



MAY NEWSLETTER



Peacebuilding and Discipleship participants: Majiga, Blantyre- Malawi- 2022

Long time ago, African people used to make covenants between themselves for safety and protection. Friendship was established for good and bad times and this was practiced from generation to generation.

A time came when a certain man who had made a covenant with his friends got in trouble. When he communicated to his covenant friends, none of them was willing to help him. They all had excuses to make: either they were sick, or some had lost a loved one, or another had no means of getting to him. When he received these discouraging messages from his friends, he resulted to committing suicide.

Today, we see a lot of uncertainty within the families, communities and the nations. Recently, in the news we witnessed a shooting in Texas, USA in a school. So much evil and pain are on the rise. So many people are walking and living in hopelessness; in such cases what is your role, what is my role before we all leave this world? Psalm 62:5-6 tells us that: *"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress; I will not be shaken."*

Let us all turn to God and find our strength and encouragement from Him today and always.

In the month of May, PHARP team was enabled to share the love of God through various platforms. Thank God with us and continue to pray for the ministry as we all soldier on.

On 11th to 14th: PHARP held a peacebuilding and discipleship training at the Jesus Outreach Ministries in Majiga, Blantyre-Malawi. This training brought together 62 pastors and among them were also some professionals desiring to know more about discipleship invited from 21 denominations through the Pastor's Peace Fellowship (PPF).

As in any place today in the world, these pastors were greatly troubled and hopeless with the hardships and evil happening in the world. However, through out the days of learning and sharing, we were constantly reminded that our God is not too far to reach. The promise in Romans 12:12 kept reminding us to: ***"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."***

Among the participants was a medical doctor who asked for three days off so that he may attend the training. On two occasions his pastor friends had shared with him how they greatly benefited from the trainings held in 2018 and 2019. Since he has the desire to serve in ministry, he requested to be considered. This is what he said on the last day of training:

When my Abusa (pastor) called to say that a PHARP training is upcoming, I was very much happy. I quickly asked for the dates so that I may communicate with my supervisor. I had heard so much about the peacebuilding and discipleship training. I learnt that I don't have to quit my job in order to be a disciple maker or a peacemaker. Since am a doctor, I encounter patients every day, this means that am already entrusted with people to disciple. When I understood the true meaning of the Great Commission: I have all authority to teach, I go to all nations (my work place), I use any strategy to preach the gospel (in my case it is through health) and the season of

discipling is always. I was very much challenged and encouraged to know that as a Christian am qualified to be a disciple-maker. I also learnt that in order to be an effective disciple maker and peacemaker, I need to be intentional in my relationship with God. Not only worship on Sunday, but everyday spend time with God. The lesson on listening to Jesus and the guiding tSOAR (time, truth, trust, obey, surrender, abide and reconcile) given was very helpful. I am leaving this training feeling challenged and yet encouraged to use my skills and work place to teach and make disciples of my patients. Whether it's through praying for them or giving them a word of encouragement, because I have spent time in God's word myself. Thank you very much.



Left: Dr. Chimpango in training. Middle: sharing his testimony. Below right, PHARP facilitator in discipleship session. Left: pastors sharing in a group discussion

18th to 20th: Susan and Claudette from PHARP visited Jilore in Malindi, Kilifi County to conduct a monitoring and evaluation of seven groups comprising 134 beneficiaries trained in peace building and disciple-making. They met with group leaders who shared the impact and challenges of the skills and knowledge obtained during training in June 2021 to May 2022.

CONTACT US: INFO@PHARP.ORG. +254722851674/ +254719275504. WWW.PHARP.ORG 3

Solidarity was evidence among community members which was not there before; as life has become hard and unbearable, trained members better understood the importance of working together and praying together. The community which was very much characterized by high levels of witchcraft, leading to mistrust, sickness and even deaths is now seeing more change and genuine concern for each other and members working together. Small groups were formed to help with the study of God's word twice a week. Cases of incest behavior which is culturally practiced and accepted in the area has decreased because they gained knowledge for its effects at a family and community levels. Local administration testified that two or three cases are reported monthly, while before each day there were always more than ten cases. We thank God for improved relationship and open-door communication between the local administration and community members due to the joint peacebuilding and conflict resolution trainings given in the area.

The sewing and bakery activities started in the area became a bridge for peace and disciple making within community members and institutions (secondary schools) around the area. It was one of the ways of reaching those outside the church and showing them God's love in practical ways.

I am a youth member of PHARP bakery group. I thank God for PHARP and the opportunities I was given to learn and share the word of God. I obtained skills and knowledge about peace and discipleship and I am using them in my daily life. My friends at school, family members can testify that the lessons have changed my life. I started a peace club at school, and when I share how I can bake bread, my colleagues are impressed with my skills and want to associate with me. Last month April I received my discipleship certificate and this greatly impressed my youth pastor who had sought the opportunity for me. I now have more responsibilities of taking my discipleship group through the 'Listening to Jesus program'. I enjoy it very much studying the word of God with my friends and family. Am grateful to all those that made it possible for me to be empowered as a youth- Baraka.

Friends, let us continue to pray for this community as drought in the area has affected many things including the river which was the main source of water for farming. Water has become a big issue in the area. This situation has caused irregularities among members who attend bible study, since some members go far in search of food and water.





Above left: group leaders with Madam Suzanne. Middle: some of the group leaders. Below left: part of the sewing group members. Below right: Youth bakery group

On 24th: Claudette from PHARP visited a woman group in Kona Baridi, Kajiado West. This group of 7 members were trained in peace building and discipleship making. Due to Covid-19 the group stopped meeting but now they have resumed weekly meeting. They were engaged in poultry farming, unfortunately their 54 chickens were all swept away by an outbreak in the area. In their resilience, they bought a male and female sheep. This helps them to come together; pray, study the word of God and even share about their life situations which has helped them to reduce on stress levels. One of the women members is vying for Member of the County Assembly (MCA) position in her community. We commit her to the Lord in prayer.



Left: Stock of sheep and goats for the Kona Baridi group: Left: Beneficiary (in Pink) with Claudette vying for MCA position.

On 21st to 4th June: KURVE-Germany: PHARP team is grateful for its friends and partners. Through one of the partners, PHARP staff Pelagie was invited among others from Nepal, South Sudan and Germany to attend two practitioner trainings in ‘*Realizing Gender Equity*’ and ‘*Facilitation of conflicts*’ at KURVE Wustrow- Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action- Germany. The trainings are a great resource because they address organizations and individuals working in conflict transformation and civil conflict resolution and impart knowledge and skills for a more effective peace work. Through meeting various participants from all over the world, the trainings aim at building capacities in leaders of conflict transformation and peacebuilding around the world.



Participants of the ‘Realizing Gender Equity’ session

Thanksgiving and prayer request:

1. We thank God for May PHARP activities which were successful and new opportunities for networking.
2. We thank God for peaceful presidential campaigns going on in Kenya.
3. We continue to pray for DR Congo for the violent conflict to stop caused by rebellion within the country and affecting mostly women and children.
4. We continue to pray for Ukraine and Russia for an amicable solution to their differences in a peaceful manner.