



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018



'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations'...Matthew 28:19a

In the month of November which serves as the 'Thanksgiving month' in USA, we can borrow some critical lessons from this important holiday. Basing these teachings from Isaiah 61:3-4, we learn that whatever we are going through, Jesus has gone before us to provide his goodness. He knows that we will face hard times, but he doesn't want any of us to be stuck. He knows that at some point in our lives, ministry, work places and at home we will be overcome by ashes, but He goes ahead to offer something better: the crown of beauty, oil of gladness and garment of praise are ours for those who believe! *"Lord teach me to offer you a heart of THANKSGIVING and PRAISE in all my daily experiences of life. Teach me to be joyful always, to pray continually and*

to give thanks in all my circumstances. I accept them as your will for my life” Thessalonians 5:16-18.

On November 10th to 20th: 30 participants among them a PHARP staff (Pelagie) from 10 countries with a vast majority actively involved in peacebuilding and conflict transformation in their respective countries underwent training. Countries present were: Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Jamaica, South Sudan, Nigeria, USA and UK. The 10-day intensive training of trainers was conducted by Dan and Sharon (Global Missionary consultants for peace and justice with the American Baptist Churches at the Dimesse Sisters- Karen.

Participants shared and learned skills and knowledge on conflict transformation which mainly is turning conflict from negative, destructive experiences in which problems are peacefully solved, unjust relationships are structured in more just ways, violence is replaced by non-violent means of dealing with disagreements, torn relationships are reconciled, decisions become more participatory and traumatized people are supported for healing.

It was an opportunity to learn about ourselves and to learn about God!



Participants from all over the world.

On November 17th: One of PHARP discipleship group leader in Rwanda was able to conduct a youth forum with 15 youth leaders. Discipleship is not a task left to the pastor, elder or lay leader; but anyone called by God’s name is commanded to go out and make disciples. Claudette is a youth who was trained by PHARP to reach out to the youths. As a disciple maker, she is keen on seeing youths trust in Christ and grow in their faith.

Robert one of the youth leaders is a choir member in his local church. Before his encounter with the discipleship manual ‘Finding your place in the world’, he had never received any material that would help him in studying God’s word. All he would do is read the bible at random.

‘Since receiving this material, am very excited that I can read the bible in a guided manner. The three questions at the end of each passage, have helped me so much to reflect on my own life, family and ministry. Am leading a group of 7 youths, and we are challenging each other daily. Thank you so much tSOAR ministry for this great support’.



Left: Robert (in blue shirt) with new discipleship group members. Right: Robert making contribution in a youth forum

On November 21st: PHARP was visited by Dan and Sharon Buttry. They are global consultants focusing on Justice and Community Transformation. They serve around the world to provide consultation and training in conflict transformation and the transformation of communities, working primarily through the church as God’s instrument of change. In the past fifteen years, Sharon and Dan have trained over 350 church and community leaders from 61 countries in 10-day Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers programs. Many of these leaders, among them the PHARP Director have made a profound impact in the peacemaking of their communities and countries.



Left: Dan receiving an elder's baton from Rev. 'Felicien. Right: Sharon and Dan (IM Global servants) with Rev. 'Felicien and Susan Nemeyimana at PHARP office.

On November 24th: In the spirit of partnership, PHARP team was able to meet with Pastor Stephen Mayuen the National coordinator with Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission (JPRC) Juba, South Sudan. The purpose of meeting is to pray and plan on how the two organizations can work together in reaching out to hurting communities. Pastor Stephen is very interested in Peacebuilding and Discipleship training for pastors, lay leaders and Chaplains in his area of operation. This training will focus on the States of Yei and Nimuli that are greatly affected by violent conflicts, which has seen many of the locals become refugees and internally displaced persons.



Pastor Stephen (standing back left) with PHARP team

November 28th: On this day PHARP received the Africa Area Director from International Ministries-USA. He is a servant of the Lord who has dedicated his life to serve the people and churches in Africa to realize their mandate and calling of being disciple makers.



Rev. Eleazar (In grey blazer) with Rev. Felicien and Madam Susan at PHARP office.

November 29th to 1st December: PHARP staff (Pelagie) made a visit to three discipleship groups in Malindi. The meeting brought together 63 disciples. When the year began, a total of 15 disciples had been trained, and through the support of the field officer, these 15 have managed to reach 48 others. The meeting was a time of celebration and hearing of God's goodness through testimonies given.

Gladys is a mother of 3. She has been a widow for 6 years now. Before she joined the women's fellowship at PHARP, she had given up on God. Her late husband's family evicted her from her home and all property seized. She was forced to go back to her parents' home. She was very hurt and bitter towards God, the church and her community members. Because she wondered why she suffered and no one came to her rescue. Before she left church, she knew that in James 1:27 says that true religion is to take care of orphans and widows. This is a concept that she did not feel was acted on by the Christians. After two years of being out of church, she was invited by a neighbor to attend a discipleship training organized by PHARP in February, and since then Gladys has found a new family where she belongs. As she has been learning on trust, truth, time, surrender,

obey, abide and reconcile with God; her life has seen significance change. The weekly devotions they do as a group of 12 women have brought them together, they encourage and pray for each other. The burdens amongst them are shared. She is experiencing true peace and love that comes from God. She returned back to her pastor and apologized, and now she is active in the intercessory ministry.



Gladys giving her testimony

Sidi is a mother of 5. She is HIV positive and a widow for more than 5 years. Sidi was asked by her pastor to join a women's discipleship group in her area. However, she was not sure how these women would receive her when they know of her health status. But when she joined, she openly told them her health challenges and to her surprise they welcomed and embraced her with love. Since she had no source of income, the women encouraged her to join them in raising chicken. One day, she did not manage to attend a weekly discipleship meeting. The leader tried to call her on phone but she was unreachable. So, this leader together with two women paid her a visit. They found her sick and frail and her house was near to falling.

The team that visited gave a reported-on Sidi's plight. At the time, we could not do much but pray with her and support her meals for two weeks.

Through love and fellowship of the women, they came together and started contributing little money to see if they can buy grass and thatch her house before the rains come. And also, the women encourage Sidi to take her medication daily and now she is of better health.

When my group members visited me today which is my birthday; they brought me a cake. I have never eaten cake or had my birthday celebrated. Through discipleship, I have experienced the love of God.



Left: Sidi with Pelagie (PHARP staff). Right; Beneficiaries cutting cake. Below: sample of the cake that was cut for christmas and birthday celebration

THANKS- GIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for the month of November which was focused on sharing and learning from like-minded organizations.
2. We thank God for strengthened partnerships through the visits of some of PHARP partners.
3. We thank God for successful discipleship follow-up that took place in Malindi and Rwanda who reported God's great work amongst His people. This success is attributed to God and the support from tSOAR ministries-USA.
4. Pray for some of PHARP beneficiaries who are facing challenging situations like Sidi a beneficiary in Malindi whose house needs repair.
5. Pray for South Sudan that there may be lasting peace.
6. Pray for safety and security on the roads as people prepare to go for the Christmas holidays.
7. We continue to pray for all children still on vacation for safety and as they strengthen relationship with their parents.