



## **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021**



*Arusha, Tanzania trained disciple makers 2021*

***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NIV)***

Dear Reader,

You probably have heard this phrase over and over: “Forgive and forget.” There’s only one problem with it: You can’t do it. It’s impossible!

You really can’t forget a hurt in your life. In fact, you can’t even try to forget it. Because when you try to forget, you actually focus on the very thing you want to forget.

And the truth is that God doesn’t want you to forget. Instead, He wants you to trust him and see how He can bring good out of the hurt. That’s more important than forgetting. When you see God bring good out of a bad situation, you can thank Him for that good work. You can’t thank God for things you forget.

Romans 8:28 says, *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”* (NIV).

It doesn’t say that all things are good because all things are not good. Diseases are not good, pandemics are not good, violent conflicts are not good, poverty is not good, economical losses are not good, broken relationships are not good, abuse is not good and death is not good.

There are a lot of things in life that are evil. Not everything that happens in this world is God’s will.

But God says He will work good out of the bad things in life if you will trust him. You can go to Him and say, “God, I give you all the pieces of my life.” He will take your pieces and instead give you peace in your heart. This peace will come when you realize you can forgive, even if you don’t understand the hurt in your life, because you know God will use that pain for good.

You don’t have to forget the wrong thing someone did to you. You couldn’t do it even if you tried! But God says you don’t have to forget it. You just have to forgive and then see how He will bring good out of the hurt.

Fellow reader, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, God has used your generous support to share His love and meet people’s needs in some remarkable ways. Your support during the month of February has reached those who are hurting and looking for answers.

Through it all, we have watched God use this challenging time to open new doors of ministry and help us meet people’s needs (spiritual, emotional and physical) in response to COVID 19.

In this month of February, PHARP team had the privilege of travelling to Arusha, Tanzania. We also had the opportunity to welcome the PHARP Board at the new PHARP premises which changed new address this new year of 2021.



PHARP team appreciates all the effort and support it receives from its Board. The Board members who are drawn from various ministries and career backgrounds; Dr. Mbutu, the Board Chairman being a senior Registrar from Daystar University a well-known institution in Nairobi, Bishop Katutu a long serving worker of the Gospel from Destiny Life Church in Nairobi among others were able to sacrifice their time from their busy schedules to visit with PHARP on **February 8<sup>th</sup> located at Olkeri, Forest View Close**, as they celebrated God's provision and to set the agenda for the year 2021. With the pandemic of COVID 19 came with many challenges and lessons. The Board advised that the team through its activities should be prepared for the coming elections in 2022; in order to prevent violent conflict which are repeatedly in Kenya.



*Board members in prayers of thanksgiving*

In this very month on 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, PHARP was able to travel to Kikatiti, Arusha-Tanzania to have its first discipleship training. The training brought together 54 pastors from 23 different churches. The local mobilization was well done by a local pastor who heads the Kikatiti pastor's forum. Through our interaction with bishops and pastors present, we learnt that it is very important to train pastors, then send them out with a vision. A true disciple of Jesus Christ needs to bear fruit. This meant that when God calls you to do something, we need to have the assurance that it will be completed.

However, a majority of the pastors who were present through group discussions and break time interactions, were afraid to openly admit that they need to mentor their juniors for future ministry take over; because they are greatly afraid of being over-thrown from the very churches, they started from infancy up to where the church would be right now. On further assessment, pastors are being trained for ministry but they personally have no vision for the future! Its business as usual.

This all come down to the point discussed at the beginning, pastors being hurt and betrayed in ministry and hence not experienced the power of forgiveness.

Through our small group discussions, our sharing was focused on three key questions: *Lord, what are you teaching me? Lord, what else have you said to me through thoughts, circumstances, conversations, emotions, or the work of the enemy? And Lord, what do you want me to do today at home, work and ministry?* (Adapted from the book; *Finding your place in the World-* by Joe Williamson)

These critical self-examination questions helped pastors to openly evaluate themselves and their ministries.

*Pastor Palanjo who has been in ministry for over 25 years greatly shared his ministry experiences and how he struggled with forgiveness for about 12 years. He started a church with a fellow young man who was passionate about the ministry. As they worked together tirelessly to do evangelism, door to door ministry and even crusades, he felt within him, that the young man needed to be sent to Bible school for training in order to be more effective in ministry.*

*The young man was enrolled for a diploma in theology which he completed in two years. Out of college he was very energetic and focused on helping his senior pastor to grow the ministry.*

*However, as they were planting the second branch of the ministry, the young man registered the new branch under his name. The senior pastor came to learn of this from an elder in the church. This greatly broke his heart. But as they say, time heals every wound! Pastor Palanjo after 12 years thought that he had forgiven the young man, until he met with him in this training held at International Evangelical Church, Kikatiti. As the facilitators taught on discipleship, a question was raised; 'do pastors also need discipling?'. Hearing other pastors share about the question: 'Lord, what else have you said to me through thoughts, circumstances, conversations, emotions or the work of the enemy?' I then realized I have not fully forgiven my junior at the time.*

*Therefore, I need more discipling myself regardless of my 30 years in ministry.*

Through the testimony above, we learn that *you don't have to forget the wrong thing someone did to you. You couldn't do it even if you tried! But God says you don't have to forget it. You just have to forgive and then see how He will bring good out of the hurt.*

When we don't forgive, our efforts and capabilities are limited. Yet we are called upon to be disciples that bear fruit.

The participants were left with the challenge of each one, purposely reaching out and mentoring 5 new disciples.



*Top: Participants following the teachings.*



*Below: small group sharing*



*Facilitator putting down notes*



## THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for the provision and His grace to carry out the ministry.
2. We thank God for all PHARP friends and supporters of the ministry. Your continued prayers and support are sustaining the ministry.
3. We continue to pray for the entire world as we all continue to deal with the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.
4. We pray for countries facing violent conflict: Myanmar, Niger which is facing electoral violence, school girls that were inhumanely abducted in Nigeria and the Boko haram that has so far killed 16 mainly children and other ills that are happening in our world.
5. Help us pray for PHARP beneficiaries who have lost family members in Jilore, Malindi PHARP Centre; for God's provision as three families arrange for burials.
6. Pray for the PHARP field officer (for peace and strength) in Malindi who has to coordinate these beneficiaries as he encourages and helps with burial arrangements.
7. Pray all ministers of the Gospel, that God alone may administer forgiveness and healing where necessary for God's people to bear fruits.
8. Pray for the upcoming March activities: training in Siaya County.