



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2019



Unity is strength, division is weakness

“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man” Luke 5:13

The month of April saw us celebrate Easter. It was a good reminder to us that no one is too troubled or unclean to be touched by Jesus. He forgave and changed one of the thieves who were on the cross with Him. This is the gospel which Jesus commanded us to proclaim and expects us to preach it to the nations for the transformation of heart for those who will listen.

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In the month of April, PHARP engaged itself in activities that promoted the love and care of Jesus Christ.

On 1st April: 70 women from three PHARP groups in Malindi were gifted with flour and beans. Representatives from Red Cross and Rotaract were present at the event. Each pharp beneficiary took home 6 packets of Maize floor and a kilo of dry beans. This was such a blessing to this community as the food came in handy during the drought.

"I am a mother of 6. When the field officer sent a message that am needed at the PHARP center, I was not sure what the meeting was about. But I stopped what I was doing and obeyed. When I got there, I found him cleaning and arranging seats in the hall. And other group members started coming too. We did our prayers and study of the word as usual. Then when we finished, some visitors came. And then we saw a pickup with some packets. We had a blessed surprise when our teacher mentioned that each woman will receive some flour and beans to help with the drought. My children and I have got food for two weeks. Thank you"



Sharing is caring for one another

On 20th April: PHARP in partnership with Red Cross (Malindi), Rotary and Rotaract (Malindi) came together to organize for a peace tournament using soccer to bring together 140 youths of Christian and Muslim faiths.

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The purpose of the tournament was to reach out to the wider community of Jilore ward- Malindi with the message of peace and discipleship. Before the sports tournament, topics on drug abuse, conflicts in school, early pregnancies and the need to have personal quiet time with God were addressed. The community was urged to live in love and to co-exist regardless of differences that may occur.

The tournament was graced by the presence of the area Assistant Chief, the Member of County Assembly (MCA) and some religious leaders. All these religious and community leaders urged the community to live in peace and harmony. To the youths, they were urged to desist engaging in drugs and being lured with small monies that attract girls to prostitution and not to be idle and lured into violent crime. The peace tournament was a new concept in the area which was very much appreciated.

One of the Muslim girl youths said that: *"I will pursue education and achieve my dream of being a doctor. My two brothers and three sisters all dropped out of school, but I will do my best to break this unfortunate thing in our family".*



Zainab giving her testimony

Thomas a father of 5 who does manual work was very much encouraged on the talk of discipleship and he even re-dedicated his life to Christ again.

" Am a father of 5 children. My eldest is in secondary and about to finish school. Life has not been easy, but today listening to the lady who talked on discipleship and quickly gave us the acronyms of truth, trust, time, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile (tSOAR), I realized that I have been doing things my way, and that is why I have been struggling. Today I want to give my life to Christ and allow Him to lead my life. I want to be taught more about God, so that the remaining time I have on earth, I can work with God".



Thomas and PHARP staff sharing



Left: Girls team that participated in tournament. Right: PHARP staff addressing the community



Community members keenly listening. Right. Assistant area chief giving her speech



Left: The area MCA addressing the youths. Right. Religious leader calling for unity



Left: winning team captain receives gift of jerseys and the golden cup (written: 'Blessed are the peacemakers'). Right. The winning team being celebrated.

On 21st: PHARP team too had the privilege of visiting one of the first churches to ever be trained on matters of peacebuilding and discipleship. Four years back, PHARP first trained at Imani Mission church. The church members only comprised of the pastor, his wife, his 6 children and few women from the community. At the time, the church was in a mud house and sometimes when it would get too hot, the service would be held under a tree.

We give God all glory and thanks when we visited Imani Mission and found a full house. The church now is cemented and well decorated. It has 80 committed adults and youths and Sunday school of 60 children.

In giving thanks, Pastor Chai could not hide his tears of joy.

“PHARP with the support of tSOAR came to train me and other pastors when our ministries were struggling. Members of the church would come in any time they wanted, men would not come to church., children had nothing to learn at their level. But PHARP helped us to come up with strategies that would grow our ministries. We started with two discipleship groups, we grew to 5, then 7 and now we have 11 discipleship groups meeting once a week. The members also now are active in discipleship, because they understood that discipleship is not the pastors work alone, but for every Christian according to the Great Commission. Today, am happy that the PHARP Director has visited us to see what the Lord is doing in Vithuguni community.





PHARP's first training at Imani Church 2015



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PHARP's team visit at Imani Church April 2019

PHARP is much grateful for the growth and impact we are seeing in the communities of what God is doing amongst His people.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We are thankful for the month of April, that saw us celebrate Easter.
2. As a nation, we are thankful for the rains that have come. The drought spell was becoming a disaster.
3. We thank God for all our partners and friends. We pray for good health on each of them.
4. We pray for the country of Sri-Lanka, that lost more than 290 lives during a church service. Pray for those who were used to bring such destruction that they may change and turn to God.
5. Pray for one of PHARP's long-time friend and supporter- Joe Williamson, who is on bed rest for quick healing and restoration of health.
6. Pray for the continued activities of May 2019 for provision and good health of the staff team.

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