



JULY NEWSLETTER 2022



Tsavo Deanery peacebuilding and discipleship graduates held at ACK Kaloleni-Voi

Introduction:

There was a man called Caleb born without legs and arms. At the age of 18 while he was outside the house a heavy rain was about to fall and nobody was around to help him get into the house. He started having bad thoughts that nobody wanted him anymore, he was useless and so people were tired of helping him. In the midst of bad thoughts, he decided to commit suicide.

As Caleb was contemplating suicide, he saw a man coming towards him with open arms. When this man reached where Caleb was, he asked him to request for whatever he may want before taking his own life. "I want legs, I want arms, I want to walk, I want to stand, I want to touch, I want to carry things", Caleb continued to request.

The man told him that he will receive both his legs and arms on one condition; that every evening Caleb would spare one hour at 3:00 pm and come meet with him for fellowship. Caleb in all his excitement said yes to the condition. The visitor pronounced a word immediately and Caleb got his legs and arms, stood up and started jumping up with excitement. Both went out together until they reached a small village nearby. The first week up to fourth week both parties kept their promise and met as agreed.

The fifth week Caleb's friends who saw him walking came to congratulate him and requested him to go out for celebration. Out of excitement he agreed to accompany them. The fellowship was so nice that he forgot his daily appointment with his other friend. The following day he remembered the meeting, but he felt tired to go and so decided to rest. The third day out of guilt went for the appointment at 3:00pm, unfortunately the friend was not there. He returned home and while he was on his bed resting, he realized that his legs and arms had gone. He started crying and calling his friends but nobody was concerned to come. In this scenario, who would take the blame?

We too on a day-to-day basis, our relationship with God is similar to Caleb and his friend. We call out to God in times of trouble, but when we are out of the deep waters, we forget about our God. Similarly, we need to take our Salvation seriously and the mandate given to each one to go and make disciples. Our fellowship with Christ is not based on when we feel like it, it's an intentional commitment to daily be in fellowship with Him.

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your Salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" Philippians 2: 12-13.

On 5th to 7th: PHARP team travelled to Voi Sub- County in Taita Taveta County for a peacebuilding and discipleship graduation with the Tsavo Deanery ACK church. The 67 graduands have for the last five months been going through extensive teachings on conflict transformation, leadership, discipleship and Christian counseling (Trauma healing).

Elder Stella who was one of the beneficiaries who graduated was full of much joy as she shared her testimony: *When I stand before you all, am full of much joy. I did not know that such a day as this would come. When I joined the class in March, it was because my pastor requested me as a church elder. I was not sure what am going to learn at my old age. But I was touched very much when I found that the teachings touch on matters that were troubling me. For a long time, we were not in agreement with my eldest son. The conflict was so bad that he left the home without saying where he was going. Three months I did not know anything about him. This really troubled me and the father. Even the pastor we asked to intervene could not reconcile us.*

But the skills I got from the workshop and the importance of studying the word of God deeply; I started spending more time fellowshiping with God instead of worrying too much. And one evening as I was praying, a phone call came and it was my son. He asked if he could come back home. I have never been overjoyed; even the conflict we had with him was not of a concern for me. I knew that God had answered my prayers of bringing my son home. I personally used the biblical counseling skills we received at training. I was a better listener instead of an accuser. As we talk today, my son is here to witness me graduate. Discipleship is not preaching on the streets and shouting; it is how my relationship with God is and how my character reflects to others. Thank you very much to PHARP that trained us and to all who made it possible for the training to be held in our church. I ask all of us who graduated to be peace ambassadors in our communities during the elections and even after.



Left: Elder Stella receiving her certificate. Right: Stella with other graduands.



Left: Mr. Kilunda celebrating his wife (centre). Right: Happy times with a graduand.

MALINDI PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP WORK



Day of prayer for women and youth leaders

Malindi beneficiaries have been keen on farming and meeting for prayers; prayers for the nation and prayers for the community especially for those beneficiaries who lost loved ones in the course of the month.



Left: Group leaders meet for fellowship. Right: Some of the farming members inspect their corn field

On 2nd and 23rd: Shimo la Tewa ongoing peacebuilding and discipleship training: PHARP team is grateful for the ongoing peacebuilding and discipleship ministry in Shimo La Tewa-Kibera slum. As earlier mentioned, this area in Kibera slum is one of the hotspots for violent conflict especially before, during and after the elections. So far, the beneficiaries are pledging to uphold peace. And this peace shall start from within their families. Men, women and youth all pledged to be the peace agents in their communities. Continue to pray for Kenya as we near the elections, that indeed the peace we preach and teach, shall be manifest in the hearts and minds of the beneficiaries and all the hearers of the word.



Left: participants discuss on trusting God. Right: Claudette taking participants through the 'Listening to Jesus' introduction.

MALAWI PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP TESTIMONIES



Peacebuilding and Discipleship training – Blantyre, Malawi

Pastor Scella Testimony: Chilobwe, Blantyre, Malawi

I was invited by a pastor friend who went through this programme and graduated in August 2021. When he heard that PHARP is starting a new class in 2022, he made sure that I was part of the class.

I am a pastor with Full Gospel Church of God and volunteering at a local bible college started five years ago at Chilobwe Centre. But this college for the last three years has been stagnant, not many new students joining. The school staff has been discouraged and had considered closing the school.

After attending the May session and having several virtual meetings with the PHARP trainer, I approached the school administration and suggested if we can have a leadership and discipleship training for all the staff and lecturers.

The founder of the school then requested me to spearhead the training. We had three days of training, going through all that I learnt in the PHARP workshop and used the notes and guiding materials given.

This three-day session really helped the participants to open up and share what issues could be ailing the school and together we agreed to work together.

Through sharing on how best it is to have weekly prayer groups as staff, we all grow deeper in the word of God and it also encourages the students to follow through.

As I share this testimony, the head of the school appointed me the new administrator of the school to work with teachers and students in order to improve our programs. And one of the things I strongly recommended, is to introduce 'Listening to Jesus' program. This will be a one-hour session that will be done every evening with students divided in small groups after the regular academic program. So far, am seeing good response and cooperation between staff and students.

We also enjoyed the fourth graduation in the school, which we had many visitors showing interest in our programs. I believe that by the time I graduate from this peacebuilding and discipleship course, I will be much better equipped.



Left: staff discipleship group members; Right: a graduand from the college being celebrated at the 4th graduation

Pastor Bwino: Balaka, Blantyre- Malawi

Am grateful to God for this opportunity to share with you what the Lord has been doing in my Life and ministry. I was part of the 2019 class and that time I was a youth pastor in my local church. For some time, I was having difficulty with the youths; because they were not consistent in attending church. When we learnt and discussed the reasons why churches die, I realized that ours was on the verge of dying because we were not having any new converts. Instead, we had a lot of church members migration. Using the 'listening to Jesus' study material and the 'Conflict resolution manual', we formed weekly bible study groups with the youths. They themselves encouraged me to involve them in outreach ministry.

This month, after my wedding to my life-long friend, we had our first outreach missions with the youths. And I was very much challenged: evangelism is not for the old or the pastors, but God can also use the youths. We had several people give their lives to Christ and others being prayed for to be delivered. Am very grateful for the ministry support you give to us.



Left: Pastor Bwino preaching. Right: prayers for deliverance

Pastor Lawrence: Ntambanyama, Blantyre- Malawi



Pastor Lawrence presents newly elected elders to the church

God has been good to me, my family and the church I serve in. We are seeing much growth both in numbers and spiritually.

Since I graduated in 2019 in the peacebuilding and discipleship, I have given myself to building up leaders and these leaders will help me in ministry to teach and build new disciples.

This month, my team and I have been involved in door-to-door evangelism which has not be an easy thing to do. We have walked long distances to reach people, we have crossed rivers without bridges in order to reach people in the remote areas; so that they can know Jesus and receive Him as their personal Lord and Savior.

Through door-to-door evangelism we have met with Muslim brothers and sisters and we thank God that none of them chased us away, instead they gave us time to talk with them and some agreed we pray together. One lady agreed to visit church and learn more about Jesus Christ. Please pray with us that as we follow up with Amina, she will indeed be willing to join us.

We also formed a pastors' forum in Ntambanyama location. It was not easy to bring pastors together for monthly prayers; but they agreed to be meeting once a month to pray and out of this, I was elected the pastor's forum chairman. Pray for me to have wisdom on how to spearhead this new fellowship of pastors from different denominations.

To PHARP, am always grateful for the support that you give me and the ministry. God bless you very much.



Pastor Lawrence about to fold his trousers and cross the river for evangelism

ARUSHA, TANZANIA PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP TESTIMONY



New church plant at Kisimiri- Mt. Meru Arusha

Bishop Palanjo: This month we are very grateful to God. Going by the Great Commission given to us 'to go and make disciples' we are very much thankful that through three months of evangelism and prayers, we were enabled to have a new church plant at Kisimiri- Mt Meru, Arusha. The church has started with 11 families and they meet weekly to study the word of God. We continue to empower and raise leaders amongst us so that the Good News is spread far and wide in our locality.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for His enablement to do ministry in the month of July.
2. We thank God for all friends and partners of the ministry for standing with the ministry.
3. Pray for Kenya as we near the presidential elections on August 9th for peace to prevail.
4. Pray for safety as people travel on the roads to go for voting in their villages.
5. Pray for countries that are facing instability; DR Congo, Russia and Ukraine.
6. Pray for the hard economy that is felt worldwide for God to provide grace to survive.