



JUNE NEWSLETTER 2018



1st Graduation of Peacebuilding and Discipleship program-Voi Sub-County

'We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (Ephesians 2: 10)

Today, the world is in need of peace. And it is our responsibility to make it happen. In the month of June, PHARP did participate in some activities that contributed towards peace making in communities. A Peacebuilding follow up held at AIC Church- Pokot County, two discipleship trainings held at Methodist Church of Kenya- Olepolos Church Isenya- Kajiado East, Dominion Chapel Loodariak West Kajiado Sub County and lastly, peace and discipleship graduation in Voi Sub-County. This was a good experience for peacemakers to enforce our contributions towards peace initiatives.

The Work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of equipping the Saints continued well and the proposed focus areas of training were: - Biblical Basis for Discipleship; tSOAR; Steward Leadership; The Steward Leader in Church; Peace- building, Conflict Resolution and forgiveness.

On 6th and 7th June: PHARP held a follow-up training with religious and community leaders who were trained early in February at the AIC church- Pokot County supported by Baptist International Ministries (BIM)-USA. This brought together 88 peace ambassadors to share on how the peace situation has been in Loruk since PHARP was there in February. The purpose of the follow-up within PHARP as an organization is to help us know and understand if the teachings that are given to participants have indeed been helpful. And if so; how have they been using those skills and knowledge to reach out to others; what were the challenges experienced and what are the success stories and strategies that were implemented in order to achieve our target of disseminating the message of peace and having more peace ambassadors.

The assignment that was given to each of the 50 trained peace ambassadors in February 2018 was that after training, each was to reach out to at least one person from the neighboring community who is not of their tribe. This is because there is much animosity between the Pokots and the Tugens who reside in Loruk; despite this location being cosmopolitan. After 5 months, we have witnessed the good work of these committed religious and community leaders.

Ngetich is one of the new peace ambassadors that were present in the training from the Tugen community. And below is his testimony.

I was an active member of a group of youths who raided a homestead and took away with 50 cows. Elder Elijah together with the Chief and some religious leaders visited me one afternoon at home. I had just finished my lunch and was resting under the tree. I wondered why they came to me un-announced; but they promised me that they come in peace.

I welcomed them and they sat down. Elder Elijah then informed me that two weeks ago a man was killed and some 50 cows were stolen. Then he asked me if I have an idea of that news. Before I could answer, he gave a short story about some men in the bible who were each given a gift. Two of them were wise to work hard and double the gift, while the other hid the gift until the master came. When the master came; he rewarded the two who had doubled, while the third one got nothing in return, and the little he had was taken.

This elder then, told me that I have a gift and I should use it well for the good of the community. As we were talking, I realized that they wanted me to say where my friends were and the cattle that were stolen where they were taken. And because this elder talked about working together so that we achieve stable peace, I decided to tell them where the cattle were hidden. But I had to make sure that these leaders

promise not to harm my friends. We have so far recovered 47 cows. When I saw the hurt we caused an innocent family and the wrong we committed through our actions, I decided to leave this behavior of cattle raiding. Am now slowly talking to my friends to stop this negative culture and instead use our energies to preach and embrace peace.

Through this visit, I realized that I have the gift of leadership, which I did not know I had. Now the Chief and the National Police Reservist (NPR) are closely working with me on matters of security. I am grateful for being a part of these peace ambassadors.



Top left: Group photo of peace ambassadors. Middle: participant's keenly following. Right: Ngetich giving his testimony

On 19th and 20th June: PHARP held two day discipleship training supported by tSOAR Ministries at Olepolos Methodist church- Kajiado County which brought together 18 pastoralist religious leaders. These participants have never stepped in any class to be taught on matters of Theology, but they strongly know that God has called them to minister to His people. 11 of them had to walk a distance of 8 Kms in order to be at the venue. Some of them have been in ministry for the last 12 years, but during training they openly admitted that ministry has not been easy. Especially when we looked at the Great commission 'Go ye and make disciples'. The host pastor admitted that for the last 7 years he has been at this church, the church stands at a total number of 100 people and this includes men, women, youths and children. When he took over from his predecessor, the church was left with 12 members who were his immediate family members.

The pastor narrated how ministry has been hard since he took over from the former pastor. It has been a journey of 7 years struggling to bring people together. This community is affected by tribalism and this has greatly affected the church. This is because; the church leadership is made up of Kambas, Kikuyu and Maasai. But my Maasai tribesmen don't want this mixture. They want leaders to be from our Maasai clan. Right now am in battle with three members who are involved in witchcraft. So the teachings we received on who is a disciple, the need for discipleship and why the church is dying have been helpful to me and my church leadership. I do promise to be more deliberate on visiting my church members who left the church and encouraging of small group fellowships amongst the church members in order to resuscitate the church.



Left: participant keenly following, Rev. Gerald facilitating and trained participants at Olepolos Methodist Church

On 21st and 22nd: PHARP had training with 19 pastors and lay leaders at the Oltaret Dominion church in Nkutot Location- Kajiado East County. The PHARP team travelled for one and a half hours with torture due to the bad conditions of the road. Lack of transport made the participants to delay with three hours, since they had to walk to the venue. Community members in this area, solely depend on walking approximately 20-25 Kms daily. The host pastor walks about 35 Kms to visit and pray with his congregants who can't make it to church every Sunday.

Once you arrive in this location, there is no network coverage; so no form of communication using the phone. This place is highly marginalized and no sign of development, yet it is about 90 Kms from the capital city of Nairobi. The biggest population is that of the pastoralist community who exclusively are cattle keepers.

When PHARP took the discipleship training to these participants, the biggest challenge that this community faces is female genital mutilation and early marriages of girls which has continually brought discord in the church. This is because the pastor and other religious leaders continually talk against this practice which is against the rights of women and the girl child, but there are those traditional old mothers who feel that this tradition and culture should not stop. And because women make up the biggest population in the church, the pastor is troubled. Another challenge in this area; there are a total number of 9 churches of different denominations, but they are so far apart. This means that having a pastor's fellowship is a big challenge because there is no proper phone communication.

With the help of the PHARP team, we were able to analyze why the church is not growing in Nkutot location. This was attributed to the fact that churches are made up of elderly women, children, youth and men are not interested in church. This is because, they would rather be out in the fields grazing their cattle, while the girls are home taking care of the homestead.

The pastor requested for more support in terms of transport (motorcycle) that will help facilitate him. This will make it easy to create awareness as he visits with each of the members, helping them form small discipleship groups. Since he is not trained in theology, he lacks the knowledge on spiritual disciplines and this has given him a desire to enroll for a diploma in Bible school. However, all participants present were urged to take the responsibility of reaching at least one disciple.



*Top left: Torturous drive through a dried river bed. Right: Women in prayers
Bottom left: Maasai woman participant translating for the facilitator. Bottom right: some of the participants*

On 24th to 26th June: Through the support of MPI and tSOAR Ministries-USA, PHARP held training with 30 participants who have been going through a one year Peacebuilding and discipleship training at the Jesus is Alive Ministries (JIAM) Voi Sub county. Due to the various challenges and delays experienced in 2017 due to campaigns of the General elections, the program was delayed abit. However, God is faithful and we managed to cover the whole curriculum. On 25th, the 1st class graduated. This was a very blessed time, because graduates invited their families and friends to witness and we created awareness of this one year program on peace and discipleship. In attendance were the PHARP director, women and children program coordinator and one of the Board Members who greatly encouraged pastors to engage in activities that seek for peace, unity and discipling others. The pastor's fellowship in this sub-county of Voi has been facing many attacks of division, but with the skills that pastors have acquired, they are in the process of healing and they promised to work together for the sake of the Gospel.



Happy graduates receiving their certificates

YOUTH AND WOMEN PROJECT- JUNE 2018

PHARP was in the month of June very involved with the community in areas of women and youth literacy and economic empowerment through the support of Feed the Minds-UK to achieve the below activities.

Adult literacy: the adult literacy class is going on and the progress of the women in this class is encouraging. Three women are now able to read and write their full names; which was not the case before.

Farming project: The 30 women in this project have been very busy harvesting, threshing and sun drying the harvested maize. After the successful harvesting, the women were able to gather and share a meal as they praised God for this good harvest.



Women harvesting and sharing a meal after a day's hard work

On 25th June, 55 members from three groups assembled at PHARP center. The aim of the come together was *to speak with one voice* as women, give progress reports and inspire each other. This idea of the get-together was seen to give a good public image and create awareness on the work of PHARP in the area. Through this, the groups were able to praise, pray and share the love of God. The women were also able to support towards building the chief's office in that area. In this way, the relationship between PHARP and the local administration is established.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Request

1. We thank God for the partners of PHARP and strength of the PHARP staff in the month of June.
2. We thank God for the peace within our nation and the neighbours.
3. We thank God for 30 religious leaders who graduated, having completed one year of extensive training. Pray that these leaders shall stay true to being peacemakers and making of other disciples.
4. Pray for the pastors who have a desire to join Bible school but have no means to do so. Pray that God shall provide through our partners and readers.
5. Let us continue to pray for South Sudan that they may experience God's peace and the violent conflicts to stop.
6. We pray for the activities of July and the beneficiaries of PHARP to stay committed in disseminating the message of peace.