



MAY NEWSLETTER 2021



Chamawaza-Kishamba (Mwatate)- Taita Taveta County trained Disciples

In Jesus Christ we have real peace and hope, not a naive attitude that fails to see the realities of life. In a world starving for peace and hope, men and women will be drawn to the Christ whose resurrection makes peace and hope possible. He said to his disciples. *“Peace and power are given to you therefore go and make disciples in all nations”*. Our full commitment to discipleship leads others to joy, peace and hope. In the month of May, PHARP is blessed to have

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engaged in various activities that allowed 108 participants to receive the peace and hope that is much needed in our communities.

On 7th and 8th: A two-day discipleship and conflict transformation training was held at Kakuyuni. The training brought together 26 participants who had initially started the class with Discipleship and were trained on peacebuilding and conflict transformation. As a result, the participants set aside time to engage in door-to-door outreach activity in the community for the purpose of bringing closer the peace of God among men.



Top left: Pastor Syria (former trainee of PHARP) teaches on the conflict analysis. Right: Field Officer Samuel conducts a group discussion



Below left: A disciple illustrates a presentation. Right: trained participants in group discussion.

On 9th and 15th: Discipleship sessions were held at Church of God prophecy-Mashimoni and Kibera Baptist in Gatwekera-Kibera slum with 25 leaders from the two local congregations being empowered and equipped with best practices of conducting ministry.

*Testimony: Pastor Onyango from Church of God Prophecy is very much grateful for the discipleship trainings taking place in the church. These teachings have attracted 10 leaders from within the church. Before this, I was struggling to raise committed leaders to the ministry. But as we speak now, when PHARP team representative visited us on 9th of this month, she found 9 leaders being trained on the principle of Time, Truth and Trust (**found in the Finding your place in the world manual**). Am grateful that I myself was trained by PHARP and tSOAR and am now training my own leaders to be better equipped and empowered, thus have a healthy church.*



Left: Pastor Onyango training his leaders. Right: leaders of Church of God Prophecy in training



Top left: accumulated rubbish by a railway line in Kibera slum. Right: A section of Kibera Baptist demolished to make way for the main road.



Left: Participants from Kibera Baptist church in a training session. Right: group discussions



Left: Trained Disciples at Church of God Prophecy-Mashimoni. Right: Trained participants at Kibera Baptist Church

On 19th: PHARP peace coordinator Rev. Kitis a trained peace ambassador and disciple maker in Kiaty Constituency- Baringo County, held a half day peace forum with 35 community members in attendance who included: the local chief, local invited pastors, teachers and elderly women. There has been high insecurity in the area, but the peace ambassadors with support of the local administration have been engaging in dialogue and conflict resolution with conflicting parties. With the support of some Ministry partners, these community members received relief food that would sustain them for a week. The distribution was done in the midst of heavy downpour of rain, but we are grateful for the success of the meeting. Invited members agreed to work together for peace in their immediate community. Please help us to pray and support this community.



Left: Local leaders including Rev. Kitis addressing the community members present at Chepkalacha ACK church. Right: Some leaders distribute food to an elderly mother

On 25th to 28th: A two-day training on Peace and discipleship was held at Kishamba (Mwatate), Taita Taveta County, which brought together 22 local leaders and religious leaders to learn and be empowered on Peacebuilding and discipleship skills. These leaders had the sole purpose of bettering their personal lives and ministries in order to reach many more disciples. What stood out during the group discussions and class sessions was that: peacebuilding and discipleship should not be so much a program that some sign up for, instead it should be the culture of the church, where every member aims at helping others become more like Christ. It begins in our homes, with parents evangelizing and disciplining their children. It should ripple out through the entire church, where we all are helping one another grow in godliness.



Participants in group discussion.



Group representatives make presentations: how can we help the local church move toward a culture of peace and discipleship.

ACROSS THE BORDERS OF KENYA DISCIPLESHIP WORK

Tanzania- Arusha: Rev. Pallajo who is the chairman of Counsel Pentecost Churches of Tanzania (CPCT) in Arusha, after the discipleship training that took place in February 2021 was greatly challenged on how to effectively do discipleship and reach the unreached in the church and within community. As he was praying one night, the words ‘widows’ kept flashing in his head. Through much prayer and sharing with his wife; it was the Holy Spirit prompting him to reach out to the widows within the Pentecostal Church of Faith. This category of women is never given much attention. They are regarded as normal church attendees. To his amazement when the announcement was made that he needs to meet any widows and widowers that are in the church, 9 came forward (8 widows and 1 widower). Hence on 13th a discipleship group and ministry to the widows and widowers was started. Pastor and his wife have purposed to walk with these women every week as well share with them whatever the Lord blesses them with. On May 12th, these widows received the word of God, as well clothing and food from friends of the church.



Rev. Pallajo and wife (seated) with the pioneers of the widows/widower discipleship ministry within the church.

Blantyre, Malawi: When PHARP team encountered Rev. Victor for the first time in 2018, he was a very bitter pastor. He had served God for most of his youth up until when he was blessed with a family. He experienced ministry betrayal he had not anticipated at any one given time. A conflict arose in church (Banda Assemblies of God) that saw him loose all members and church leaders and only remained with one old lady who was crippled for that matter. During the discipleship training in 2018, he had so many unanswered questions; but through teachings and walking with him, he was able to regain confidence to start all over again. This month, he sent a very exciting testimony. Other than the one old lady who remained in the church, God sent him 6 new church attendees. Through the teachings received from PHARP/tSOAR, he walked with the six. In order to be a disciple multiplier, he started with few, walked with them, built relationship and through this they would do door to door evangelism, hold weekly small group meetings. Today he testifies of God's goodness; the church now has 320 dedicated members and this means that the giving from members has increased and this helps the ministry greatly. Through the dedication of members, they have been able to build the church structure that is honoring God's house although it is not fully completed on the inside.

We learn from Rev. Victor that in order to change the circumstances around us, we need to not only change people but also mobilize them be change agents. I needed to change first, heal from my pain and bitterness. This was not possible on my own but by the help of the Holy Spirit and being open to learn. Thank you, our dear friends, from Kenya and across the borders for being the hands and feet of Jesus to Malawi.



Top left: Sunday service on May 9th. Right; Completed structure of the church (outside)



Below left: Mid-week church service. Right: Rev.Victor (Centre) with a couple to be married in the church

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. Thank God who enabled PHARP staff for work done in the month of May.**
- 2. Thank God for peace and stability in Kenya.**
- 3. Thank the government of Kenya for re-opening churches and schools, as the country is obeying and adhering to the COVID 19 rules.**
- 4. Pray for Rwanda and DR. Congo where thousands of people are Internally Displaced Persons due to eruption of Nyiragongo volcano which is located inside Vulunga national park, near Goma town.**
- 5. Pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.**
- 6. Pray for Burundi which is facing huge return of refugees and violent conflict with rebels from DR. Congo.**
- 7. Pray for PHARP's June activities.**