



MAY NEWSLETTER 2018



Disciples of Mbayani- Blantyre, Malawi

PEACE IN THE STORM

*“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you”
(Isaiah 26:3)*

Life can seem unbearable at times. Physical pain, difficult decisions, financial hardships, the death of a loved one or shattered dreams threaten to engulf us. We become fearful and perplexed. Plagued by doubts, we may even find it difficult to pray. Let us learn to look back. Looking back at the many times Jesus has helped you is sure to increase your faith and help you to deal with present and future problems.

In the month of May, the long rains have continued to pound most parts of Kenya. Whereas this comes as a blessing for a land that had endured a dry spell for about two consecutive years and beginning of 2018, much havoc has been caused mostly through man made errors. Some parts of the Country remained inaccessible for the better part, some completely marooned by the floods. News of even more disastrous proportion was reported in some parts like Solai area of Nakuru County where an estimated 49 people (including children) lost their lives after a poorly constructed dam broke its barriers sweeping an entire village downstream.

PHARP's work was also affected as we could not make elaborate plans of road travel being that one would rather have stayed safe than sorry. This was also so in the places where we minister and where rivers had been overflowing, and cutting the small bridges constructed on most weather roads.

Regardless of the challenges, PHARP was able to carry out the highlighted activities.

On 7th to 18th May: PHARP was invited by International Peace Training Centre (IPSTC) to a two weeks course, funded by the Government of Denmark aimed at enhancing the participant's understanding of Child Protection issues for the effective prevention and protection of children in peace support operations by exposing the participants to the aspects of complex and multidimensional peace support operations environment. The Course was designed as learning and sharing experience, with lots of interactions in class discussions, plenary sessions, lectures, and group 'syndicate' sessions. The participants were drawn from South Sudan, The Sudan, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya. PHARP appreciates this noble partnership and capacity building of its staff which will contribute to improved work.



Group discussion and the group photo

On 17th to 21st May: PHARP with the support of tSOAR Ministries facilitated a discipleship training which was held at St. Morris PIM Baptist Church located in Mbayani- Blantyre, Malawi. It brought together 55 participants from 5 different churches: Africa Inland Church, Word Alive Ministries, St. Morris PIM (the hosting church), Anglican Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church all based in Mbayani- Malawi.

The focus was on how pastors can work together to grow discipleship within their congregations. During discussions, the big question was: discipleship is whose role? The mission of the Great commission is not for the pastor or missionary alone as participants perceived it to be; it is for us all who are called by Christ's name. Our mandate is to come, see, go and tell. Participants understood that we all have a mandate to go out as sent people bearing fruits of a believer.

Training was concluded by an understanding of what Acts 1:6-9 tells us; revivals need a committed people, not large numbers. This means, the 55 participants trained will work to witness to others and this is a job description of every Christian.



*Top: participants in session and PHARP facilitator with church leaders
Bottom: Facilitator in discipleship training and participants in worship*

PHARP JILORE YOUTH AND WOMEN PROJECTS- MAY

Various activities have been taking place at the PHARP centre in Malindi. We praise God for continued good working relationship between the local administration, community and project beneficiaries.

Adult literacy: The adult literacy class is doing well despite the challenges of heavy rainfall. This month we experienced low turnout (16 out of 27 learners) because of many deaths in the area. It's good to mention that we have been dealing with alphabets and sounds to lay a better foundation for reading, speaking and numeracy skills at a later stage. Some learners can now form simple words. The Charts with pictures that were provided have been very helpful in assisting the adults to read and remember.



A beneficiary making an attempt to read

‘Sima Mtaani merry-go-round’: This activity of collecting bails of flour is objectively aimed at bailing out women during hard times of famine and drought. Through this ongoing activity, women have gained a sense of hope and dignity and also this has contributed to them earning respect in their families. So far 27 women have been able to contribute KS 50 each enabling them to buy 9.5 bundles of Maize flour. The women strongly believe that this idea is a good vehicle for feeding their families especially those whose farm produce have been swept away by the floods. This activity was graced by the area assistant chief who is also a woman passionate on women development in Jilore ward. The meeting ended with the chief planting a tree, as PHARP is also concerned for the environment.



The chief distributing flour, chief being helped to plant a tree and the chief addressing women

Cassava farming: Other than maize and poultry farming, the new group of women undergoing adult literacy, they have come together and started cassava farming. This would be an activity that would bring them together once they finish classroom learning. Much thanks to the rains that have pounded the area, most of the cassava seeds have germinated. Plans for doing first weeding and replacement are scheduled for June.



The germinating cassava and front view of PHARP-Malindi centre

Red pepper Training: PHARP has networked with Equator, a company that deals in Red pepper production. In the month of June, we plan to have the first training with the women and youth. This training will focus on two areas; the why and how to go about the red pepper business. This has been seen as a good venture alongside cassava farming so that women can have financial relief. This activity is very motivating because the produce is bought by the same company on a monthly basis.

Maize farming project: The produce is ripe for harvest. The third and last week of May has been very busy because the women have been out doing marketing for the farm produce. As a result of the business and marketing skills given to the women, they put the skills into good use. Before going out to sell, they researched the market prices and later differentiated the market into 3 categories: women buying from the group at a subsidized fee, women sell for the group and earn a commission and willing buyer willing seller basis; where women have acquired a customer base.

So far, the women have managed to wake up at 3:00am through 10:00am consecutively to sell the farm produce. This has encouraged the women so much and through determination, they have purchased 2 packets of maize seedlings so that in June they plant again. With the proceedings from the maize sales, the PHARP field Officer will help the women to jointly open a savings and credit account.



Women harvesting, selling at market and counting proceeds

In closing, it's impressive how PHARP is spreading its wings faster than ever in the Malindi Sub County. Most people now want to be identified with the organisation because of God's favour and the message of peace and literacy being disseminated as well the weekly discipleship that takes place at the centre.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

1. PHARP is grateful to God for peace within the nation of Kenya: The government and opposition officials have agreed to work together towards the healing and reconciliation of the country Kenya. We pray that this will be put in action by the leaders and the citizens.
2. PHARP is grateful for the ever expanding network with like minded organisations. We are thanking God for IPSTC.
3. PHARP is also grateful for the team that is given to serve God through their time, skills and knowledge.
4. Let us continue to pray for the disciples of Malawi, that God revives them for His work.
5. Pray for all victims who have been affected by the floods as they resettle back to normalcy
6. Let us pray for strength and provision for June activities.
 - Follow-up training in Pokot County
 - Two discipleship trainings in Isinya and Loodariak, Kajiado county
 - Training in Voi- Taita Taveta County
 - Red pepper training and cassava farming- Malindi sub-County