



AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2022



Peacebuilding and Discipleship class of Shimo la Tewa-Kibera Slum, Nairobi County

A story is told of a Peregrine falcon bird which is among the fastest birds on earth. A competition of animals was called by the forest King, and since this bird knew it was the fastest, then it boasted of winning.

The frog came forward and asked to be allowed into the competition, but to be given few days to prepare; and this wish was granted. As the frog prepared, he called together all his family members and placed them in specific places along the racing track. Anywhere the Peregrine Falcon reached and he flapped his wings as the winner, the frogs would make a sound, then it would know that the frog is ahead. This made the bird to increase its speed beyond its limit until it got tired and gave up.

If we emulate the frogs, they had strategy of winning the race. As peacemakers and disciple makers, may we also have strategy on how to grow deep and reach wide.

Let us be salt and light wherever the Lord has placed us, so that the enemy (the devil) will find us alert and the Great Commission we have been given of making disciples in all nations is achieved.

In the month of August, peace ambassadors and disciple makers working closely with PHARP placed themselves strategically; be it Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi and America to preach and teach the good news of the gospel, bringing healing and reconciliation to the nations.

On August 27th: Mashimoni, Kibera: Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. The peacebuilding and discipleship class was honored to be visited by Karen, Africa Area Director with International Ministries. She was grateful to hear from the participants on what they are doing in the Shimo la Tewa community to enhance peace and make disciples. Karen encouraged the participants to know that God knows each one and their needs individually. Just like God knew of the bended woman for 18 years or the bleeding woman for 12 years, each of us is important to God.



Left: PHARP staff, Karen and pastor Timothy at Shimo la Tewa street. Right: encouragement from visitor Karen.

Various testimonies were given, including Pastor Timothy, who had this to say:

” Am very passionate about peace in our country, because am living in this community as a result of the post-election violence in 2007/2008 which took about 1,300 lives and properties destroyed. I am homeless because my house was torched down and more so I lost my seven-year-old daughter due to this violence. So am very passionate about preaching and teaching peace and making disciples of Jesus Christ. In our church, the youths, women and men all partnered with other churches to organize peace walks, show the Jesus film as a tool for promoting peace and co-existence and impress on the youths the need of exercising their civic duty of voting, then going home to patiently wait for the results. Am glad to say that no violence was experienced in our community.’



Pastor Timothy (Shimo la Tewa) at soccer field encouraging youths to go and vote peacefully

Youths too were greatly involved in preaching peace.

“As a youth, am grateful that the church leaders and community leaders like the chief brought us close. They entrusted us to keep peace and be peaceful. We were taught and invited to forums that taught us the need to keep peace and how to vote wisely. As youths we agreed that we shall embarrass the leaders and not engage in violence. And one of the ways to do this, was to vote and go home. You would not see any groups of youths after voting. The few that wanted to cause trouble were not successful, because they lacked numbers. We agreed to direct our energies to more constructive things, like weekly prayers in the church when the pastor called us. We watched short films of what violence did to families, communities and the entire nation. So, we

resolved that, unless the politicians bring their children to fight, then we shall not engage in violence. When we die, it's our parents and siblings who are left torn apart. Am grateful that am part of this class that has taught me to trust and surrender to God.

Steve a youth leader shared that as youths in Shimo la Tewa, we jointly agreed ‘*we are Kenyans, we are voters, we are living in a God-fearing country, we deserve good leadership and we need to commit to peaceful elections. This was our guiding motto. Let the youths not bleed for the leaders to lead*’.



Left: Lilian giving her testimony. Right: participants listen to Steve's resolve with other youths

On August 22nd: Jilore, Malindi: We thank God for enabling PHARP staff (Madam Susan) visit with Jilore, Malindi group leaders. This follow -up done greatly encouraged the leaders to know that their work is not in vain. They shared on the challenges and successes of working in a heated political period. The efforts done to keep peace were; much prayer, weekly meetings to study the bible and regular talks with their youths and family members. As mothers, we gave time curfews of when everyone should be in the house until the election results were announced. We are happy to say that no violence was experienced in our community and even in Malindi itself. Thank you for walking alongside us.



Left: Madam Susan fellowshiping with group leaders. Right: Youths in their weekly discipleship meeting

PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN MALAWI

Rev. Mkwate from the Ntambayana church-Blantyre started a ministry that visits with high schools to teach the word of God and pray with them. One school named ECOM MURRAY PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL invited him to do weekly bible studies with the students. It's a new school with four classes (from one to four) started by the Evangelical Church-Malawi with a student population of 46.

As a pastor and disciple maker, I was invited to the first graduation of form four students and this was a great avenue to speak blessings and urge these young men and women to be peace ambassadors and disciple makers in their communities.



Left: The graduating form fours during a discipleship session. Right: the head of school bidding the graduands farewell

PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Bishop Palajo, a part time lecturer at a bible school in Kikatiti, Arusha, saw the importance of approaching the college administration to consider including peacebuilding and discipleship lessons in the curriculum. He was tasked to start the program and early August the class began with 12 students.

We are grateful for what God is doing in our communities with these teachings. More students and even church members are being intentional to being peace ambassadors and disciple-makers.



Students read the Great Commission as a pledge to be intentional disciple makers

PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN RWANDA

Believers of United Churches of God in Christ from Kimonyi, in Musanze District and Jenda met at Jenda to study the word of God together. The 60 participants included women, youth, choir and prayer group leaders. Pastor Anastase of PHARP-Rwanda on invitation by Bishop Jean Baptiste conducted workshop. The aim was that these leaders who are Jesus' disciples be reminded of the important mission given to them by Jesus of making all people – disciples by teaching them what Jesus has taught and by living the Christian values that Jesus wants his disciples to live, given that moral values in today's world and, in their communities are declining. So, they are - salt and light – for the world

Participants agreed that more of; truth, love, compassion, gentleness, kindness, justice, humility, hospitality, generosity, reconciliation, forgiveness, friendship, hope, joy, patience and hardworking are needed in the church today. The participants appreciated the workshop which renewed their hearts and souls, and gave them new strength to serve the Lord.



Left: Rev. Anastase facilitating a group discussion. Right: participants sharing lessons learnt

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. We thank you our friends and partners who stood with the organization and nation of Kenya to pray for peaceful elections. We continue to pray for the ongoing petitions at the supreme court.**
- 2. Pray for the new elected leaders in Kenya for peace and unity as they work together for the citizens of Kenya.**
- 3. Continue to pray for DR Congo, Russia, Ukraine and Ethiopia.**
- 4. Pray for the students and teachers in Kenya who have faced difficulties during the period of elections and after.**
- 5. Pray for a relief in the high costs of living all over the world.**