



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER- 2022



Kimwanga-Bungoma county disciples

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”. (Matt. 5:13-16)

If you are a follower of Jesus living the beatitudes, you matter. You have an important role to play because you are the salt of the earth. Salt preserves and Christians help preserve what is good in the culture. In the ancient world, salt was very valuable: the Greeks thought it contained something almost divine, and the Romans sometimes paid their soldiers with salt. A soldier who didn't carry out his duties “was not worth his salt.” You are a seasoning agent. In a sense, you can bring the distinctive flavor of God's values to all of life. You can make life palatable.

To be effective, we must be involved where we work and where we live. The majority of the time, living according to the beatitudes may make us more successful in work. But we need to be prepared for the times it doesn't. What will we do if showing mercy, making peace, or working for justice jeopardizes our position at work? Withdrawing from the world is no answer for Christians. But it is difficult to live in the world, ready to challenge its ways at any time.

“You are the light of the world.” The job description of a Christian is not only to maintain personal holiness, but also to touch the lives of everyone around us. At work, we touch many people who do not encounter Christ in church. It may be our most effective place to witness to Christ. But we have to be careful about how we witness for Christ at work.

With all these dangers, how can we be salt and light at home, work or ministry and community? Jesus said our light is not necessarily in the witness of our words, but in the witness of our deeds; “good works.” “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father who is in heaven.” The beatitudes have spelled out some of those good works. In humility and submission to God, we work for right relations, for merciful actions, and for peace. When we live as people of blessing, we are salt and light; in the workplace, in our homes, and in our nation.

This month of February, God has enabled the PHARP team to work and minister alongside men and women who yearn to be more empowered in order to live out this calling of being salt and light to hurting homes and communities.

Kibera peacebuilding and discipleship: On 5th and 26th, ongoing peacebuilding and discipleship training in Toi market -Kibera slum is making impact in the lives of the participants. A not so old lady was very much pleased to share her testimony of what the Lord did through her to minister to the pastor and the congregation where she fellowships.

Two weeks ago, we had an all-night time of prayer at the church. In the wee hours of the night, some thieves broke into the church. No one knew who or when they got into the pastor's office and stole his laptop. When morning reached, a few women remained behind to clean and arrange the church. As we were cleaning, the pastor comes and tells us that he is missing a laptop and vital documents. Those cleaning were quick to say that this matter should be reported to the nearest police station.

But this old lady in deep thought said; 'since we have been here all night praying to God to heal our land, let us stop what we are doing and praying to our God to show us who and where this laptop is.

So, they all got on their knees to pray, including the pastor. After 30 minutes or so; the lady stopped the others and showed them a revelation she had got. 'Brothers and sisters, God has shown me where the laptop is, let us go there'. All who heard were confused, but they followed the old lady. As they kept going, pastor started realizing that they are heading towards one of the deacons' homes. Pastor then asked the old lady; 'mama, are you sure where you are taking us?'. The old lady replied; 'yes am sure where am going because this is the revelation. In fact, when we get there, one of us should go straight to the deacon's bedroom, and under the pillow you will find what has been lost'.

True to her word, the deacon was found at home and the theft narrated to him. At first, he was defensive; but the old lady requested that they check and if nothing is found, then the God she believes in will be shamed. One of the women who had accompanied the pastor went directly to where she was told, upon her return, she had the laptop in her hand.

You would imagine the deacon was taken to the police! Instead, the pastor asked him to kneel down and was prayed for. Out of shame, the deacon apologized and sought to step down from leadership and go through a restoration program.

What does this testimony teach us? We ought to have a strong faith in the word of God and to fully trust in God. This old lady was used of God to bring light and peace into this home and the church. Her maturity in the word of God and relationship with God, shows a woman who is fully surrendered and abides in God.



Left: Mama Patience sharing her testimony. Right: small group discussion

Bungoma Discipleship: On 17th to 20th, a continued peacebuilding and discipleship training that began in October 2021 brought together 35 men and women at Full Gospel Church- Kimwanga. Participants studied in detail how to grow into maturity. These men and women serve in an environment where the congregants look up to the pastor to lead them in everything. The pastors were therefore learning how to start small discipleship groups, which meet during the week for prayer and study of the word. The pastors were encouraged not to be Sunday centric, but invest time

in a process that grows and inspires their members to spiritual maturity.

Pastor George was very much challenged on the need to form small groups. I have learnt that if am to grow in the word and my members are to grow too, then I have to be intentional in forming small groups, have material that can help the members read God's word. Am learning that we are here to be empowered on how to help our members to grow deep to reach wide. Natural progression of our lives is to grow to maturity.

*Am grateful for this tool; **'Finding your place in the world'**. When I read it, I should be able to pause and listen to what God is teaching me. This material will help me and my family to stay focused on our spiritual growth. Amongst my pastoral friends, none of us has reached there yet and this is why we are here to be trained and be intentional in our pursuit of Jesus Christ. These teachings have also been very beneficial because the facilitator encouraged us to be people of peace; in what we say and do especially during this time of presidential campaigns. As leaders we are called to teach sound doctrine, pursue righteousness, be a people who seek to unify and prevent violent conflict, be humble and take care of our families.*



Top left: PHARP team member illustrating a point on leadership and influence. Top right: one of the small group discussions on 'surrender'

Bottom left: small group discussion on the cost of discipleship. Bottom right: pastor George giving his testimony

Thyolo, Blantyre-Malawi discipleship testimony

PHARP is always blessed and encouraged when we receive testimonies of what God is doing in the lives and ministries of those trained in Blantyre, Malawi. The impact stories are a confirmation that the strength and influence of the church in Blantyre is wholly dependent upon its commitment to authentic discipleship and through this, its producing transformed lives and seeing these lives reproduced in others.

Pastor Bwino shared his testimony as below:

Here in Thyolo-Malawi, we just survived a disaster caused by heavy rains. Most of our Christians were affected with floods that took away animals, destroyed houses (because most are made of mud) and the roads were not passable. Now we have many families that have been left homeless. About 17 families are now sheltering at the church compound. Please pray with us for strength and encouragement as we start to rebuild the homes after the floods.

Apart from this sad news, God has been helping my wife and I to visit with members to pray with them and encourage them amongst our ten church branches. Am happy that I can carry my wife on the motor cycle and we go together for ministry. I thank God who enabled me to be trained on discipleship; because when I teach God's word and visit small groups formed, am alert to identify various gifts amongst the members.

In one of the churches in Mchenga, we have a member very gifted to sing. After talking with her, she told me that she has many songs written but does not know how to put them in an album.

So, I remembered that in the training we had at Mbayani in 2019, there was a young preacher who would lead us well in worship. When I reached out to him, he was very willing to help. Through his help, our church member has an album called 'YEHOVA MTETEZI WANGA' which means 'God is my protector'. I don't know how to send you a copy, but I will keep a copy and when the Lord send you to Malawi again, you shall have it and we pray you will be blessed.



Left: disciplined women and choir leader. Right: copy of the complete women's choir album.

Contacts us: www.pharp.org; +254719275504; ptuyisenge@pharp.org/ info@pharp.org ⁵

Arusha-Tanzania Peacebuilding and Discipleship

“Since the Lord has chosen human agents as disciplers, discipleship must rest on a mutual accountable relationship” said Bishop Pallajo (Arusha-Tanzania). This is one of the areas that Bishop Pallajo is trying to establish with the pastor’s forum in which he is chairman. During the training, a question was asked; *‘do pastors need discipling?’*. This question was critical to me, because in the pastor’s forum we have been having latent conflicts, but if not addressed early enough, we may have a split pastors forum. So, beginning this year, I have taken this task of visiting pastors in various locations, teaching and trying to create an atmosphere of accountable relationship. As a leader, I learnt from our sister in PHARP that the key to effective disciple-making is life on life relationships. The relationship provides the context for practical application as we seek to mentor and walk alongside new believers in the congregation. My prayer is that this new initiative will bear fruit and pastors will be accountable to each other.



Left: Bishop Pallajo doing devotion. Right: the first group of pastors in training- Kisongo, Arusha.

PHARP- JILORE, MALINDI:

JILORE SEWING & TAILORING PROJECT: which was started by PHARP on 15th Jan-2022 in Jilore Kilifi County continues to occupy, equip, and support 15 members by creating employment opportunities for them while at the same time helping them to discover, develop and use their God given talents to better their families. Currently the group is using 5 sewing machines to hone their skill development and marketing stage where they are learning by doing.

The group of 15 has so far been able to make 21 school shirts for a nearby school called Sosioni. They are also getting customers who buy materials from them. This group is very optimistic that once the schools reopen, they will make more sales. We are calling upon friends and partners that may wish to support this group with additional sewing machines for greater impact in community to reach out to us (info@pharp.org or ptuyisenge@pharp.org).

LIGHT OF GOD DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING: The first discipleship session was conducted earlier in January 2022 at Mangarini-Malindi. This second session was held on 25th February with an aim of helping the 21 participants increase their knowledge of Christ, Listening to Jesus better and

helping the church to grow as well the community through evangelism. The trained participants formed three groups that will be meeting weekly for prayer and studying of God's word.



Left: Trained disciples in Mangarini-Malindi. Right: Sewing group in Jilore-PHARP Centre

THANKS GIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We give thanks for continued strength and health to do God's work.
2. We thank God for all of PHARP's partners and friends for continued provision and strength.
3. We give thanks for a women's empowerment group that was launched on 7th February in Kirigu-Dagoretti (Nairobi) with 4 sewing machines.



Group representatives of the PHARP/Kirigu empowerment group.

4. We continue to pray for countries in violent conflict. Remember Ukraine in prayers. We pray that Russia and Ukraine would come to an agreement.
5. Pray for one of PHARP beneficiaries (Pastor Mula) in Malawi who was involved in a motorcycle accident. We thank God for preserving his life.



Injured PHARP beneficiary in Malawi

6. Pray for those who have been displaced due to floods and violent conflict (floods in Rwanda, Malawi and violent conflict in Ukraine).
7. Pray for DR Congo which is experiencing violent conflict with rebels.
8. Pray for the children who are starting one and a half months holiday, that they may have good relationships with their parents.
9. Pray for the presidential campaigns currently ongoing in Kenya and peaceful elections on 9th August 2022.