



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

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In a new year, we all write down new year resolutions, set goals, seek to start a fresh or await a miracle. But sometimes or most times, waiting for a miracle can be hard. Sometimes the road is cold, dark, and lonely. You may not know where you're going or how long the journey will take. No matter where you are on the way to your miracle **God is all you need.**

You don't need a big bank account, a full refrigerator, or even a job. If God wants to, he can have ravens drop food on you as his way of providing. That's how he provided for the prophet Elijah, who was exhausted and burned-out in the desert. When God turns off one source of provision, He can turn on another just as easily; let us trust him for all we need.

Where God guides, God provides. After sending the ravens to feed Elijah, God told him to make a dangerous trip to Zarephath. There was a drought in Zarephath and very little food. Yet God provided for Elijah through a poor widow with a generous heart. When God instructs us to go somewhere, we should go immediately; when God tells us to do something, we should do it right away. When God gives us direction, He will provide what we need to get there.

You must trust him one day at a time. Why is this important? Because some of our problems persist day after day. For instance, we experience famine, drought, war, violence, political disappointments, family disappointments, financial problems; the list can be endless. So, we must trust God one day at a time to provide. *"My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19 NIV).

God's promises work when you're obedient. God most times lays out His plan just one step at a time. He wants us to take the first step in obedience, and then He'll show us the next step. Each step along the way may not seem logical, but we can obey in faith and confidence, knowing God's way is always best.

It's true that life in 2020 became unexpectedly intense with abnormally high doses of frustration, confusion and anxiety. Peace, democracy and the wellbeing of millions became endangered. And yet, when we put everything on the table with the simple, everyday things people do for others; the little joys our family and loved ones bring, in one way or another, hope was uplifted, possibilities were expanded and light was brought into the darkness.

2021 has come like every other new year, with unwritten empty pages and with the continuity of certain challenges. It is up to us to write the stories, the narratives that will make a difference.

PHARP in the month of January with the support of tSOAR Ministries and International Ministries have been able to start the year with new stories and narratives to write about.

On 11th, 12th, 22-24th and 29th January, PHARP team did several visits to vulnerable beneficiaries that are fully engaged in the peacebuilding and discipleship ministry. Due to the unexpected rains that were experienced in January, some terrains were difficult to maneuver, by God's grace, innovation did help the PHARP team; where the vehicle can't reach, carry the things on your head!

The effects of COVID 19 pandemic have not been easy on many people, however the more affected are those that depend on daily casual jobs to make ends meet. Among those affected are beneficiaries of Kona Baridi, Ewuaso, Jilore- Malindi and Kibera slum who received food packages of about two

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weeks. A total of 147 families were reached; this makes an average of 735 indirect beneficiaries reached. PHARP did not only distribute food relief, but sharing of God's message of love and hope was at the forefront of every gathering. This was more so in Malindi, whereby you find many locals (especially women and youths) are drawn towards the Mosque because, every Friday they visit the Mosque and get food for few days. This is an opportunity that can be quickly grabbed for evangelism. In this regard, PHARP is calling upon each friend and partner to support in setting up an emergency fund that can address these issues in return we draw many to Christ. Many idle youths are lured into this other religion because of what they get from it.

A special thank you from the various beneficiaries to the friends of PHARP who came in to help during these hard economic times.

Below are photos that capture every moment of vulnerability, hope and thanksgiving.

Kona Baridi and Ewuaso beneficiaries:



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Top left: Impassable roads to Kona Baridi. Top right: Old and young ministered to. Middle left: Ewuaso beneficiaries giving thanks. Middle right: Older woman blessing younger PHARP member. Bottom left: prayers to God by beneficiary. Bottom right: Ewuaso beneficiaries

Jilore, Malindi Beneficiaries





Top left: Beneficiaries in prayer. Top right: women act out how food is unfairly distributed at the chief's office.

Top middle left: PHARP team member (Pelagie) giving word of encouragement. Middle right: youth disciples in the baking project being taught how to make packaging bags.

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Bottom left: finished product. Bottom right: PHARP team member (third from left- Claudette) with the youth leaders. Bottom center: a word from the representative of the Chief's office to the beneficiaries.

Kibera slum beneficiaries



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Top left: Rev. Alois the lead pastor of Kibera Baptist and founder of Kibera Baptist school. Right: PHARP member (Pelagie) encouraging pupils and pastors from Ecclesiastes 9:10. Middle left: Youth thanking God for the discipleship program in Kibera. Right: Pupils excited to surprise their parents at home. Bottom: food packages distribution.

PHARP IN BLANTYRE, MALAWI

PHARP's presence in Blantyre Malawi since 2018 has not only yielded many disciples, but the impact of the testimonies we receive are overwhelming. Through the support of tSOAR Ministries, PHARP is able to go out and make disciples of Jesus.

Rev. Mkwate has been a pastor for the Chirimba Evangelical Church for the last 13 years. But the church has been stagnant for a long period of time. Before I attended the PHARP training, I had given up on attending conferences or any sort of outside teachings. Because I wasn't seeing any change in the ministry. But today, in a span of two years, I have grown personally and I see much change in the Chirimba congregants. Many of those in ministry joined because they felt they needed to be part of a ministry as a way of showing that they are Christians, but none had been to a discipleship class. I thank God for the teachings and renewed energy I received during our training with PHARP. Myself and other 55 pastors we were trained with, are yet to receive our certificates.

This is because COVID 19 disrupted the program. But I have been thoroughly equipped and empowered with knowledge on discipleship, conflict transformation, spiritual leadership and trauma healing.

During the Corona period, churches were still meeting but observing the COVID 19 rules. Therefore, this period gave me an opportunity to focus on building the capacity of the ministry leaders: women ministry leaders (10), youth leaders (6), men's ministry leaders (7), Sunday school teachers (9) and the choir members (10). The various ministry groups managed to go through the material "Finding your place in the world".

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In December 2020, these groups were graduated and presented to the church as equipped and empowered servant leaders. This was special because, only pastors get opportunity to be trained, but now the teachings were focused on the ministry leaders.

What I didn't know, is that come January 2021, my Bishop would then relocate me to one of congregations that were struggling due to leadership wrangles. As I write this report, am getting ready to assume office in Ntambanyama Synod. Am confident, I leave behind a stronger congregation that will continue to multiply. Please pray that the one who comes after me gets the guidance and wisdom from God to continue with this ministry growth.

I continue to pray for PHARP team that God continues to strengthen them to reach many who need the encouragement and enlightening.



*Top left: Rev. Mkwate with graduated youth leaders. Right: the church choir
Bottom left: The women leaders (The one with arrow is the new women's leader). Right: New
ministry station in Ntambanyama Synod*

In closing, we do pray and desire that PHARP be on your list as a companion on your path for the year ahead. We are deeply grateful for peacemakers like you and hopeful for all the possibilities still to come.

EASY WAYS TO PARTNER WITH PHARP

We are deeply grateful to everyone who gives to support our work of gathering, equipping and mobilizing peacemakers and disciples throughout East and central Africa. Your generosity changes and even saves lives.

Friends, if you would like to increase the impact of your support, consider:

- *Making your gift early in the year.*
- *Becoming a sustaining member.*

Thanks for all you do to support our shared work of creating peace rooted in God's word.



Please pray that this center in Jilore, Malindi be completed so that as many local pastors can find a place of equipping.

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