



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022



Peacebuilding and discipleship graduates at Church of Bethlehem- Shimo La Tewa- Kibra Slum

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In the course of the year, more so the month of August, many people were worried about Kenyan elections that were held on 9th August where the President, Senators, Governors, MPS, Women representatives and MCAs were to be elected the same day. The transitions witnessed this year brought about both positive and negative changes. In the past we witnessed what happened during elections: in 2007/2008 elections about 1300 died while properties were destroyed and the country experienced economic crisis. In 2013 people including children and women died during campaigns, while in 2017 presidential elections were repeated due to malpractices observed.

Today the entire world through television channels, radio, YouTube and newspapers are congratulating Kenya for the recent peaceful elections. Why then do we see this big difference between the recent and the previous elections?

This is because:

1. The religious leaders (Christian, Muslim, traditional, etc.) stood together and preached peace instead of promoting tribes, beliefs, culture, etc.
2. Peace organizations strengthened their efforts and collaborated with religious and the political aspirants for a common goal of the country.
3. The aspirants and community members worked together to raise issues which hinder their better living which means everybody was involved and concerned.

On August 15th IEBC declared the winner while those not satisfied went to Court for their case to be heard and solved. There was no violence observed, and this is a great milestone for our nation as the world over witnessed the maturity of the citizens.

On 5th September 2022, the Chief Justice declared the fifth president of Kenya and on 13th his inauguration took place. This we pray can be an eye opener for other African Countries! It is clear that a change of mind-set helps to change personal and community's understanding.

If we continue the same way of working together; the Great Commission of the Gospel will be easy and reach many because we are brothers and sisters when we are concerned for one another's needs.

In the month of September, at PHARP we are pleased to say that the month brought to us various opportunities to meet with our beneficiaries through several activities outlined below as we shared about peace and the great love of God. We are thankful for the national prayers that were held, small prayer groups formed to pray for the country regardless of denominations and we pray that this new revival will continue.

International Peace Day: This day which is marked every September 21st reminds us that 'the task of building peace belongs to every one of us'- Antonio Guterres. As a nation, a community or a family; we need solidarity, commitment and mutual trust.

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The guiding theme *being “End racism. Build peace”* enlightened us that true peace encompasses not just the absence of violence but the building of societies where all members feel that they belong and can thrive.

This day, 60 PHARP beneficiaries in Jilore-Malindi met to celebrate by committing to observing peace above all differences that may arise amongst them and as a community and to continue contributing to building a culture of peace through the various activities they are engaged in at the Centre. They renewed their pledge of being effective peace ambassadors as well intentional disciple makers. They ended the day with food and prayer.



Left: beneficiaries reflecting on the Peace Day theme. Right: beneficiaries enhance peace through sharing of refreshments

Global mission conference: On September 22nd and 23rd, two staff from PHARP were privileged to attend the Global Mission Conference-Africa held at the Catholic University East Africa in Karen. This was organized by Life in Abundance International among other partners. Participants were from universities, non-government organisations and churches. The conference had a three –fold purpose: to encourage the church in Africa to reach out with the Gospel, use the capacity and potential of a new generation of Christ followers to fully embrace their call and collaborate for the global glory of God. The facilitators were from Africa and Western countries. This helped participants to learn and admire other cultures.

PHARP was able to share with some participants on how peacebuilding and discipleship go hand in hand for the Kingdom of God in our families, communities and national levels. We will continue to follow up the network created with participants.

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left: Pharp team networking with other like-minded organizations: Right: sharing about PHARP ministry to a pastor from Pokot County

Shimo la Tewa graduation: On September 24th marked the end of a four-month (June to September) extensive peacebuilding and discipleship training held at Church of Bethlehem- in Shimo la Tewa-Kibra slum. 49 participants received their certificate of class participation. Before every start of the class, we would remind ourselves and pray that God makes us fishers of men in this community and beyond.

As empowered followers of Jesus, we are indeed to be fishers of men and women in the sense that we are to spread the good news as a net of grace. We are very grateful that this class took place before, during and after the national presidential elections. Through the sessions and interactions, we all learnt that we do not take people against their will, but give them the opportunity to respond to the love of God in Christ.

Through the 4-month peacebuilding and discipleship class, we did not fish people through evangelism, peace walks, Jesus' movie community show in order to kill them like normal fish, on the contrary what we offered in partnership with the participants was life, true life, abundant life, eternal life; the life of the Kingdom of God, the life of God's future. And this was evident on how youths responded to the announcement of the presidential elections. We are grateful to God for using us all to be vessels of peace and love in this community known for being a hot spot of violence.

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Participants incorporated prayers and much in-depth sharing

MALAWI DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH OUTREACH



Resting and refreshment after a door-to-door evangelism in Njale community, Blantyre, Malawi

After the peacebuilding and discipleship training in 2021, I started teaching our church members and leaders on what the Great commission requires of us called by God's name. I had the men, women, youth leaders and others interested in discipleship but not necessarily leaders in the

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church attend discipleship classes for a month. As a result of our interaction with the word of God and 'Listening to Jesus' weekly program; an outreach ministry of door to door sharing the word of God was born. We group ourselves and walk in different places/ locations because others they stay very far and to us it's difficult to reach them but we have tried our best to reach them. There is a major river we cross to reach dry land where the people there are not keen about who God is. Right now, the river is dry, so we don't need a boat to cross it.

In this journey we are facing a lot of challenges like transportation, because we cross the rivers without bridges, we walk and climb hills and through the forest in order to reach the people. However, in all these circumstances, God has been Ebenezer. We are grateful how the organization has stood with us from time to time to make the ministry possible, thank you too and all glory to God. We continue to serve God with joy.



Left: Pastor after crossing the river. Right: a Saturday meeting and prayers after community evangelism

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank God for a peaceful election in Kenya and cabinet in place
2. 23 out of 47 counties in Kenya are experiencing a severe drought. Pray for rain and good wishers to intervene in this hard situation.
3. Pray for DR Congo for rebels to stop violent conflicts in the country.
4. Pray for PHARP's activities in this October

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