

MANERELA+ YOUTHS BAILS OUT A REJECTED HIV POSITIVE GIRL

Priscilla Konzani's Narrative



A 19-year-old girl, Priscilla Konzani, who hails from Jiya Village in Traditional Authority Nsomba in Blantyre district, was found positive when both parents passed away in 2018.: *"After the death of my parents, I could get sick each single day, and I decided to go for an HIV test at Mpemba Health Centre on May 12, 2020, where I was found HIV positive, and it was very hard for me to accept the results,"* narrated Priscilla. When I disclosed my health status to my uncle, both my aunt and my uncle began showing a red tone to me.

In October 2020, they refused to pay school fees for me at Mthuthu Private Secondary School, where I was learning before I lost my parents. They strongly said, I am already gone, have no future, and therefore can't continue paying school fees for me. *"I felt rejected and had no where to get relief, thanks to Manerela+ Youths, whom I knew when they hosted an HIV campaign awareness in our village and later came with support".* Said Priscilla.

I am now back at Mthuthu Private Secondary School (after staying away for 2 years) with the full support of Manerela+ youths who were trained on faith healing and adherence in the area. They are able to raise funds and make payments on school fees amounting to MK30,000 per term. Not only that, they also bought me a school uniform as well as exercise books and writing materials. Despite that, I really don't forget to take my ART every single day. Priscilla is a happy girl now at Mthuthu Private Secondary School and is expected to write exams this year. She lives a happy life. At one point, she said, *"Yes, God can transform a disaster into a blessing. I was rejected, but now I have peace of mind. Thanks, Manerela+, for sending the youth, who are pillars of my life."* Concluded Priscilla.

Adolescents and young people represent a growing share of people living with HIV worldwide. In 2020, about 1.75 million adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 were living with HIV worldwide, and if youths remain silent about HIV/AIDS, more than 2.72 million adolescents aged between 10 and 19 by 2030 will be positive worldwide. As a trained team or youth, there is no need to keep silence until one is served.

Acts: 2:45 "And they were selling all their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had needed."

Manerela+ Youths in the Mpemba area are a group of 21 young people (aged 15–25) who were trained in FAITH HEALING AND ADHERENCE and are advising the communities to go and have HIV tests in health centres. Apart from that, the youths are engaging themselves in farming by growing vegetables, making sales to raise funds, and helping vulnerable people in the area. So far, 13 families have been helped by these youth.

Parts of the crops grown by Manerela+ Youth club in T/A Nsomba in Blantyre district.

