



## PHARP NEWSLETTER- APRIL 2021



*Pelagie (PHARP staff) conducting a youth discipleship session- Dagoretti, Nairobi County*

In John 21:3-7 we read that When Jesus came at the sea of Tiberias his disciples were there fishing.

He realized that they were in distress as there was no fish and no food. Jesus then directed them on where to throw their nets and as a result of obedience to Him, they caught many fish, their nets were bursting with a bumper and this led them to ask their fishing colleagues for help.

Jesus not only advise them on how to catch more fish but He also prepared breakfast for them.

In a period of uncertainty marked by: poverty, violent conflict, displacements, famine, health issues, covid-19 among others; the world needs people who understand and encourage each other. We may not reach many but we can at least reach a few that God has entrusted to us.

In the Month of April, regardless of the COVID- 19 related restrictions like curfew and lockdown, PHARP is grateful to God for the opportunities it got to serve the children,youth,women, religious and community leaders in various communities : about 83 families were supported with relief food and about 498 community members heard the message of hope and peace in: Kirigu- Dagoretti-Nairobi County, Ewuaso Kidong- Kajiado North County, Kakuyuni- Malindi- Kilifi County and Ngosonik- Marigat-Baringo County. This was made possible by the support of PHARP partners.

**On 8<sup>th</sup>:** PHARP team visited with three beneficiary groups in Ewuaso Kidong-Kajiado North County. This county being one of those that can be travelled to; PHARP made a follow-up visit with 39 men and women who are serving God in this pastoralist community. Though the area chief was aware of the meeting and its intention, due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the meeting could only be held for one hour strictly. We are however grateful, that these trained beneficiaries are holding firm to the teachings of peace, conflict resolution and discipleship. Beneficiaries would testify how they have seen the benefits of reading, learning and memorizing God's word in their hearts. They have been more effective at ministering to their own family members during these difficult times. The word of God learnt has helped Mother Mesoi be more supportive of her husband who toils hard to fend for the family during these difficult times. With the support of IM-USA, these beneficiaries managed to receive food supply that would push them for a week or so.

*An elder who was sent by the Chief to be his representative was very much touched by the few words he captured on being a peace ambassador. We are called to humility and the lifestyle we live can either draw others to Christ or repel them away. Therefore, let us be peace ambassadors in our actions and talk.*



*Left: Beneficiaries after forum. Right: Village elder praying for beneficiaries*

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*Left: Pelagie (PHARP staff) sharing of God's word. Right: Elder keenly listening*

**On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:** A pastors training was held in Kakuyuni, Malindi. A trained disciple maker Pastor Siria and PHARP field officer Samuel did the facilitation. The training brought together 23 participants invited from 5 different churches.

The main objective of the training was for participants to: know who a disciple is and understand what discipleship is all about and appreciate the need for discipleship and their roles in the modern local churches in Kakuyuni.

After the training, Pastor Kazungu (an invited pastor) testified that he has so much work to do in terms of growing his church members. If the church is to grow and multiply, then he has to be intentional and invest in discipleship. *"This is a wakeup call for me and my elders in the church. It looks like what we are doing in visiting members in their homes is not enough. We have to be intentional in setting up small groups that meet during the week and studying God's word in depth."*



*Left: Pastor kazungu sharing. Right: Pastor Siria (bending) facilitating a group discussion*



*Left: one group praying after group discussion. Right: Group resolving to do the 'Listening to Jesus Program'-tSOAR material*

**On 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>:** PHARP was able to hold a children and youth forums at Calvary Church- Kirigu, Dagoretti-Nairobi County aimed at helping the children and youth come to the realization that they are very much important in society as peace ambassadors. In Matthew 19:13-14...'but Jesus said, 'let the children alone and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'. Indeed, children and youths need to be encouraged to be active peacemakers. This can be encouraged from how they relate with their peers at home and in the community. The youths who are still in school agreed that they would stay away from bullying, disobedience and any behavior that would destabilize peace and harmony in their respective schools. With the help of Rev. Michael (the host pastor), he will be meeting with the youths every Saturday to study the 'Listening to Jesus' discipleship manual before they resume schools. These youths will be empowered to reach out to others in their neighborhood and schools.







*Top left: Claudette (PHARP team) having a story-reading session with the children. Right: Rev. Michael praying for the children*

*Below left: Youth discipleship discussion. Left: Rev. Michael addressing the youths.*

**On 21<sup>st</sup>:** Pastors from Blantyre, Malawi who are still undergoing training on discipleship using tSOAR materials (**Finding your place in the world**) came together to thank God for taking them through the dangerous period they faced of covid -19 during 2020 and partly 2021.

Pastor Jere encouraged the team of pastors to continue praying and not tire to making disciples as Jesus commanded us, but to strictly observe the covid health measurement. They bless God that now Sunday service has resumed and this is very encouraging to the ministry. The current prayer is that one day covid-19 will completely end and PHARP team to travel back to Malawi to finish the course and graduate them as well. Help us keep this request in prayer!



*Left: Pastor Jere encouraging pastors. Right: Pastors break into groups to pray.*

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**On 23<sup>rd</sup>:** PHARP met with pastors from 6 churches within Dagoretti-Nairobi. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage and offer support in how they can best conduct discipleship with their members in these trying times. *Pastor Baraka noted that his church of about 40 members is on the verge of dying. He doesn't know what to do with the members anymore. The church is not financially strong to hold online services or recorded sermons. He has been relying on phone calls to members, but also this has not been effective. 'But with what I have learnt on developing disciples through weekly small discipleship groups, I am now rejuvenated to look for the members and group them according to locations and we purpose to study God's word as we wait for the lock down announcement in May. Thank you so much PHARP and tSOAR for showing and teaching me that growing a church is not only Sunday service; but being purposeful on discipling and listening to Jesus. Otherwise had we known this or taken much interest in discipleship, we would not be lamenting today. The church has truly been tested and now we have to wake up. I am looking forward to the next training in May, but in the meantime, I will form three groups of those members that I know where they live.'*



*Pastors in group discussion on best ways to conduct ministry during COVID 19*



*Pastors' open forum discussion and presentation*

**On 25<sup>th</sup>:** 20 youths gathered together for their weekly discipleship learning and they were visited by people (of Russia nationality) from Christian care, who shared their testimony on how God transformed them from simple drugs to hard drugs addicts. While they were deeply involved in robbery and drugs and imprisoned, they each met with Jesus and hence their lives have been transformed. They went through

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correctional program; but the most transformational time was when they enrolled for discipleship in their local church. They are now peace ambassadors who go from school to school sharing their stories to youths and creating an awareness on dangers of drugs within Malindi. Through the Christian Care organization, they have developed a door-to-door gospel outreach in the community, schools' outreach as well peer to peer outreach.



*Youths keenly listening to Christian care visitors*

**Build a house campaign:** Mama mercy is a single mother of 6 children and she is PHARP beneficiary in one of the recently created women's group in Jilore, Malindi. Being a single mother, she was living in deplorable conditions and so to be the hands and feet of Jesus, other beneficiaries contributed to build a simple house for her which by May 2021 the house will be completed.

'Build a house campaign' started in 2020 before COVID 19 when PHARP team visited and helped with the mudding of the new structure.



*Left: the state of the current house. Middle: progress of the new house (now roofing). Samuel (PHARP field officer) with Mama Mercy family.*

we also thank God for Pastor Macharia (a trained PHARP TOT) in Baringo county who on behalf of PHARP mobilized 40 women beneficiaries from Marigat, Junction Meisori, Ngambo Internally Displaced Person camp, Ngosonik and Kiwanja Ndege to a time of learning on how to be effective peace ambassadors at home and community. As mothers, wives, sisters; these women have great influence in society which has to be channeled into positive ways. It was also a time of prayer for peace in the county, since there have been recent violent cattle raids that left several dead and others left homeless. Through goodwill and friends support, these families represented were able to get some relief food. We are most grateful to IM-USA for this timely support.

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*Pastor Macharia and the women beneficiaries at Kiwanja Ndege location*

In this month of April, the youth bakery project was officially launched. The reason of setting up this project was to create an avenue where youths could be trained, disciplined and an income generating activity started. This bakery project seeks to supply at least 100 loaves of bread daily to the Jilore community & its surrounding environment in order to create jobs for youths, so that they may not get lost in drug addiction and prostitution. So far, we thank God for these 16 youths who have set the ball rolling with 60 loaves of bread daily. PHARP aims to train 100 youths; continue to pray for the 84 youths remaining that we may get support to empower them too. We also pray for team work as well the growth of their spiritual lives.



*Youths preparing the bread dough and the products to be baked.*



## **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. PHARP is grateful for protection, and provision for the ministry.
2. We are thankful to God for the ministry partners and friends for their support.
3. We thank God for all the beneficiaries who are at the forefront preaching peace and being disciple makers.
4. We thank God for the good report from our ministry partners in Malawi.
5. We continue to pray for the effects of COVID 19. Pray for all those families that have been affected one way or another.
6. Pray for all ministries and businesses that are struggling during this pandemic.
7. Pray for DR Congo for peace to prevail especially in Beni, Bunia and South Kivu where we have ministry partners.
8. Pray for schools and churches to re-open in Kenya peacefully.
9. Pray for PHARP May activities.