentional mentorship, guidance, and support, youth leaders can create a safe and nurturing environment where young individuals can thrive, develop meaningful relationships, and deepen their spiritual journey. The Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry certificates received by these 35 leaders in Zimbabwe in November serve as a testament to their ***dedication to empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers in their communities.***

These JFYM graduates have undergone training and mentoring in how to effectively connect with and disciple today's youth. Through interactive workshops, discussions, and practical sessions, they honed their skills in addressing opportunities of ministering to young people.





2023 began with a group of 28 leaders who were trained and equipped with a JFYM training experience. The event was filled with insightful sessions, engaging workshops, and powerful testimonial videos from participants who shared their experiences. Many of them were also certified in Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry to reach the younger generation for Christ [see p. 3].

Two of the attendees also shared testimonies of how they were impacted at the training. Leon [top left] is a soccer player and attends a local church. He said he is so excited about the Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry program because it taught him a lot, and he plans on using what he learned to teach his soccer teammates about Jesus. Kenneth [second left] is a teacher from their local Children's Faith Academy, and shared that he benefitted a lot from the training and will implement what he learned to teach the youth he ministers to.

In August, our Country Leader Reuben [bottom left] was ***asked by government officials to train teachers in Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry so that the students in the rural schools are reached and disciplined!*** What an honor to become part of such a task! The message of Jesus is permeating their school environment!

We appreciate your kindness, support, prayers and gifts in helping the impossible happen in a nation that is facing great trials and economic barriers for Christ. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for all that God is going to do through our team in Zimbabwe as we follow His lead!

COUNTRY STATISTICS ZIMBABWE

POPULATION = 16.6 million

39.8% live on under \$2.15/day, 64.5% live on under \$3.65/day, 85% live on under \$6.85/day

Human Development Index = health, education, income rankings in the world

POVERTY
11.9%



HDI
159 OUT OF 193



EDUCATION



TEEN PREGNANCY
10.8%



of girls ages 15-19, child marriage being very high at 21.2% of girls 15-18 years old

AIDS/HIV
10.5%



women much higher at 13% than men at 7.9%

91% attend primary school, 52% attend lower secondary school, 37% attend upper secondary school, 89% complete primary school

Challenges

- 46.9% of the population is under 18 years old
- GDP was 6.5% in 2022, dropped to 5.5% in 2023, and is projected to be 3.5% in 2024, causing the exchange rate to depreciate by more than 600% and inflation averaged 104%
- El Nino-induced drought resulted in massive crop failure and depletion of water resources. Simultaneously, pastures were damaged by sporadic heavy storms, flooding, flash flooding, and other trans-boundary hazards, causing major food insecurity and lack of access to safe drinking water
- 64.1% of children experience violent discipline
- Massive cholera outbreak in 2023 spread to all provinces, polio outbreak in October, and measles outbreak continuing from the previous year killing more than 700 children
- 23.5% of children under 5 are stunted, 38% of children are anemic, and 54% of women are overweight due to malnutrition and lack of dietary knowledge
- 32% have access to safe sanitation, 3% have access to basic sanitation, 27% have access to safe drinking water, 36% have access to basic water

Reach Out

- A gift of \$1,000 helps indigenous leaders train 50 youth pastors through an "in-person" forum in their country.
- A gift of \$500 helps provide scholarships to train and mentor 20 youth pastors online.
- A gift of \$200 (\$3.85 per week) helps us equip 1 leader for 1 year, with the goal of that leader moving from being introduced to JFYM to implementing and multiplying JFYM. As a result, that new leader will begin training 3 additional leaders, so that from those 4 new leaders, there are a total of 12 young people disciplined and praying for opportunities to influence 36 of their friends to follow Jesus.
- A monthly gift of \$100 helps us continue current ministry to leaders around the world who are trained and resourced through Reach Out.

Sources:

American Journal of Science Education Research at: <https://www.cmpublishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/teenage-pregnancy-in-the-era-of-covid-19-insights-from-botswana.pdf>
Human Development Index at: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights/#rank>
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