



## August 2019 Newsletter



*'Lord, what truths do you reveal to me as I study your word?'*

A certain well-known man in the village called John had everything a person needed in life; good family, friends, wealth and was also well connected in the society. However, John was against people who spent time in prayer and worshipping God. He termed this as a waste of time and one should be working. His wife Diane was among those who devoted themselves to God day and night. As a result, John mistreated her and greatly discouraging those associated with her.

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One day he became very sick. With his wealth, he went to expensive hospitals, but he would become even worse. One evening the wife requested him if she could pray with him for healing. Adamantly he accepted. Slowly by slowly, he started opening up to prayers and being read for the word of God daily. With time, he started experiencing peace of mind which he never had before.

He went a step further and allowed for his wife's small group fellowship to meet in their house. He was able to acknowledge the love of God upon his life and this led him to give his life to Christ. His life was changed, those who knew him saw great transformation. John became a staunch follower of Christ and talking about Christ to whoever visited him at home.

Similarly, Saul of the Bible is known world over to have been a persecutor of Jesus Christ followers back in the day. One day on a mission to persecute Christians, he had a special encounter with Jesus at Damascus; he experienced His power, his life was transformed, including his name which changed from Saul to Paul and now a great disciple of Jesus Christ who has since been sharing about peace, love and forgiveness with others until his death.

We are all called upon to live out an exemplarily life. A life that ministers to others even before we open our mouths to speak; a life of transformation.

This month of August, PHARP participated in activities that sought to promote peace and love among the body of Christ and various communities.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> August:** PHARP held the second session with participants in Malindi with a focus on Spiritual leadership and the great need for discipleship within our fast-growing churches. The participants took home much teaching on the tasks of a spiritual leader; majorly a leader being one who moves people from where they are to where God wants them to be.

*Pastor Syria has been pastoring for close to 12 years now. Recently, a politician came to their ward and asked for all pastors to close churches and go for a political rally. In this rally, pastors were promised one million that would be shared amongst those present. Being from a community ever faced with drought, this was a very inviting opportunity. And among those pastor's present, some went for the rally. His question to the class: was this a trait of a spiritual leader? Was this a trait of a disciple maker? The bible does ask us to pray for our leaders, but we are not asked to compromise our beliefs. We learnt that; there can't be a wedding between spiritual leaders and general leaders (politicians). Us who have been taught and equipped, we need to live above reproach." An overseer, pastor or bishop must be without reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, sober-minded, orderly, given to hospitality, apt to teach"- 1 Timothy 3:2. Our preaching cannot be respected if we don't live out an exemplary life.*



*Left: Participants sharing on godly traits of a spiritual leader. Right: group presentation*

**On 6<sup>th</sup>/08/2019:** PHARP in collaboration with the International Peace Support Training center (IPSTC) in Karen worked together in facilitating a Child Protection training of trainer's course which brought together 19 participants from 11 various countries which included; Mali, Albania, Norwegian, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya and Zambia.

The aim of the course was to enhance the participants training capacity to impart knowledge and skills on protection of boys and girls in peace operation (Pos) context. A lecture on "impact of armed conflict on boys and girls" was given by Pelagie- PHARP staff.

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*Session on impact of conflict on boys and girls*

**On 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019:** PHARP in partnership with Young Life Ministry, were able to bring together 500 youths from the coast region including those who were linked to the recent terrorist Bamburi attack.

The aim was to introduce them to Christ Jesus using the new concept of discipleship with the tSOAR acronym (time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconciliation). It demonstrated the greatest love of God and the need to create time for Him. The youths who enjoyed the training, had 22 youths making a critical decision of accepting Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The follow up has been scheduled for December, but for discipleship purposes, they were handed over to local pastors who would walk with them in their young spiritual life.

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*left: Youths from PHARP-Malindi who attended the discipleship forum. Right: Youth workers being trained*

Within the same Coast region in particular Jilore Ward-Malindi, PHARP Jilore women group (15 beneficiaries) had a bumper harvest of cassava.

The women in the group, came together in a joint effort that would take place after studying the word of God and acquire some skills and knowledge based on peacebuilding and cultivating an intentional time with God and His word. This particular crop of cassava did well in an area that most times is affected by drought due to lack of proper rainfall.



*Women harvesting cassava*

**20<sup>th</sup> August to September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019:** One of PHARP staff got an opportunity to visit with a strategic partner Visions of Hope for Africa (VOHFA) West Virginia, USA. The director of this noble ministry hosted her and took it upon himself to introduce her to churches and other potential donors with an aim of creating awareness on the ministry of PHARP and to solidify existing friendships. In particular to this, an eight-hour journey was made by PHARP staff Pelagie and Ed to visit with Joe Williamson (Indianapolis-

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USA) who has over the years supported Discipleship Programs within PHARP to empower and equip pastors. New partnerships were made and new friends acquired such as: Maysville Bible Brethren Church, United Methodist Church, Mercy Road Church, Sagamore Institute, Trinity Assemblies of God and Church of the Covenant Presbyterian church. We continue to pray for these churches that are actively involved in missions, preaching the word of God to lost souls.

One incident happened that left many of us reflecting more on God's faithfulness and asking ourselves; "Lord, what else have you said to me through thoughts, circumstances, conversations, emotions or the work of the enemy?"

*One of the guests at a particular Inn in West Virginia went to hike in the evening. The hiking trail is approximately one hour and thirty minutes. But the hiker had not returned by the time it was for dinner. The wife got worried as the minutes and hours progressed. By about 11:00pm all guests at the Inn were worried. The wife alerted her friends and family of what had happened so that they could pray. By morning her son and daughter had driven three hours to come and be with the mother. Some volunteers set out to look for the guest using the trail that he was supposed to take. They came back with no news of finding anyone. The owners of the Inn drove in two different directions looking for the hiker. By 3:00am, the hiker hadn't been found.*

*The next morning, the local community who had heard of the news gathered together to study the trail and they branched off to search for this one hiker who had gone missing. Local authorities were informed and they were part of the search. After thirty minutes, one young hiker came and reported that they have seen an elderly man sitting under a tree, frail and hungry. Immediately the wife said, that's my lost husband. Long story short, the lost hiker was brought, showered and given a warm meal to eat. When asked what went through his mind as he was alone in the dark with tall trees all around him, he only could quote Psalms 23; "The Lord was my shepherd". When I realized am lost, I stopped and sat down, praying that God will protect me from wild bears and any harm. God's rod and staff comforted me'.*

This incident brought together all guests at the Inn and it was an opportunity to teach on the love of God and the great need of being in communion with Him on a daily basis. This was a perfect example of the lost sheep. The shepherd left the 99 and went to look out for the one lost sheep!



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*Left: Pastor Joni (Missions pastor at Trinity assemblies of God, Fairmont WV). Right: Donald L. Casseli, Senior Director Liberian Initiative Sagamore Institute, Indianapolis, IN with Pelagie- PHARP staff.*



*Left: Members of the St. Paul United Methodist. Right: Joe Williamson, friends and Pelagie.*



*Left: Paul (lost and found hiker) with his wife and daughter. Right: Paul with Pelagie (PHARP staff) and Davis (one of the volunteers who went to search for him).*

Last but not least, several follow-up meetings were held in Loruk, Baringo with PHARP trained religious leaders (contact persons). Two follow up meetings were held and brought together 45 new disciples. One of the major challenges that these new disciples had is a lack of bibles in either Swahili or their local language. Please, let us commit this community in God's hands that a door shall open and they be equipped with the word of God- The Bible. These disciples of Christ are zealous, but they need the Bible.

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*Mr. Mengich is a cattle keeper. He has 123 herds of cattle and some goats and sheep. He is considered to be a wealthy in the Loruk, Baringo community. When he was invited to attend a discipleship forum, he was reluctant, but because his pastor and a friend invited him, he agreed to go. By the time he finished the three days, he agreed to join the discipleship group that meets within his village. Today, am a changed man. The problem is that we don't have a bible to read. We depend on the Sunday readings from our pastor. We have a Swahili material that has short bible readings and questions that help us to reflect on God's word, but we also need the bible. I will sell one cow and buy a bible for my church. Otherwise, am happy that I have wealth in the Kingdom of God, not focus on earthly riches that can die any time due to famine. I am learning on obedience, surrender and putting trust in God.*

Another participant from Marakwet had this to say:

*I am a pastor for 16 years and I have been transferred 3 times from one location to another. People thought the reason for my transfers is because am not learned; I have not gone to Bible school. But the real reason for my transfer was majorly based on my family relationships which at the time were not known to my superiors. I used to beat my wife citing the example of Jesus getting angry and beating the people in the temple who were doing business.*

*During discipleship training I came to understand that being a follower of Christ, means putting others needs before mine and I should serve unconditionally, love them and know how to say sorry when I have wronged someone. With the teachings from tSOAR material (time, truth, trust, surrender, obey, abide and reconcile) I was able to evaluate my life and ministry; hence I understood the wrongs and pain I had been causing my wife, children and the church members through my actions. The more I spent time reading and reflecting on the three questions in the 'Finding your place in the world', the more I understood and experienced God's peace and learnt what is expected of me as a priest of the home, husband and pastor. When we spend time with our friend, spouse or church member, we understand and build each other. With these truths, there was great transformation in my life, family and ministry.*

PHARP Rwanda team visited a discipleship group of women at Gasura in Gasabo District. The group is made of 22 widows from an Anglican Church. The group is four months old. It started after Pastor Alfred attended the discipleship meeting at PHARP in Kigali on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This group of women changed their name and status from being widows, but 'Friends of Jesus'. They found love and friendship in Him and there is no friend like Him.





*Left: 'Friends of Jesus' women group in worship. Right: PHARP team with the women (Left is Julienne, right is Rev. Anastase).*

### **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. We thank God for the month of August: it was a holiday month for the children and now they are back to school.
2. We thank God for the rains too in some parts of the country.
3. We thank God for the relative peace and security that the nation of Kenya is experiencing.
4. We thank God for the new month of September, and commit all activities into God's hands.
5. We thank God for all PHARP friends and partners, for blessing and continued provision.
6. We pray for the country of Zimbabwe which lost its former President Robert Mugabe
7. We pray for the nation of America that is faced with climate change challenges like hurricane Dorian that has seen many families displaced.

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