



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2022



Light of God church- Peacebuilding and discipleship graduands- Vithuguni, Malindi

As we start a new month of May, with all the challenges we face today (war, poverty, declining economies, sickness, death, famine and drought among many), let us be reminded of the Prayer of St. Francis. It is one of the best known and best loved prayers in the world for those that seek peace.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

God tells us to “let the peace of Christ rule.” How incredibly humble of God to place the advancement of his peace in our hands (**a huge responsibility we have been given**).

Of course, God doesn’t require our help to do his work in the world. But he wants us to participate in the glory of Christ’s rule over creation. He wants us to live up to the high calling of peacemaking and disciple making.

This beautiful prayer reminds us of the role we each have. Like all of God’s blessings, the gift of peace is not intended to be something we keep to ourselves. God, who has made peace with a rebellious creation through the death of Jesus calls us to be peacemakers in his world.

Let us challenge ourselves this month and the rest of the year to pray this prayer to our Lord, one sentence at a time, searching our own hearts through this prayer asking God to give us all we need to live this out! May God bless you today as you go out and represent Him in all you are and all you do.

In the month of April, God enabled the PHARP team to contribute towards making peace within various communities. We celebrate 48 empowered and equipped disciple makers who graduated on two different occasions. These two events brought together approximately 200 indirect beneficiaries who heard testimonies of what God has been doing in the lives of those taught and how they will seek to execute what they learnt in their communities.

On 21st to 23rd: 20 participants from the Light of God church- Malindi, were among the 150 community members who had been invited at the PHARP Centre- Jilore, Malindi.

This great day sought to encourage and emphasis on the need to be exemplary peace makers and disciple makers.

On this day, a new discipleship group in the areas graduated after three months extensive training on peacebuilding and discipleship. Due to the many challenges faced in our personal lives and community, lessons on trauma healing, forgiveness and reconciliation were embedded in the teachings.

*Pst. Lilian who is the lead pastor at Light of God and one of those disciples taught, shared how for a long time she has had harbored unforgiveness in her heart. A church member borrowed her a huge amount of money to cater for a sick child. When the time for payment came, the church member would start to miss church service. But what saddened me is that after three months, I heard from another member that this lady has left our church. Not only did she leave the church, she really tarnished my name. This hurt me very much, to the point I considered to step down from church leadership. Because in the process, I also lost members and friends who believed in the lies of the one I had helped. But in this training, I was helped to understand the importance of forgiveness and laying all my cares and burden at the feet of Jesus. It is easy to preach it to others, but it took much strength for me to do it. Am grateful for the weeks I learnt about 'listening to Jesus'. It's through my quiet time with God using the **'Finding your place in the world'** that I strongly learnt about total surrender to God. Thank you PHARP for taking time to walk with us.*





Top left: the community members listening to devotion word. Right: Pst. Lilian receiving her certificate. Below: the graduating class holding placards of peace (peace is for everyone, we all have a role to play).

On 30th: PHARP team thanks for the four months of peacebuilding and discipleship training in Toi-Market, Kibera slum. It has been a journey of learning and challenges both for the participants and the facilitators.

We thank God that all 28 participants have embraced peace and love as the only to be effective disciple makers.

*Mr. Wycliffe, a teacher by profession in one of the local government schools within Kibera slum was very much appreciative of the course. Apart from getting the certificate that shows the skills I gained, the course challenged me personally. I remember in one of the election periods, the darkest in our nation, this place where we sit was all ashes. The church we sit in was rebuilt from scratch; members had fled. The church started from just the pastor and now we are here because of the hard work put in and the grace of God. Why am I saying this: I say this to encourage us to love one another as ourselves. During the 2007/2008 elections, everything that my family owned was reduced to ashes. This was not done by strangers; my immediate neighbors did it. As you see, we are approaching another election in few months. Already our children in schools know what is happening politically in the country. I urge all of us parents, youths who have been in this class...love your neighbor. Let the trauma of previous elections come to haunt us and make us do what is contrary to what we learnt. Let us be in the business of teaching peace and directing others to Christ. We thank the PHARP office for giving us reading materials; so far, my family and I are using the **'Listening to Jesus'** material, and I stand here to say that am seeing great change in my family. Even before each of my classes, I share a brief of what the Lord has ministered to me on that day. Our teachers and supporters, we will not let you down. The peace t-shirt you have given us, is but a tool that will always remind us who we are in Toi; we are peace ambassadors. Thank you.*



Top left: Calvary of Hope- Toi Market discipleship class. Right: Mr. Wycliffe receives his certificate. Below: graduated participants (left is the lead pastor- Sophy) and others sharing a meal and hearty laugh.

ARUSHA, TANZANIA DISCIPLESHIP: *We are very grateful for the work of God that is being done in Kikatiti. Our pastors and lay leaders were trained and we are seeing good results so far. One of our young pastors in training that was trained and charged to go start a church plant in Kisongo was faced with some challenges. This church started meeting in a hired hall but we were able to get a small piece of land for them. They then put up an iron sheet structure. A week before I and some other pastors visited to pray and launch the church, a strong wind and rains hit the structure and it fell. This was very unfortunate but my team and I were able to draw out some lessons out of this tragedy. We were reminded of the parable of the two builders in Matthew 7:24-27. Those who hear His words, but fail to live by them are foolish builders. They may build grand buildings, but sit on a shaky foundation. The house referred to in this metaphor is for our whole lives. It represents our faith, our vocations, our relationships, our health and many more. The entire house must rest on a solid foundation, not just a few parts.*

so, when we looked at the structure my fellow pastor had set up, there was no solid foundation. We believe that when the rebuilding starts again, the construction team shall dig deeper for a stronger foundation. Am happy that the church members learnt and are more willing to work together for a better outcome. Please remember us in your prayers - Bishop Pallangiyo



The fallen church at Kisongo-Arusha

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We give thanks for God's provision of strength and resources to do the ministry through friends and partners.
2. We give thanks for the long-awaited rains in Kenya.
3. We pray for countries that are going through violent conflicts: DR Congo, Russia and Ukraine among others.
4. We pray for the nation of Kenya as we await the presidential elections in August 2022.
5. We pray for the activities of May