



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2023



Newly launched and commissioned: Peace, Discipleship and Development Centre- PDADC, Jilore-Malindi.

Once upon a time in Manyenya forest found in Tanzania, there happened to be a foolish man who decided to burn the forest. This made all the animals to scatter for dear life running in different directions for safety. All the animals reached the edge of the river and suddenly stopped without

knowing what to do. As the smaller animals were standing there perplexed, a huge elephant came and stopped near them. Because of its height and weight, it was able to slowly cross the river.

A rabbit which was close by, heard the elephant say that it will try to cross the river, so it quickly jumped and sat on the back of this huge elephant. Together they slowly crossed and anytime the water tried to reach the back of the elephant it would tell the rabbit to hang on tightly on its wide ears. Finally, the elephant and rabbit were able to reach to the other side with much joy and dancing.

Likewise in our case today, the world is faced with so many challenging problems like; violent conflicts, climate change, high cost of living, unheard of and incurable diseases, rebellion among children and parents, poor relationships among neighbors, mass shootings taking place in schools, hospitals, shopping malls and churches and other open spaces for gathering just to mention but a few.

The rich and poor are all worried except for those who put their trust in God. The rabbit was saved by taking a leap of faith and trusting the huge elephant; we too we need not to focus on what is happening around us that is not working, but to put our trust in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Since we believe in the one true God, we are tasked with the Great Commission of going out to spread the good news and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

In the month of April, God enabled PHARP team to carry out activities that contributed to the strengthening of churches, communities through launching and commissioning of a peace and discipleship training centre, as well bringing hope to the vulnerable within community. All this is attributed to the glory and honor of God.

On April 1st and 29th: Through the peacebuilding and discipleship training program held in Kibera slum (the second largest slum in Africa) aims to empower and equip at least 150 leaders from 5 locations within Kibera slum, with necessary skills and knowledge to serve as effective agents of change in their communities.

The first class of 25 trained religious and community leaders which commenced in February 2023 and now graduated in April. It is our hope and desire that these men, women and youths who dedicated their time to acquire knowledge and skills in peacebuilding and discipleship will indeed go out of their comfort zones and be effective peace ambassadors and disciple makers.

On this day, am so overwhelmed with mixed emotions. When the class started, I was not sure if I would be able to finish. I was having problems at work, problems at home. But I don't know why the pastor insisted that I attend the class. In church I serve in the team that ensures chairs and the church are clean for Sunday service. But as we were learning about discipleship, I learnt that it doesn't matter who I am, what I do or where I leave, what matters is that I have a heart to serve, a heart to learn. These three months have been a great eye opener for me. In the period of learning, I came to discover that am actually gifted in teaching, something I didn't know before but my pastor had seen it in me. Am grateful to my pastor and to this organization that were so patient with me and teaching me. I am ready to lead a small group studying God's word using the study material we were given 'Finding your place in the World'. Who knew this day would come when I receive a certificate; thank you very much. Mwendwa Tito

As we prepare to start the next class of 30 in May in Lindi-Kibera, we ask that you our reader and friend of the ministry stand with us in prayer for the following:

- For faithful, available and teachable trainees who will bring impact in their various areas of calling.
- For grace and wisdom upon the facilitators, church and community leaders.
- For provision to cater for the various needs within the organization and in the community
- For God's presence during the trainings and as those commissioned go out to carry out the Great commission
- For the remaining participants who need the training during the course of the year to be strengthened and of sound mind.



Top left: Mwendwa sharing his testimony. Right: learning taking place



Left: Rev. Felicien Nemeyimana and Suzanne (PHARP team) handing out certificates. Right: graduated peace ambassadors and disciple makers

On 12th to 14th April: A journey that began in 2008, 15 years ago of envisioning a peacebuilding and training centre, came into being on April 14th in Jilore, Malindi. 202 community members among them religious and community leaders from Nairobi, Taita-Taveta and Kilifi counties were present to witness the doing of the Lord. As we bless God for our establishment in Malindi, let us remember the families of those that have perished through the occultic teachings of a Pastor who began his work amongst the people of this County. Recent reports indicate that more than 70 bodies have been recovered from shallow graves on the farm of Pastor McKenzie, a Kenyan cult leader whose operations began in this same County. Some few others were rescued before they succumbed to death by starvation even though some didn't make it as the authorities continue to recover more bodies from the said farm.

The recent reports are worrying, because they almost bring the truth home that the Church might be a mile long but only an inch deep in its growth. The desperation among citizenry for significance and fulfilment has been one of the factors that the proponents of the prosperity gospel have managed to exploit. The subtlety by which this is done has many following without any use for spiritual reasoning like it would be with the Bereans of the New Testament Church.

We cannot underestimate God's leading and establishment *of Peacebuilding, Discipleship and Development centre- PDADC* among this people, who's relatives have been affected and the authority of the Church questioned. We are in Malindi at such a time as this and our quest is to ensure that there will be a lot less people dying without having found and walked with Jesus, authentically. We may not prevent death, but we are here so that no one would die out of ignorance and also that those who die would so do, in Jesus. And that those who live will do their faithful work of ensuring that subsequent generations will love Jesus Christ, wholeheartedly and consciously so.

Kindly join us as we pray for the families of those affected, as we seek God for possible and self-sustainable development and establishment of His kingdom among us and the people, we work with in Malindi and beyond. The Bible tells the account of Peter and the others preaching to the people in Jerusalem, just after the Pentecost. It says that the people's hearts were cut, pierced and they posed the question, "what must we do?". It was upon this that we like Peter must boldly reply, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:27&28). All at the same time staying to water the seed until it can bear much fruit.



Top left and right: community members march towards the new training centre



Bottom left and right: Rev. Felicien Nemeyimana cutting the ribbon and religious leaders who attended the commissioning event



The Peace, Discipleship and Development Centre-PDADC launched and commissioned.

PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN BLANTYRE, MALAWI

Trainings on peacebuilding and discipleship were held in Ntambanyama, Blantyre by former trained PHARP beneficiaries.

Pastor Mkwate and his team of 5 held two seminars that brought together 13 different churches and denominations together supported by Operation Christmas child (OCC). They taught Sunday school teachers on how to effectively teach children the word of God and to have weekly discipleship with them. With the support of the OCC organization and PHARP, children and their teachers received gifts

and bible study material. *“Am very happy that I was invited to this seminar. I have learnt new ways of teaching the word of God to children. I believe children will not be sleeping as I teach, because I have learnt ways of how to engage them in discussing the word of God. Thank you for these two days’- Pst Margret*



Left: Margret (left) and other Sunday school teachers. Right: discipleship training going on at Ntambanyama Baptist church

PEACEBUILDING IN ARUSHA AND MOSHI, TANZANIA

A three-day seminar was held at the Shalom Discipleship New Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania (DNPC) in Kikatiti, Arusha facilitated by Bishop Palanjo of The Council of Pentecostal churches of Tanzania (CPCT).

20 pastors drawn from 11 churches were in attendance to learn how to revive the lost most critical component of the Great Commission- discipleship. The participants appreciated the Kiswahili manual of ***‘Finding your place in the world’***. A 24-week study material that helps small groups to study the word of God as they are discipled daily.

‘This manual will help us streamline our weekly bible study. We shall not be meeting and have disorganized discussions’-Pst Emmanuel

Bishop Palajo who is the presiding chairman of the pastor’s forum in Arusha and Moshi, a beneficiary of PHARP and he continues to empower and equip pastors that serve under the CPCT pastors’ fellowship.



Left: Participants in training. Right: Bishop Palajo in training at Shalom church

Thanksgiving and prayer requests

1. We thank God for provision of good health and for peace to carry out the activities in the month of April.
2. We thank God for the continued rains in Kenya and its neighboring countries.
3. We pray for communities where the blessing of rain has caused them problems of flooding, damaged homes and flooded crops
4. We continue to pray for peace and economic stability in the world
5. We pray for nations that are facing violent conflict: Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, DR Congo, Burundi just to mention but a few.
6. Pray for children who are home for two weeks break.