



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019



Religious and Community leaders training- Mbololo Location- Voi 2019

God's will done in God's way will never lack God's supply- Hudson Taylor; Founder of China Inland Mission.

HAPPY NEW YEAR PHARP READERS.

Imagine going on a trip without luggage, no basic necessities, no changes of clothing, no money or credit card. This sounds both unwise and terrifying for us in modern day society.

when Jesus sent the disciples out on their first mission to preach and heal. *'take nothing for the journey except a staff', said Jesus. 'No bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt-* Mark 6:8-9.

What is the point here? Its about trusting God to supply. When Jesus referred back to that first trip, He asked the disciples, *'when I sent you without a purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything? And they answered, 'nothing'*. The disciples had everything they needed to carry out what God had called them to do. He was able to supply them with the power to do His work.

On January 15th, PHARP Board met to look at how best this year ministry shall be done and deliberations done on the activities set in place, it was evident that PHARP is operating on a faith budget. Just as Jesus told His disciples to go with nothing, we too at PHARP do acknowledge that God will provide so that His will abound in every good work.



The PHARP Board Members in discussion over the 2019 PHARP activities

On 7th to 10th: PHARP started the year with a three-day training held in Mbololo Location at the Mkwachunyi St. Barnabas Anglican church- Voi. 38 religious and community leaders were in attendance. During the training sessions, matters on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, discipleship and leadership were handled.

As leaders in society what sustains us in our long journey of peacemaking and discipleship? We need to see ourselves as vessels of God being used, work with the vision and conviction within us, seek communal support and work on our public and private lives. During the sessions on conflict and leadership, a critical quote that guided the discussions and our thinking was; ‘*an army of 100 sheep led by a lion can defeat an army of 100 lions led by a sheep*’. A leader needs to be strong, even if the people behind are weak, the team will survive. The strength of a church or an organization is achieved through strengthening the leader.

Pastor Joseph remarked that most conflicts within the church are due to lack of proper discipleship, lack of proper standards, no integrity, no humility and lack of knowledge. This therefore has to change. We are grateful for these teachings, because they have opened up our minds. You can only know that your mother is not the best cook until you visit some other places. Even us pastors, let us embrace knowledge, deep reading of the word and get out of our comfort zones so that we may learn.



Pastor Joseph (Chairman of the Voi pastors fellowship) urging leaders to be people of integrity and facilitator urging a point with the help of an interpreter.

Through discussions, it was evident that a pastor or anyone holding a position of influence need to know that they are the door to their church or organization.



Group discussions and a participant illustrating a point

On discipleship we learnt that in the last days, people will be lovers of themselves, money and false teachings. Therefore, religious leaders need to stay honest in their preaching's guided by time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile (tSOAR) and the daily reading of God's word.

Women participants showed much concern on the double standards applied by our religious leaders which is not a good example to our youths today. It was sad to note that some pastors leading the church do not have good moral standing. Some are divorced or have more women and impregnating girls in the congregation.



Sister Mary stressing on the need of living right in order to be salt and light

Pastor Betty of the Calvary church had this to contribute. 'A lot of secularism has found its way in the church; we don't feel the presence of God anymore. Choir members are not living above reproach, younger pastors conduct service as they feel. Really, we need to go back into the prayer closet and seek ways on how we can be deliberate on discipling our youths. Dear brothers and sisters we need to grow deep in the word. PHARP thank you for equipping and empowering us. We have no reason to say, that we are not informed. The work is now ours in this year to make a difference. I pray that when the team comes back in March, you shall hear of a good report from us all'.

On 10th -11th :2019 one of PHARP staff visited PHARP Rwanda. The visit was to discuss with PHARP Rwanda how tSOAR tools can be used for the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 to reach more people for discipleship purpose. Strategies of reaching youth, retired teachers and people in remote areas were discussed and agreed upon.

In the same breadth, Peacebuilding and discipleship in Malawi is growing. Using tSOAR material 46 disciples have started reaching new members in their churches. Between 21st – 26th February 2019 there will be a training follow up for participants trained in February 2018 and new pastors from 8 churches shall be trained.

On January 27th to 30th: PHARP staff visited the field officer in Jilore, Malindi to share about the year 2019 activities.



Elder David (left), Pelagie (center) and Samuel (right) in discussion.

In finishing, our Lord is good and what He does is good. May He help us in our endeavors this year to pray and to plan and to trust in Him.

PRAISES AND PAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for a new year 2019 and the opportunities that it will bring forth.
- Thank God for all our friends and partners in ministry.
- Thank God for upholding the nation of Kenya during the terror attack. Pray for the families that are mourning the loss of their loved ones and those who survived but are traumatized, that God will heal them.
- Thank God for the peaceful elections in DR Congo and that the same peace continues in the country.
- Pray for the PHARP activities to be held in February.
 - Malawi discipleship training
 - Discipleship in 5 churches in Malindi.
 - Discipleship follow-up in Mbololo- Voi