



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2018



Easter a time to make peace

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, on Palm Sunday, the crowds were singing Hosanna, Hosanna. And as Jesus is having this welcome, He weeps in the middle of the welcome over Jerusalem. It is interesting what He said as He wept 'if you only knew the things that make for peace are hidden from your eyes'

The story of the triumphal entry is one of contrasts, and those contrasts contain applications to believers. It is the story of the king who came as a lowly servant on a donkey, not in royal robes, but on the clothes of the poor and humble. Jesus Christ comes not to conquer by force as earthly kings but by love, grace, mercy and His own sacrifice for His people. He is not a kingdom of armies and splendor but of lowliness and servant hood. He conquered not nations but hearts and minds.

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As we are in the season of Easter, God's message is one of peace with God, not of temporal peace. If Jesus has made a triumphal entry into our hearts, He reigns there in peace and love. As Christ followers, we exhibit those same qualities and the world sees the true king living and reigning in triumph in us.

In the month of March, PHARP did carry out some activities that sought to promote trauma healing, forgiveness, discipleship and community development. All these activities are some of the things that make for peace.

On March 5th to 8th PHARP held a Trauma Healing and Forgiveness training at Jesus Is Alive Ministries (JIAM) Voi. The training brought together 29 participants from 8 different churches within Voi town.

The participants did all agree that Trauma is affecting their families, ministries and the community at large. The biggest problem is that many are not aware of how to deal with it. As we learnt through personal sharing; healing is the process of recovering from a victimizing situation whether physical, emotional or psychological.

We cannot separate conflict from trauma. Conflict normally leaves a family, church or society divided and relationships damaged. For health and sanity to be restored in society and life to normalize, relationships must be healed. For this to happen there must be forgiveness which leads to reconciliation. Pastors are battling with issues like; competition, isolation, not preaching the true gospel and living in sin. Sadly; lack of not knowing how to deal with sin that has led to trauma and unforgiveness among pastors has contributed to high suicide cases.

Through group discussions, participants shared that the trauma experienced is caused by circumstances or by people. Traumatic experiences have offended some of them that they cannot even forgive.

One lady participant shared how she is so bitter towards the daughter and the husband.

Jane (not her real name) has been married to her husband for 21 years, but unfortunately three years ago she learnt that the daughter has been in a relationship with the husband. This act of demonic incest has hurt her so bad that she cannot fathom how she can bring herself to forgive the daughter and the husband.

As much as forgiveness is a process and it is intentional, this lady asked for prayer support. She has been going through counseling but still she feels that she has so much bitterness she is yet to deal with. Due to unforgiveness, this has led to health issues such as hypertension and serious ulcers. The facilitator helped the participants to understand that forgiveness is an attribute of the strong, not the weak. Let us continue to pray for Jane that she will emerge victorious. The same way a pressure cooker releases pressure during cooking, so does forgiveness help us to release negative pressures of life.

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Through group discussions, PHARP was able to encourage the pastors to take time and deal with the intra-conflicts and the inter-personal conflicts. Forgiveness brings about reconciliation. Just as trauma healing is a process, so is reconciliation. The three day training ended with pastors confessing their sins one to another and seeking God's forgiveness. Please pray for these pastors to put in practice what was taught to them and we also plan to meet again in May 7th to 9th 2018 to learn on Mediation and Reconciliation as they also graduate (having been doing a one year program) and be commissioned to reach out to others well equipped and empowered as peace ambassadors. We encourage as many religious and community leaders to apply for this one year program that will empower them with skills and knowledge on peace building and conflict transformation.



Top: Participants learning and sharing experiences. Below: Group presentation and trained pastors praying for healing

On March 9th PHARP had a meeting with the Navigators Kenya at the PHARP office. This meeting was to majorly brainstorm on how we can improve the discipleship material that is used while handling the Discipleship program within churches and communities. The *'Finding your place in the world'* is a good material that can be used by anyone who is seeking to grow deeper in the word of God and help develop a discipline of personal reading. Nonetheless the book needs to be added a few information in order to

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contextualize it to fit the African context. With the support of Joe Williamson (Author of the book), some few amendments shall be done on the book to make it better for the users.



Navigators Kenya and PHARP team in discussion how to improve the Discipleship manual

On March 18th to 20th PHARP staff visited the ongoing women and youth project in Jilore- Malindi. When PHARP staff visited the group of women supported by PHARP through farming and poultry activities, they were receiving teachings on how to continually take care of the poultry for better results. The training was attended by 18 women. Due to the illiteracy levels in the community, it is common for women to sleep with chickens in the house, especially the kitchen area. Women were encouraged to invest in proper structures for their own poultry at home.

PHARP is grateful, that through this joint project, women have been encouraged to diversify in farming other crops other than just depending on maize (corn) alone. Through this project, more women are having the urge of joining adult literacy.

Mama Grace shared with us how her life has greatly improved. When she first attended a women's training organized by PHARP, she was really scared of coming because she didn't have good clothes, neither could she read nor even hold a pen. But she attended day one; she was delighted to know that even an old woman can learn something new. In fact, it is like some light bulb within my head was turned on. I was in so much darkness, but am now a new person. Even my husband and children keep asking me: when is the next meeting? Because each time I come to PHARP centre and interact with other women, I learn something new. We are even going to register our women's group with a SACCO so that we progress more. I can't thank PHARP enough. After the facilitation, I saw a very big box and I wondered what was inside. When it was opened, a black box was removed; only for other women to tell me that it is a television. In my life, I have never seen a television set! But imagine now, I have watched television for the first time in my life, I have seen how the president Uhuru Kenyatta looks like in the news, I have also seen how floods have destroyed properties in other parts of Kenya. This to me is very

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amazing to see that Kenya is bigger than Jilore! I am now 52 years old. May God bless PHARP and all its supporters.

Dear partners, your work is not in vain; community beneficiaries are being enlightened through your support. Please, do not get tired to invest your time, love, finances and prayers.

Before the women ended the training and head to the farm, they were encouraged to be patient in all that they do, follow due processes as have been taught by the poultry expert, administer all vaccines on time and lastly, pray for one another and seek to solve any emerging conflicts amicably.



*Top: Participants in training received some little gift to celebrate International Women's day.
Below: PHARP staff participating in farming (removing of weeds) and some of the women rejoicing for receiving television- (Mama Grace is in a grey/black hair band).*

On March 21st PHARP received Ed Fischer the Director of Visions of Hope for Africa, accompanied by Davis a Nairobi businessman who has been in Kenya for about two weeks. It is always a delight when PHARP receives visitors, for visitors are bearers of good news and blessings.

The purpose of the visit was for Ed to introduce some material produced by *Lodestar Guidance: Principles to live and lead- USA* which seeks to promote leadership growth among community and *Fostering Godly peace in hurting communities*. Contact us on: info@pharp.org visit us at: www.pharp.org. FB Page: *Peacebuilding, Healing and Reconciliation Programe-PHARP*. Tel: +254-722851674/ +254-719275504.

religious leaders. In the meeting, we brainstormed on how we can access the much needed content so that it can be passed on to leaders for empowering and equipping. We continue to pray for this partnership that it shall yield positive results amongst our religious and community leaders.



Ed, Davis and PHARP team posing with the Lodestar Guidance leadership material

On 29th and 30th PHARP held two day Discipleship training at the AIC Loodariak- Kajiado County. We had 40 participants. They gained skills and knowledge on: who is a disciple, a discipler and discipling/ discipleship, qualities of a disciple, symptoms of a dying church, reasons for dying churches and distinctive marks of a disciple-making church. They were able to learn that a Disciple is a 'Learner'. A Discipler is a person who makes disciples for Jesus Christ; while discipling or discipleship is based on Jesus call and involves exclusively loyalty to Him. With this understanding, each participant left the training knowing what role they have to play in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ during and after the Easter season. Discipleship is not just 'Jesus and me', but other believers as well, in fellowship and as a safeguard from error/heresies.

Having understood what discipleship is and their role in discipleship, the host pastor noted that there are a number of conflicts that are ailing the churches around Loodariak; so they need more skills on how to amicably solve these issues so as not to lose any members. Among the participants, was the area local chief (who is a church elder) who was very much pleased with the teachings. After the training, participants including the Chief requested for follow up and more so, plan for separate women's training.

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*Top: Rev. Gichanga illustrating how to use tSOAR material, pastor's wife reading scripture
Bottom: Participants praying for the ministry as well the nation and the entire group of trained participants*

Ongoing projects at the PHARP Centre Jilore-Malindi

This is a focus on continuous poultry, farming, Discipleship, Computer classes and Adult Literacy in the month of March at the PHARP Centre in Jilore- Malindi.

Poultry

The month of March we focused on empowering our beneficiaries on; housing, feeding, vaccination, security and marketing. It was also aimed at utilizing beneficiary's strengths to overcome project weaknesses in the same areas. The training impacted 18 participants who asked questions especially on vaccination and how to control rodents, eagles and other animals that are threat to the chicken.

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Some of the chickens feeding

Farming

Beneficiaries embarked on; partitioning, watering, planting, weeding and fungicide spray of the farm.

500 portions worth KES 16,250 were made by the participants who gave way to watering the 500 portions and planting maize. Monitoring was done and it was found that the army worm had invaded the plants. Greenland Farm-care Ltd was consulted then visited the farm. He advised the use of profane (a liquid insecticide for spraying the crops). In relation to this; crop management training will take place on 21st April 2018 at the PHARP Centre.



Women weeding the crops

Discipleship

4 out of 20 pastors awarded discipleship certificates last year were visited in the following churches; Samaria, Imani Mission, Baptist Church Madumadu and Rivers of Healing Church Kakuyuni. Averages of 62 members are meeting weekly for discipleship program using “Finding Your Place in this World” book by Joe Williamson. Pastor, Edward Siryia from Kakuyuni Church visited PHARP Centre to discuss how

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peace clubs can be formed for neighbors, Christians and Muslims with a purpose of promoting co-existence. This initiative will help people in the area who are mostly experiencing violent conflict due to culture and beliefs.

Computer classes

So far 5 participants meet twice a week. They are in the second computer package. They enjoy the facilitation since now they are able to communicate with their friends than before. 12 more applied for the word package. Only few people are benefiting due to only using one available computer.

Adult Literacy

PHARP has been creating awareness on literacy, listening from community members how literacy is one of the pillars for peace and development. This month of April a group of 30 members requested for literacy classes. This requires materials for teaching purpose. PHARP is humbly requesting those who have any material to intervene.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for the month of March: the strength, the good health and the provision to carry out the intended activities.
2. We thank God for the rains that have been experienced within the country. Though the floods destroyed some properties, but the farms and cattle's are having some relief.
3. We thank God for the unity within the country: as we congratulate the President and the Opposition leader who had dialogue and agreed to work together for the good of Kenya.
4. Please pray with PHARP for the April activities:
 - Pastors training at Isinya- Kajiado County
 - Life Ministry training at the PHARP office
 - Women's training in Kibera- Nairobi County