



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2018



*'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much'-Helen Keller
Trained pastors and lay leaders of Mbololo Location-Voi*

'Love never fails'

A farmer went to the field one day to cultivate. During the work, he glanced at the mango tree and saw a big and ripe apple mango which he picked. An idea occurred to him not to eat this mango, but to bring it to his wife whom he loved so much, even though he himself was starving. When he got home, he called his wife and gave her this mango to show her his love. Very happy with this precious gift, when the wife was thinking of cutting it to eat, immediately she thought of her child who had gone to school.

She took this mango, thanked her husband sincerely and reassured him that she would eat it after finishing her chores. The woman hid the mango and decided to give it to her son as soon as he returned from school to show him her love. As soon as the child came home from school, the mother gave him this mango with a lot of joy in her heart. The child thanked his mother warmly for this precious gift and told the mother that he would eat it later after finishing his school assignments.

He, too, resolved to keep this mango and make a surprise gift to his father who works hard to pay his school fees, believing that dad knows nothing about this mango. In the evening while everyone was eating the family meal, the child said to his father, "*One-minute dad, I bring you a small present because I love you so much*". He ran to his room and took the mango and gave it to his father. Surprised to see the same mango he had given to his beloved wife to return to him again, without comment, he asked for the knife and shared it equitably between him, his wife and his child. All ate this mango with a lot of joy. This is how love works.

Therefore, the idea of community comes from the sense of responsibility we have for each other. In the Bible, God encourages us to take care of our brethren while following the word of the Lord. We must remember the importance of maintaining the connection with our fellow man to ensure a thriving community. Let's love genuinely.

On 2nd October: PHARP visited with the PHARP Board Chairman who lost his mother. As we shared on the illness that took this mother, we were encouraged that one-day God will give us the answers to questions that now plague our mind, when our journey on earth has been ended, and our hardships are all left behind.



PHARP team encouraging Dr. Paul Mbutu.

On 9th October: PHARP was privileged to be visited by Rev. Collins Ouma, the senior pastor of Nairobi Chapel Ngong Hills, while at the same time in charge of Church Planting and Missions at the wider Nairobi Chapel located on Ngong Road. As PHARP envisions transformed individuals and communities to live in holistic harmony with one another, God and the physical environment; we need like-minded institutions to support us in achieving the Great Commission. Through the ministry of Nairobi Chapel whereby they not only preach the gospel, they also seek to prepare church planters and pastors. Through the Discipleship program at PHARP supported by tSOAR-USA, our mandate is to see that leaders are equipped with skills that are relevant to their ministry context. PHARP is delighted for the friendship and goodwill from Nairobi Chapel Ngong Hills.



Rev. Collins (in African print), Pst. Eric (pastoral intern) at Nairobi Chapel Ngong Hills and with PHARP team

On 11th October: PHARP did receive a grace gift of 40 'God's Justice- NIV Bibles from Biblica-The International Bible Society. The aim of this Bible is to fire one's passion for social justice and inspire the reader to take positive steps towards tackling injustice in one's circle of influence and beyond- for the glory of God and His Kingdom. Through the leadership of Mrs. Lydia Munene (Area Executive Director for Africa) and her love of peace and conflict work, she confirmed that we are a team, a family and a part of the body of Christ. Biblica shall always partner and support like minded ministries and churches to help extend the work of God and its impact.



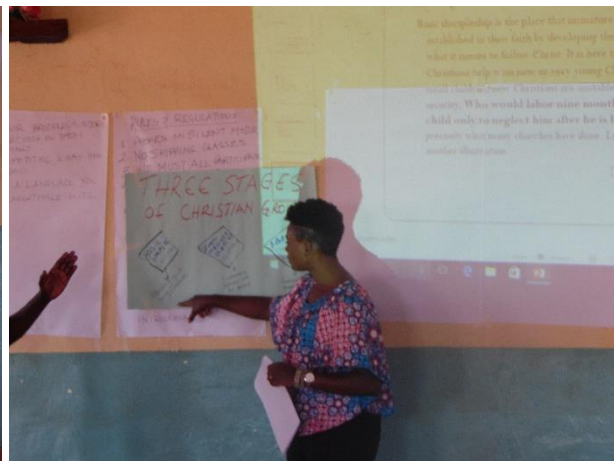
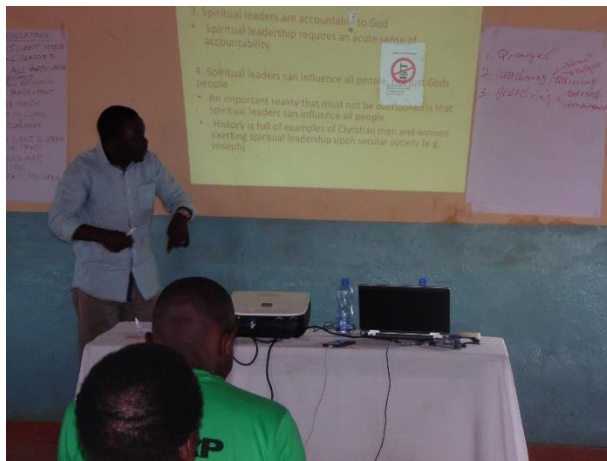
Pelagie (from PHARP) receiving the 'God's Justice NIV Bibles from Mrs. Lydia (Area Executive Director-Africa)

On 15th to 18th October: PHARP held a Leadership and Discipleship training with 47 pastors drawn from various churches in Mbololo Location- Voi Sub-County, Taita-Taveta County. The training was graciously hosted by Mkwachunyi ACK church. Among the participants present, only 6 have had a privilege of attending Bible school for two years, 5 out of the 6 have received some short-term courses on leadership and discipleship. This means that 41 of these pastors are lacking necessary skills and knowledge to support them in their ministries. This finding supports the statistics that: 70% of pastors today who struggle with their churches is mostly attributed to a great struggle of leadership lapses. Within the course of the training, the pastors were helped by the facilitators to understand: what spiritual leadership is, spiritual leaders' task, the leader's preparation, the making of a leader, the need for discipleship, symptoms and reasons for dying churches and the stages of Christian growth.

One pastor Mvoi had this to share:

I have been in ministry for about thirteen years now and it has not been easy. In the year of 2010 I experienced a major setback in the church. I was working as a supermarket attendant, but I knew that I was called to ministry. In 2007 I quit my job and followed my calling. This was a by faith venture since I

did not know how to start, but I was convicted I needed to be in ministry. In 2008 we found a location in Voi town and I invested my little earnings in the name of preparing for ministry. My family members were my first congregants. This went on up until 2009 when I felt that we needed to expand the ministry. What I didn't realize then was that I was operating within my agenda: grow the numerical numbers of the church. But today I have learnt that 'when a leader understands God's agenda, he/she easily moves with God's people'. I struggled so much to convince church members to stay in my church and not to go to other so-called bigger churches. This is also because I was not aware of the importance of discipleship. Church members were not rooted in the word. I didn't have the time to come up with activities that would give church members a platform to interact with God's word other than Sunday preachings. Now I know that teaching God's word which entails training to empower is different from preaching which is more on outreach and evangelism. I now look back and see my mistakes. Am now at a better position to advice my youth leaders and upcoming young ministers of the gospel. God is the source of Spiritual leadership.



Top left: Bishop Katutu (Destiny Life church-Nairobi) emphasizing on leadership. Top Right: Pelagie (PHARP) teaching on discipleship. Bottom left and right: participants sharing experiences

19th to 21st October: Claudette having attended a discipleship symposium in Nairobi, went back to Rwanda and held a training with 35 choir members and youth leaders. Most of them are in high school,

university and others still looking for jobs. These participants appreciated the material of *'Finding your place in the world' French and English version*, because they have not been having any material that helps them to study the scriptures deeply. We thank God for sister Claudette who is being used of God to bring an impact in her generation.



Claudette teaching on discipleship using tSOAR material

On 23rd October: PHARP held training with 37 women from the pastoralist community in Loodariak-Kajiado West County. This being the second time that PHARP conducts training in this community. The training focused to encourage these women to be peace ambassadors in resolving conflicts God's way and how they can also be disciple makers in their homes. Women were able to outline the major sources of conflicts amongst them and even within the family; and all these were attributed to selfishness. When it came to women economic empowerment, selfishness greatly contributed towards jealousy and not wanting the other to excel.

Mama Naserian confirmed this by giving her testimony. Last year, I asked my husband if he could support me to start a small business by selling vegetables. This meant that I would be travelling twice a week to the nearest market to buy vegetables in wholesale then sell to my neighbors. The journey from this place to Kiserian town is about 30 Kms. When I got the first bunch of vegetables, women were happy to buy from me. But as the business went by, some women stopped buying from me and I would get snares from other women. I did not know what was happening. Only for me to ask one of my neighbors and she openly told me that not all women are happy for my progress while they stay at home. At that time, I did not know how to handle this case, because I went and shouted at the lady in question. But today I have learnt that I should daily submit to God unconditionally, draw near to God through my daily devotions, humble myself before God and pray for others.



Left: Agnes in red dress (PHARP) empowering women. Right: Pelagie (PHARP) with Pastor Joshua and his wife

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for peace within the country and the rains that have come. Farmers are now planting.
2. We thank God for a good harvest for the women project in Malindi which is benefitting about 40 families so far with food security.



3. We thank God for our partners and donors who have continually supported the ministry. We continue to pray that God will bless them and fill their cup top overflowing.
4. We thank God for the literacy program which is held at the PHARP center in Malindi. The total number of literacy students stands at 50 and most of them now can engage one another in small English conversations. This is a praise report because the community majorly speaks mother tongue and the national language of Kiswahili.
5. As we thank God for the rains, in some parts of the country, they have caused havoc. Buildings have fallen and people injured. We continue to pray for safety of all those affected in Mombasa by the heavy rains.
6. Pray for one of our Discipleship teacher in Blantyre-Malawi who is suffering from cholera related sickness for quick healing.
7. Pray for November activities: 10-day Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers (TCTT) and Discipleship follow-up training in Malindi.
8. Pray all national examination candidates who start their exams this week and all children who have closed schools and will be home for two months' vacation.