



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2022



Peacebuilding and Discipleship graduates at Jesus Outreach Ministries October 2022- Blantyre, Malawi

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Today many African countries are crying out due to the severe drought which is facing several regions such as the Horn of Africa, East and Southern regions. At the same time people are experiencing violent conflicts which are becoming worse as neighboring are getting involved, for example; Rwanda army is in Central African Republic, South Sudan and Mozambique Countries support against linked terrorists known as Al-Shabaab among others.

East Africa Community (Burundi, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) are in Democratic Republic of Congo to fight against more than 123 rebels disturbing the country, while other countries like South Africa, Malawi are preparing to join in the midst of the drought in their nations. We can't forget South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia which are not at rest. They are facing violent conflict and famine too. What can we say about Ukraine and Russia?

We cannot neglect to acknowledge the outbreak of Cholera and Ebola which are ravaging people in Uganda, DR Congo especially among refugee camps and among the Internally Displaced Person (IDPs). In midst of such situations, you may wonder and ask; how then can we give thanks and have a heart of gratitude?

Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart; it may be expressed at personal level, within a group of people, community, nation, etc. It is therefore a choice taken to be thankful or not. We are called upon to give thanks in all our circumstances; despite the challenges we see all around us, a heart of gratitude is thankful to God. We just need to give of ourselves to God and seek from Him what He is teaching us from the situations and circumstances facing us.

The month of October regardless of the challenge of drought, high economic costs; PHARP team in partnership with God were able to equip and empower trainees in peace building, discipleship and follow up training in various counties like Kilifi (Coast region), Kibera in Nairobi, Blantyre in Malawi, Arusha in Tanzania and Burere in Rwanda. God provided through partners and churches which were involved in mobilizing the participants and those who prayed and supported the ministry in kind.

On 20th: The last cohort class of peacebuilding and discipleship was launched at the Christ Harvest Church- Kibera slum. The class registered 25 pastors invited from 9 denominations within the slum. We pray that as we are in the last quarter of the year, when many people are physically, emotionally and spiritually tired, pastors divided within their respective pastors' fellowships, that the Lord shall guide and enable us all to finish well.

My name is Joseph. I joined this class because of the change I saw in my brother. He attended a class held in Mashimoni and so he invited me to try out this new class. He used to be a man of bad character and very violent. I used to say I can't be a follower of Jesus because of his behavior.

*But I was amazed when I attended his graduation and he shared his testimony. But he has been bringing us together as a family and taking us through the **'Finding your place in the world'** and the discussions about the scripture have been enjoyable. It's through this change of my brother that challenged me to join the class. I want to change too; I want to know God more and I want to influence my friends to turn to God.*



Introduction of the discipleship class content.



A session of prayer and the host pastor welcoming the participants

On 21st to 31st: Beneficiaries at the PHARP center in Jilore- Malindi have by faith been clearing and cultivating the land in readiness for the rains. We are trusting and believing that anytime soon the Lord shall open the heavens and rains will come down. People and animals are dying due to the prolonged drought season.



PHARP women beneficiaries preparing the land

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On 24th to 28th: A peacebuilding and discipleship training was held at the Jesus Outreach Ministries-Blantyre, Malawi. 56 participants including pastors from 19 denominations, professionals including teachers and medical doctor were in attendance.

Malawi is currently experiencing Southern Africa's worst drought in 35 years. The drought, combined with unprecedented flooding in January 2015 has devastated the country's harvests.

All pastors expressed the fear of facing food shortages. Most families represented do not have food to last them until the next growing season. Pastors were asking; how else can the organization help them to feed their families.

Pastors are living with much challenges of divisions and conflicts in the church and amongst themselves. Sadly, due to the hunger and scarce resources in the country and within the church, pastors are painting each other badly to spoil one another's ministry. But we were encouraged to partner with God in our everyday affairs. One resounding truth that was evident throughout the course of the training is that; if our faith in God won't work in our homes that we are building, then it won't work elsewhere. Often in life we have very little we can do about national or big matters of global scale, but when we as men and women of God it comes to our own affairs, our own families, our own church, our own immediate local community; then we can do something about it. We purpose to make God foundational in our affairs, especially our home, work and ministry.

The host pastor was greatly humbled for the class in October and the one held in May 2022.

"Since the training started happening in our church, we have seen a great anointing here. My church leaders and selected church members have greatly woken up and committed to the ministry. We have seen the numbers grow and many signing up for evangelism and missions. In May we were taught on a very simple discipleship model: UP-IN-OUT (worship, discipleship and mission). I am happy that we are many men and women of God from various denominations. We were taught how to work together for the glory of God. No competition or back-biting in the things of God. We were charged to be ambassadors of Christ, to be intentional disciple makers. Through these teachings, I got an invitation to speak at a church in Maputo- Mozambique. It was not easy since it was in a period where there were violent conflict and people being be-headed. My family and church were worried. But because the Lord had provided the opportunity, I went out by faith. I thank God that I obeyed the call of God and 39 souls came to Christ.

As Paul was a tent-maker, I also run a small business to support the needs of the family, but every Wednesday lunch hour, we close shop and my 5 staff have 45 minutes of reading the bible and praying. This was never the case before, every hour counted for us to make profit. But our facilitator taught the meaning of taking a pause and listening to what Jesus is teaching us from our every day circumstances. Am pleased to say that our customer care service has improved and our records are reading well. There are blessings in being deliberate to abide in God's word and to surrender everything to Him.

The role of the church in its prophetic ministry in Malawi needs to be revived and even emphasized, naming sin by its name and pointing to the will of God for all his people in all parts of the country.

I am bishop Makawa. I was recently ordained by our overall overseer who saw growth in me. This was the third attempt for me to be ordained. The teachings in May really inspired me not to chase and work for titles, but to work hard at my salvation and growth in the word of God. My leadership skills, spiritual growth and knowledge played a key role in my appointment.

Even though am elderly, but its not age that made me a bishop, but my knowledge and skills displayed. After my appointment, I was then transferred to a struggling church near the border of Malawi and Mozambique. The hearing God program has given me order in how I conduct our weekly discipleship classes and this is helping me to grow the church. I also enjoy the notes and group discussions we have with our teacher via WhatsApp; as pastors we were given this platform to ask questions and get clarity on certain issues. Thank you to the organization and the partners who made it possible for us to have these teachings.



Left and right: training sessions on day one and two



left: Women ministry leader receiving certificate. Right: Visit with a local college faculty discipleship group



left: Bishop Makawa giving his testimony. Right: Medical doctor Yohannes receiving his certificate

On 17th and 18th: a two-day discipleship forum was held at Magadini, Arusha-Tanzania by Bishop Palajo, PHARP beneficiary. He facilitated a men's seminar on day one and a women's seminar on day two. Both days he emphasized the benefits of serving God, living out a godly character first in the homes then in the community. As agents of peace and disciple makers, our character should be Christ like. In November we have a similar two-day forum for youths.

Am grateful to our teacher who has not failed to do a follow-up with me. I share my prepared notes with her and she helps me to see where to strengthen and put emphasis. To be an effective disciple maker, we have to be open to learn everyday from people and circumstances that God allows us to encounter.



Left: one of the men's discussion groups. Right: women praying for families and the nation of Tanzania

PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP –PHARP, RWANDA OCTOBER



DISCIPLES OF BURERA DISTRICT-RWANDA

Believers from different churches, met at Cyanika in Burera District on October 31st 2022 to study the word of God together. Cyanika is near the border of Uganda, in North –East of Rwanda.

The workshop brought together 62 women, men, and youths. Pastor Anastase, Bishop Jean Baptiste, and Pastor Didier guided the groups in this bible study workshop. The theme of the day was ‘growing mature to the stature of Christ by living godly values taught by Jesus. Matthew 5:1-16 was studied in groups and the participants discussed the values that Jesus has taught in these verses.

Much time was spent on ‘Being salt and light to the world’. Some of the values these believers said are in ‘salt and light’ include - Love, truth, humility, peace, joy, compassion, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, integrity, justice, patience, hope, faith and surrender to Jesus Christ.

This time of studying the word of God together was fruitful as all the participants said they want to grow deep in God’s word and be able to reach out to their neighbors with the word of God. Thank you for your prayers and support.



Groups discussions on the scripture of Matthew 5:1-16



Rev. Anastase handing out bibles and right, joyful singing and celebration

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We thank God for His faithfulness for the month of October and we praise God for a new month of November.
2. We thank God for God's sustenance during the challenges of drought and economic challenges.
3. We thank God for partners, friends of the ministry and the beneficiaries involved in peace work and disciple-making.
4. We continue to pray for peace to prevail in Russia, Ukraine, DR Congo, Mozambique, Somalia, Ethiopia and all nations that are not stable.
5. Continue to pray for rains in Africa, as we heavily rely on farming; the drought has wiped out a lot of animals and even people.
6. Continue to pray for Kenya as the new Cabinet was set up, that the leaders may all deliver what they promised to the citizens.
7. Pray for all students (primary and secondary) preparing for national exams in November.