



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2018



THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP- WORKING TOGETHER

PHARP's mission is to take the gospel to both the neighborhoods and the nations, to both homes and the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:19). How could any local church or organization do that alone? But if we organize ourselves properly, every individual, church or organization can contribute meaningfully to the peace mission.

Partnership helps maximize on potential influence, providing a network through which individuals, churches and organizations can influence more broadly than they otherwise could. The Apostle Paul used the word '**partnership**' to describe both church leaders and communities working together. '*I thank God in all my resemblance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3-5).*

Through partnership with other individuals, churches and organizations we expect growth. Epaphras (found in the Bible) had a goal for the Colossian church to grow. He prayed for them that they may become mature Christians and that they may fulfill God's will (Colossians 4:12).

Likewise, this is what God wants for us. He wants us to grow up and attain Spiritual maturity which is being like Christ. There is a Chinese proverb that says; *'The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials'*. As we look at the highlights of April, let us reflect on a few questions: how does a disciple of Jesus grow in his or her Christian life? What does it take to mature in faith? What is God doing in the process? What is our role and what does a well-balanced Christian life look like?

In the month of April, PHARP appreciated various partnerships that were formed in order to fulfill the Great commission of **'go and make disciples of all nations'**. However, as we carried out the activities we could not ignore the effects of climate change. After three years of consecutive drought that hit Kenya, the country has been receiving rains which are a blessing, but on the other hand the rains have caused havoc. More than 159,000 people in Tana River, Kilifi and Lamu counties have been displaced by floods with this year's deluge being compared to the 1997-1998 destructive El Nino that wrecked havoc across the country. The rains have drastically affected infrastructure in many parts of the country, making access to schools, hospitals and work places difficult.

The heavy rains have seen many families displaced and several schools flooded while others have succumbed to death. The victims, who were caught unawares by the flood waters, have been trying to retrieve their soaked belongings and move to safer grounds as they appeal to well wishers for help. Farmers have also been hard hit with their crops washed away and this might lead to another disaster of lack of food.

Let us continue to pray for counties such as Turkana, Baringo, Narok, Pokot, Kilifi, Garissa, Kajiado, Makueni, Kitui, Muranga and Taita Taveta among others that have been severely affected by heavy floods and mud-slides. In Kilifi County where PHARP is carrying out a project, the number of flood victims has risen to about 18,000 after the River Sabaki broke its banks following the heavy rains. Some of the flood victims are sheltering in schools, with relatives, churches and make shift camps. While in Muranga County, a family of four just died due to being swept away by the mud-slide.

On 10th and 11th: PHARP held a two day discipleship training of 33 pastors. God has continued to favor the discipleship program by the way He has been extending our work in the County of Kajiado and specifically so with the Rural Maasai Church Pastors and Leaders. April was such a month and we had the privilege of going East of the County to Isinya Location of Kajiado East Division. The area is about 60KM South of Nairobi on the main Namanga- Nairobi Highway that joins Kenya to Tanzania.

Tanzania's border is only about 80KM from here. The majority of the Community is Maasai although one will find many other tribes residing and trading at the Shopping Centre. The area is mostly plains and is normally very lush and green when it has rained, just like it has done so in this month. However, it can get very dry that sometimes the community has to move their flocks to other parts of the County/ Country in search of pasture. The training took place when it was raining and the fields are

green, rivers overflowing and flocks are home, but this led to transport difficulty due to the flooded and muddy roads which would contribute to PHARP team as well participants to delay in arrival.

The training focused on: Biblical basis for discipleship, need for discipleship and need of reconciliation within pastoralist community with key focus on: what is discipleship, symptoms of dying church, reasons for a dying church, what conflict is and how warring communities can be reconciled among the Maasai community.



Top: Pulling the car out of mud. Rev. Gerald facilitating on discipleship. Bottom: Pelagie (PHARP staff) explaining the concept of conflict. Lastly; group of trained participants.

On 13th: In partnership with The Navigators, we were able to review and improve on 'The Finding your place in the World' discipleship manual that is supported by the tSOAR Ministries- USA. This manual is primarily used alongside with the Bible to help a believer or non-believer discover their purpose in Christ as they seek to develop an on-going relationship with Jesus. The team is therefore working on how to improve the content and contextualize it to fit and suit the African context. With these efforts, we believe that many more religious leaders and church members will find the additional manual to be useful in their daily walk with God.



Navigators and PHARP team in discussion

On 19th and 24th : Three PHARP peace ambassadors situated in Marakwet/Pokot held two day peace forums which brought about 600 people including pastors, chiefs, ward administrators and the local people to discuss on the issues that are causing discord in the community. Early last week, armed bandits from the Pokot community attacked residents of Yattia and stole 10 cows. These peace ambassadors intervened and held a meeting with the elders and chief of Yattia. Since these were known youths, they sought to have a meeting with them. The peace ambassadors together with the Loruk District Commissioner held a meeting on 24th at the Loruk town centre during a market day public Baraza (forum) and by God's grace, through a peaceful dialogue the youths surrendered the 10 cows back.

Dear readers, let us continue for the peace work in Pokot County, that all relevant stakeholders shall be of one mind and partner together for the good of the people. We continue to pray for the residents of Nginyang due to the heavy rains that have seen River Nginyang burst its banks and making the roads to be impassable. Already, three Lorries transporting food to this area from Marigat have been swept away; this has therefore led to a food crisis.

Dear readers, once again, let us partner together to help our distressed brothers and sisters.

On 29th: PHARP held a youth peace club in Kakuyuni- Malindi at the Rivers of Healing church that brought together 13 youths from 4 different churches. Due to the heavy rains, about 11 invited youths could not travel since the roads were very flooded. Heavy rains forced youths to only engage in in-door activities which included: songs, dance and small groups to discuss on how they will actively engage in promoting peace within their schools when they resume in May. All the youths were optimistic on being peace ambassadors in their families, communities, schools as well churches. During their time of study and sharing, they also incorporated much of discipleship and getting to understand better their role as disciple makers within their peers.



Youths in discussion on what causes conflict

DEVELOPMENT WORK IN JILORE- MALINDI THROUGH THE MONTH OF APRIL

Adult literacy: A new group of women interested in adult literacy was started with 24 members. 17 out of these do not know how to read or write the basics like their names or numbers. The PHARP coordinator based at the PHARP centre in Jilore- Malindi has met with the group four times and they have been able to start a flour merry go round initiative. This initiative is objectively aimed at each woman contributing a bag of flour every two weeks to help each other during hard times. This is to give them a sense of hope and dignity and also to earn them respect in their families.

Cassava farming: The women have also expressed a desire to engage in a farming project that will bring them together more often. They cited the desire to learn from each other as they share stories and encourage each other. PHARP supported them to purchase cassava seedlings as the women were receiving training on cassava farming and its benefits.



When women support each other, incredible things happen.

Farming and poultry project: The farming project is quite impressive when you get to the farm. This is due to hard work of trained peace ambassadors in Jilore and God's favour. The group members in this project focused on farming maize (corn) and beans. On 17th, the beneficiaries turned up to do the second weeding and a second fungicide spray which is on- going because a certain worm is attacking the produce. The maize now has produced pollen grains and It is hoped that by the end of May the harvest will be ripe. The chicken project too is doing quite well as most of the layers have started laying eggs while the cocks have begun to crow.



Left: spraying fungicide Right: growing poultry

On 30th: PHARP in partnership with experts working with crop management and poultry had training at the PHARP centre-Jilore, Malindi. This training brought together 44 participants. We expected to have 51 participants but due to the heavy rains, some participants were not able to travel due to the precautions given by their area chief. The facilitators captured benefits of better farming practices such as; improved poultry breeds, farm planning and house construction, feeding, poultry diseases signs, groupings, control and marketing the products. The training ended with participants watching a video on poultry farming which helped the participants to start thinking of poultry farming as a big income generating activity that can benefit both family and larger community.



PRAYER REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVING

1. PHARP is thankful for all its partners and friends who supported the ministry in the month of April.
2. We are thankful for provision of good health and beneficiaries to work with.
3. Let us continue to pray and support the flood victims who have been displaced and their properties destroyed.
4. Continue to pray for schools that are scheduled to resume on May 2nd. Some of them have been affected by the floods. The same prayers to be extended to Rwanda and Tanzania who are facing similar challenges.
5. Pray for the PHARP activities of May:
 - Peacebuilding and Discipleship training to be held in Malawi
 - Child protection course to be held at International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)
 - Discipleship training in Isinya Town- Kajiado North County
 - On-going peace building and literacy projects within 7 communities