



## JULY NEWSLETTER 2019



*Participants of different ages brought together by a need of learning*

Generations differ widely in their life experiences and values. And this is true among followers of Jesus Christ. But no matter what we enjoy, our spiritual connection is stronger than those differences.

While differences and preferences could divide us, shared faith in Jesus Christ the word brings us together in mutual trust, encouragement and praise. Whatever our age and outlook, we need each other! No matter which generation we belong to, we can learn from each other and together honor God.

This was very much evident in the various forums and meetings that PHARP staff engaged in such as the Global Baptist Peace Makers conference in Colombia, youth discipleship camps in PHARP- Malindi, women of different ages within the Maasai community (in Kajiado North) meeting to learn about God and various widowed women thirsting to know more about God and making peace in PHARP Rwanda.

We encourage our readers to abide by this: *“so that all people may know of His mighty acts and the glorious splendor of His Kingdom”- Psalm 145:12*

PHARP focused on the activities summarized below.

**On 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** The Global Baptist Peace Conference (GBPC) is a continuation of a series of influential global peace conferences that began in 1988 in Sweden. The last conference was held in Rome, Italy in 2009, and Rev. Felicien (PHARP Director) attended as a speaker.

This year, 10 years later Pelagie (PHARP staff) was among the 400 participants from across the world; 30 countries from 6 continents in attendance. She was privileged to be one of the plenary speakers at the conference focusing on forgiveness and reconciliation. The conference helped to build on the important work of Baptists engaged in peacemaking processes around the globe and it equipped those engaged in ecumenical and interfaith peacebuilding around the world.

The recent conference was intense and very excruciating. Peacemakers were able to learn more of the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed forces of Colombia (FARC) among other groups.

*“Fabiola’s husband was killed in 2002 along other political people by FARC guerillas. During a panel discussion, Fabiola sat next to Victoria, now a representative of FARC in the Colombia Legislature. As the discussions went on and Victoria listened to Fabiola narrate her story, the FARC representative was able to ask for forgiveness for what the guerillas had done to her husband and family.*

*Fabiola who had been in a long process of working through her grief and rage to reach a place of healing turned to Victoria and said ‘I forgive you’.*

Through plenary discussions, it was evident that every participant is working in their country to create a just and peaceful society. It is exhausting and often discouraging work, but people came together to share stories and ideas. We were reminded that we are not alone, God is with us all.



*Top left: Pelagie (PHARP staff) presenting on forgiveness and reconciliation. Right: participants representing Kenya, Rwanda, Colombia and Uganda.*

*Below left: Boaz (Kenya, Allison (USA) and Pelagie (Kenya). Right: The team from Africa leading in worship.*

On 25<sup>th</sup>: Some of PHARP team visited with a group of Maasai women who meet 4 times a month to study on peace and discipleship. They study God's word using the 'Finding your place in the world' manual with a focus on time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile (tSOAR). These women are able to support their husbands in providing for the family. As the community is in a season of migrating their cattle in search of water and pasture, the men are confident that their wives left behind will manage the homestead and the children. The program which has been running for four months has evidenced great transformation in the lives of these women and the immediate community. The women too are in a season of harvesting maize, beans and eggs which was never the case before.





*Maasai women thanking God for their harvests and poultry project*

### PHARP- Rwanda Activities in the month of July

**On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>:** Rev. Anastase and Julianne visited a discipleship group of women at Janjagiro, In Rwamagana District, Eastern Province, one and half hour driving from Kigali City.

The group is three months old. It started after one of the pastors attended the discipleship training held at PHARP in Kigali on March 27<sup>th</sup> using tSOAR material. After the meeting the pastor formed groups from 6 locations which comprises of 37 single mothers, who then gave themselves the name of 'Jesus Daughters' after the discipleship teachings. These women have different needs including poverty, but the common need that cuts across all of them is trauma which requires urgent attention through a training where they can have ample time to pour out their deep hurts. Through their healing, they shall be able to help and disciple others.

*My name is Brenda. I am 19 years old and mother to 1 child.*

*I Lived in poverty and a Muslim boy befriended me and told me that he wanted to marry me.*

*I was very happy hoping that my life was going to be better. When I visited him in his house, he closed the door and raped me. After few days, I realized that I was pregnant.*

*A friend of mine advised me to abort. She took me to someone who would help me but it became impossible because she was charging a lot of money. My parents hated me and rejected me. My Muslim rapper pushed me to abort and to continue friendship with him but was not giving me needed money to do it. I ended by abandoning the idea of aborting and calmed down and waited my time to deliver. With insults and mistreatment by my parents, time came and I gave birth to my child.*

*Today I belong to this group of Jesus' daughters and I feel good.*



*Left: training session of women and Right: pastor with the women he disciples.*

### PHARP Malindi Activities

**YOUTH RETREAT CAMP:** PHARP Malindi partnered with Young life ministry on 13<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to take 26 youths to a retreat camp. The aim of the retreat was to deepen the faith of the participants by ensuring they are deeply rooted in Christ. While young life funded the camp, PHARP organised a gospel message themed “*Encountering God, walking in salvation, Healing, forgiveness and reconciliation*”.

**PASTORS LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING:** We reached out to pastors who had missed the opportunity to attend the first leadership and discipleship training held in June. This training enabled the 10 pastors in attendance be at the same level as the first group trained on conflict transformation and peacebuilding and will have a second class in August 2019.



*Left: some of the youths from PHARP Malindi. Right: PHARP Malindi contact person (far left) giving an illustration.*

#### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We give thanks to God for the month of July and the activities that took place.
2. We thank God for peace and stability within the nation of Kenya.
3. We pray for the many families that are losing loved ones due to cancer that is on the rise. That God may provide healing and restoration.
4. Pray for the friends and partners of PHARP; for good health and restoration.
5. Pray for August activities: Malindi 2<sup>nd</sup> training session, IPSTC facilitation and for the various discipleship groups and women beneficiaries' groups.