



“Come follow me, Jesus said and I will make you fishers of men” - Mark 1:17

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A certain father bid farewell to his youngest daughter who was flying from Munich to Barcelona. Because of much love he had for her, he visited his favorite flight tracking website to follow her progress. After he had entered her flight number, his computer screen showed that her flight had crossed Austria and was skirting the northern part of Italy. From there the plane would fly over the Mediterranean, South of the French Riviera toward Spain and was scheduled to arrive on time. It seemed that the only thing he didn't know was what she was being served for meals.

Why did this father care about his daughter's location and circumstances? Because he loved her. He cares about who she is, what she's doing and where she's going in life. Unlike a human father, God knows every detail of our lives and the deepest needs of our hearts.

We are never out of God's sight and His loving care.

In the month of February, PHARP had two major activities that focused on sharing the love of God through discipleship. God doesn't want us to hoard all that He has taught us. He wants to use us to help others grow. That process is called discipleship. PHARP held discipleship training in Rwanda, Malawi and Malindi-Kenya.

Discipleship in Rwanda: On 14th, 17th and 20th, Miss Claudette helped 32 youths understand how to use the book '*Finding your place in the world*' authored by Joe Williamson as a daily devotional. The youths were drawn from high school, university graduates and church choir members. These youths have a large influence in the church since they are tasked to help the congregation in ushering and other needs of the church.

These youths are considered to be educated and thus making it easier for them to form other groups which they can disciple.



Discipleship in a college hostel

Youth leaders discussed more about discipleship using tSOAR materials and sharing more on their understanding of discipleship based on Matthew 28:18-20: '*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,*

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baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” NIV



working youths in a group discussion

Through small groups on discipleship, so far, we have about 70 disciples in high schools, church and colleges.



Highschool youths in discipleship

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Discipleship in Malawi: PHARP held discipleship training in Blantyre- Malawi between the dates of 21st to 26th. The purpose of this training was to do a follow-up of pastors trained in February 2018 and a new group of 33 pastors coming from various churches were trained.



Training session with help of interpreter and participants taking notes

The focus was on intentional discipleship which is completely transformative of the whole life. It is the totality of our living in God, through the power of the Holy Spirit following the ways of Jesus and that demands internal consistency.



Pastors in group discussion

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Participants were able to discuss and analyze the aspects of disciple-making, effective discipleship, what it involves in following the Master (spending time with Him, Learning from His example and teachings, striving to be like Him), marks of a disciple and important discipleship lessons (quality not quantity, relationship not rules, influence not coercion, sacrifice not position and Spirit not skill). The participants were also helped to develop a habit of weekly review of the scriptures read during the week.



Participants responding to the call of intentional discipleship

Weekly guiding questions were given so that they may interact with scriptures more and be able to understand what God is asking of them.



sample of weekly review questions and participants practice using the questions

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During the follow-up sessions, various leaders gave testimonies of how God has been good to them and used them to reach others.

Mrs. Mula: Through the lessons we had last year 2018, my life changed significantly. On the lesson of discipleship, I learnt that when you become a disciple, you are commanded to take the good news to others. After the teachings, I had to deal with my intra-conflicts. I am usually not able to speak in public. My husband is a pastor, but he knows that he can't call me to the front to speak. But through prayer and reading God's word, I overcame my fear and am standing to testify and was also able to reach out to ten women. These women, we started a weekly discipleship group. Now we are at a total of 21 committed women who meet once a week to pray and study God's word.

We were also taught a song by our facilitator that says; 'I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me'. This also gave me courage to ask my husband if I could enroll for a certificate in Bible and Theology. As we speak now, am graduating in March. The lessons I have learnt have built unto the seed that was planted in me from last year.



Mrs. Mula giving her testimony.

Mrs. Msaka: After learning on discipleship and understanding the meaning of positive and negative peace, she decided to adopt the spirit of depending on God and in the process, she encountered a lot of peace. Before this, she was always fighting with her neighbors, her children were rebellious and she didn't see the need of going to church. When her neighbor invited her for the training last year, she was not sure what she was going to be taught, since she has never stepped in a classroom. But when she came

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and heard testimonies of others including the facilitator, she went back home and thought through her life. She then realized that what herself and family needed is Jesus Christ.

“As I speak now, my son and daughter are back home with me. She would get lost from the house without me knowing what they are doing. My daughter said that she would rather do small jobs within the home, so that she be with her small daughter and me.”

I am also now an active member of the church. Anytime the pastor calls on us to do community service, am present. This is the best way I can serve God and my community. I am a peace ambassador for Christ.



Mrs Msaka (left) giving testimony

Mr. Yamikani: Is a youth leader in the church. He says that before he discipless others, he must discipless himself. “There must be love and righteousness within me”. According to last years topic on peacebuilding and discipleship, we talked about stable peace. I learnt that in our church we don’t have stable peace, and the spiritual life of the church has gone down. The morals of people is not reflecting Christ in them. As a youth am happy to see that more youths are now more involved in church activities. We have also formed groups and we meet to discuss God’s word. We are learning to forgive and to love one another.



Mr. Yamikani giving his testimony.

Dear readers, in closing, Horace Bushnell calls on us by saying: *'where growth stops, death begins'* So don't stop growing, don't just grow old, but grow up as well. We call on you to partner with PHARP to invest more in the Kingdom of God through empowering and equipping His chosen followers.



Disciples of St. Morris Church-Blantyre, Malawi

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In Malindi: 10 churches were visited for discipleship mobilization for a pastors training that is scheduled for April 2019. PHARP women groups are preparing themselves to present at the Chiefs office to mark the 2019 International Women's day scheduled for March 8th. The field officer has also been able to visit two schools to talk on peace and introduce peace clubs that are helping students to embrace peace. To ensure that peace prevails, they are making preparations to hold a peace tournament for youths in partnership with Red-Cross, Malindi. At the PHARP center, there are also 6 students that are undertaking computer literacy classes.



Peace talks at Sosioni Secondary school

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. PHARP thanks God for good health that each team member has had in the month of February.
2. We thank God for provision of the activities that took place in Rwanda, Malawi and Malindi, Kenya.
3. We thank God for the country of Nigeria who just concluded their presidential elections. Pray for the leaders to consider the interests of the nation instead of personal interests and position.
4. Pray for the activities of March: Training in Voi and meeting with VOHFA leader
5. Pray for all those trained on matters of peace and discipleship, that indeed they shall make their light shine.
6. Pray for Malawi as they gear up to presidential elections in May 2019