



February newsletter 2018



"The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil" - Matthew 12:35

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In the month of February 2018, PHARP focused on capacity building of religious and community leaders, discipleship and partnerships. However, people and organizations who seek to promote more sustainable practices as agents of peace; agents of change, typically face considerable challenges. They need to be able to initiate and drive change often in the face of considerable resistance from those who favor the status quo. Leaders need to be able to address technical as well as adaptive challenges.

In regards to the above, PHARP also put emphasis on partnership because nothing liberates ones greatness like the desire to help or the desire to serve. When we work with others we learn from each other positive values and measures strengthening of the work are put in place.

On 6th to 11th through the invitation of International Ministries, one of PHARP staff attended an All Africa Baptist Fellowship conference which took place in Blantyre- Malawi. The guiding theme ‘I will build my church: best practices for effective ministries’ brought together 65 delegates from 15 countries(Ghana, Benin, Togo, Angola, Sierra-Leon, Cameroon, DR Congo, Senegal, Central Africa, Kenya, Burundi, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The current situation of many Baptist Convention’s/Unions in Africa is pitiable and this is unconnected to the past history. The four days conference achieved the intention to sharpen the Baptist pastor’s skills by examining some of the best practices that enhance ministry from some of their conventions and unions. It is therefore time for us on the African continent to build collaboration, network and partnership in our effort to take Africa for Christ. As religious leaders they were encouraged to remember that there are many forces attempting to fragment the continent politically, economically and religiously.

Through the various interactions with religious leaders, opportunities to network and learn about the challenges of each convention were given opportune time. One characteristic that cuts across the African states present is the necessity of having peace and conflict programs incorporated in the affairs of the conventions/unions.



All Africa Baptist Fellowship delegates 2018- Blantyre, Malawi

On 8th, PHARP Board members had a meeting to guide the organization on the activities slated for 2018. We bless God for the support from the men and women who are given to the work of fostering Godly peace in hurting communities. One of the matters handled in the meeting was in regards to budget. This is a key and sensitive component of any existing organization, church or institution. The Board emphasized on the need to raise funds locally through the support of individuals or institutions especially towards planned peace walks that will be held in Pokot (August) and Jilore, Malindi (December). These walks will be geared towards creating public awareness on the need of peaceful co-existence. Dear friends and partners, keep these initiatives in your prayers as you also plan to support these upcoming activities.

On 15th and 16th, discipleship training which brought together 30 participants was held in Oloika, Kajiado North County. The Participants were drawn mainly from the leadership of the local congregation with other Pastors/ leaders coming from affiliate Churches were stirred to commit to a lifestyle that demonstrated Christ likeness; to passionately preach Christ with the intention of making disciples who would in turn multiply.

The participants were able to cover topics which included: Biblical basis for Discipleship; Victorious Christian Living; Steward Leadership and Conflict Resolution. Each participant committed to use the tSOAR material (time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile) for studying the word of God; because the more time we spend with His word, we learn to trust and obey Him. Participants were also encouraged to evangelize and add at least three converts each by the time a follow up meeting is being done in three month's time.

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Rev. Gichanga teaching on use of tSOAR material and trained participants

On 19th to 21st: A capacity building training for 50 religious and community leaders was held at the Africa Inland Church- Loruk, Pokot. The training aimed at building the capacity of religious and community leaders, women and youths through peace building, conflict transformation and sustainable development skills' for peaceful co-existence between the Pokot and Tugen communities.

Currently, there is hunger in the area due to prolonged drought, a situation that would see about 200 schools closed unless the government moves with speed to supply relief food. The ongoing drought in Kenya's Rift Valley (Pokot being one of them) has intensified the struggle for resources among pastoralists. Not many NGO's are frequenting this area following attacks by armed men who rob whatever they can find.

The peace efforts that are taking place in Loruk community are bearing some positive impact.

One of the Chief's present shared on how he recently had a meeting with 48 youths. Amongst them were those who are involved in raids. The chief summoned them based on the information he received from 'Nyumba kumi' representatives.

Nyumba Kumi is a local security measure put in place by local administration for residents to alert the Chief when there is a security lapse. 10 houses are put in clusters, and then a chairman of the 10 houses each is elected. So households are the eyes of the representative who will be answerable to the Chief.

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He had several meetings with these youths and was also able to identify those elders who blessed them to go and raid. And the chief encouraged these elders to instead use their influence to bless these youths on matters of marriage, work and those positive things that touch on their day to day lives. The chief requested that these youths be trained further and exchange programs introduced, whereby rescued youths are able to interact with youths from other counties.



Left: Chief explaining strategies taken to empower former raiders (youth). Right. Youths in group discussion.

The women noted that peace starts at home. They have been active in preaching peace to their children, urging them not to seek revenge. Women painfully acknowledged that they suffer most during violent conflict including children. They are encouraging their children to go to school, now that the government has rolled out free primary and secondary education.

One participant shared how she sustained serious injuries during the 2017 violent conflict. While fleeing towards the bushes, she stumbled on a tree and her leg broke. Since there was no one to help her, she tied pieces of cloth on the leg and kept running for dear life. But she has succumbed to using clutches the rest of her life.

Women also noted that they are peaceful amongst themselves (Pokot and Tugen) communities. But violence is propagated by the men. Elizabeth, a PHARP field officer added that she was invited to a peace meeting that brought 8 counties together in Transnzoia. It is a fact that women are at the forefront seeking for peace; they asked the chief that he would involve more women in the public Barazas (public forums).

Women being caregivers and nourishes, they know the pain of carrying a child for 9 months; so they urge their husbands and elders not to lead their sons into violent conflicts. Because when these young men die, the mothers are left so devastated. When cattle are brought home,

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women should question their young men where they have come. Women need more empowerment!

One lady shared how during the 2017 violent conflict she was forced to flee with her three children. Because she was separated from the husband for days, she didn't know if he was dead or alive. As they were hiding in the forest with her children, a man came to her rescue and informed her that men from her village were all dead. This man then made her the second wife. She got pregnant and 4 months after delivering, the husband resurfaced. He was shocked and angry, but the PHARP field officer who was in the IDP camp (Internally Displaced persons) was able to talk and counsel with them. She is now living with her husband, but she had to return the child to the 'rescue' husband.

This testimony shows us that there is a great need for women to be empowered. As we look forward to March 8th where the whole world celebrates International Day of women, we ask that you our friends and partners support us to empower women to better know their rights for liberation, press for progress; but at the same time encouraging women to respect themselves and authority. We are aware that gender parity won't happen overnight, but we are encouraged that across the world women are making positive gains day by day.



Participants were blessed with some relief food.

On 26th, one of PHARP Board members visited the PHARP office (located in Matasia). He was following up on how PHARP can raise funds locally to support its ongoing activities. He also

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went ahead to encourage the staff not to be discouraged in serving community regardless of the challenges encountered.

PHARP Jilore-Malindi, Kilifi County Ongoing Project

On 5th, 6th, 12th, 19th, and 21st the PHARP volunteer led PHARP Jilore women and youth groups to work on clearing and partitioning a leased land near the river for planting maize, beans and vegetables. The first planting did not survive due to the drought that hit the area.

Youths on the other hand were engaged and learnt on beekeeping skills as this will greatly contribute towards job creation. This is a good initiative that needs support; since youths are tired of being idle and we cannot keep blaming the government for lack of jobs. On the other hand, computer classes are ongoing at the PHARP centre with 4 youths enrolled for a three month course. Since this is a new initiative starting, there is only one computer for this; we appeal to our readers, friends and partners to support us to add at least three more so that they can cater to a bigger number of community members interested in advancing their skills.

3 churches were visited and a youth rally was organized at Kakuyuni River of Healing Church which united 24 youths with the message of peace through economic skills. As a result 10 youth started a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lastly, in partnership with the area Chief, religious leaders and neighbors worked together on marking out a road leading to PHARP's centre from the main road which is about 100 meters.



women clearing the farm, illustration of assembling the beehive and PHARP Billboard yet to be set up

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUEST

1. PHARP is thankful for good health of its staff and the strength to carry out the intended activities.
2. We are very thankful to all our partners in the ministry and we pray that God will bless each one.
3. We are thankful for the peace within the country and the relative calm that is being experienced in Baringo/Pokot County.
4. PHARP on 8th February bid farewell to one of the Board members who has served for more than 12 years. We wish Prof. Rebecca and family a blessed time as they settle back to their homeland in Nigeria.
5. Kindly pray for the March activities:
 - Discipleship training in Karatina-Nyeri County
 - Trauma Healing and Forgiveness training in Voi- Taita Taveta County
 - Ongoing small income generating projects.
 - Start of peace clubs in 3 schools Jilore Ward- Malindi- Kilifi County

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