



JANUARY 2018



Ghazi and Sagalla- Voi women empowered

To our esteemed readers, Happy New Year 2018!

Acts 10:1ff presents to us the account of Cornelius; his attitude and posture. In it Peter is called to go to minister to Cornelius family, a Gentile and a Roman Centurion which would be totally contrary to Peter's belief on the separation of the clean and unclean.

The acts of Cornelius and his devotion to God and his people, had Peter compelled by the Spirit to minister to this Gentile family, as a result the whole family was saved.

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Cornelius had rightly positioned himself to be visited by God. Question to us: 'Are we positioned and ready for God to use us in the remaining eleven months of 2018? For example; to end violent conflict in our families, communities and even the nation. Are we ready to be peace ambassadors who disseminate peace, love and unity?

PHARP is ready and the staffs have positioned themselves to be used of God to foster peace, healing and reconciliation through training on; peace building, conflict transformation, trauma healing, reconciliation, discipleship and initiate economic empowerment to those hurting within community.

In the month of January 2018, PHARP staff was able to visit and meet with beneficiaries as well friends of PHARP who visited the office.

On 12th and 13th, PHARP staff visited with two women groups located in Voi Sub-county in Taita Taveta County. The purpose of the visit was to do follow-up and help beneficiaries to tackle and handle looming conflict within the members.

Through this project of empowering and building capacity of women, PHARP seeks to address the role of women in peace building within the Voi Sub-county. Women are still to this day considered second class citizens and due to poor education, women have not much say in community affairs. As PHARP works within communities, we seek to reach out to religious and community leaders and do awareness campaigns as well equip them on how they can promote a peaceful co-existence and support women during this time of division and mistrust and the high rise of domestic violence within Kenya.

Ghazi group breaks rocks to make ballast stones for construction while Sagalla group weaves baskets and mats. PHARP was much delighted for the progress that these trained women are displaying.



Display of reeds products

In the same breadth of economic empowerment, **on 22nd to 24th**, PHARP visited three groups in Jilore- Malindi, Kilifi County. The purpose of the visit was to do a follow up of the three groups that PHARP is empowering: 2 women and 1 youth groups.

Through the efforts of the women, they identified a piece of land which is one acre and near the river to be leased for one year at a cost of \$400. They are planning to put up tomatoes, maize, beans and green grams. PHARP is calling on our partners to support these efforts of the women to make their lives better. They also need more training on trauma healing, since the women have heart wounds that are holding them hostage and causing conflict in the homes every now and then.



Inspecting the land for farming

One of the interesting news that we got, is that one of the field officer (Esther) has gone back to primary school. She is a mother of four (her eldest being 13 years, 2nd is 10 years, 3rd is 9 years and the youngest is 9 months), but she has braved the humiliation and the village gossip to return to Primary 4. She wears uniform like the rest of the pupils. When she was asked why she needed to return to primary school, this is what she said: *"When I see our teacher from PHARP visiting and teaching us with much knowledge, as young as she is; am encouraged to also get a certificate myself. I will not be like her, but I will be more empowered to teach my fellow women. And I will be very proud of myself when I get a certificate. More so, this act of defying culture and ignoring the gossip is a testimony to my children, that when we set our minds on something, we can achieve what people say is impossible".*



Esther and her son in class 6, while she is in class 4.

Esther needs our support and encouragement. She is now faced with the task of balancing herself between home chores, fend for her family and keep up with school as well continue giving leadership to the women who look up to her.

Dear readers please pray with her and if the Lord prompts on your heart to support her, please contact PHARP offices for more information on how you can be of assistance. We are not forgetting that her group needs further training on literacy too so that the women could be more empowered and believe in themselves. This is to encourage women not to shy away from pursuing adult education. Through this testimony of Esther, gender equality is not only a basic human right, but its achievement has enormous socio-economic impact. Her group is actively involved with poultry keeping, and this initiative has brought together 17 women who are eager to learn on how to improve their lives. Esther's boldness and courage has inspired her children, husband and many members in her community. These community members are requesting for more peace and literacy trainings.



Esther teaching and encouraging her group members and the poultry that brings them together.

On 23rd January, there was a discipleship session held at the Dominion Chapel, Kiserian for 17 pastors. Our Discipleship Coordinator appropriately taught about the methods and the importance of the discipleship process. The need to winning over people and growing them in Christ cannot be substituted by anything else as this is the chief mandate for every believer. This cannot be over emphasized.

The audience consisted of various Church leaders who headed the Dominion Churches in various far flung places of Kajiado County. The purpose of their meeting was a regular theology in session training conducted courtesy of the Grace Mission, and where the leaders earn formal accolades at completion.

This was a good opportunity to stir up a fresh hunger as well as to network for PHARP's work going into 2018. Follow up will be done with these pastors to ensure that the very members from these leaders' congregations are empowered, equipped and helped to form small discipleship groups within their congregation's right from the grassroots. This shall begin in February as we introduce the tSOAR material which was printed in bulk during this month. The pastors too very much appreciated the material given to them by PHARP including the 'Finding your place in the world' manual (Swahili version).

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A group of pastors in discussion

A Portuguese proverb says; 'Visits always give pleasure- if not the arrival, the departure'. PHARP is delighted to have met with some of its friends: The Director of Visions of Hope for Africa; Mr. Ed Fischer who visited on 17th and Katy Newell Jones who worked with PHARP more than 10 years in the area of peace building and literacy visited on 21st. It was a delight to laugh, share our stories pertaining to peace work and lastly pray together. We are trusting God for a more strengthened working relationship with all our friends and partners as well the communities in which we serve in.



Mr. Ed Fischer (center) sharing a light moment with PHARP Director (In African print shirt, while on the left is Katy (squatting) and her husband.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for a new year. We ask that He enables us to be positioned for impact within our spheres of influence.
2. We thank God for the peace within Kenya and its borders. We pray that peace and co-existence prevails.
3. Pray for all friends and partners of PHARP that God may bless them, so that in turn they are able to support PHARP activities.
4. Pray for all PHARP peace ambassadors who have to disseminate the message of peace within communities that are greatly drawn along tribal lines.
5. Pray for one of PHARP's pastors leading discipleship in Malindi who lost a brother through an accident. The deceased has left behind 6 children who need family support, since they have no mother.
6. Pray for the planned activities of February 2018.
 - Discipleship training of 25 pastors in Kiserian- Kajiado County
 - Peace and conflict training of 50 religious and community leaders in Loruk- Pokot