

## **MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023**



Peace and Disciple makers of Kisima Cha Maji Yaliyo Hai- Bomang'ombe Church, Moshi-Tanzania.

Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture- Psalms 100:3

Like sheep, we tend to wonder around aimlessly and like the good shepherd he is, he draws us back to himself. This is because God created us for a purpose; for us to reach out to others and bear fruits.

Africans have a proverb which says 'a person always known to speak lies may be good at convincing people with their lies and be likened to a tree with flowers but bears no fruits'. Since the word of God is true, we are therefore called upon to bear fruits to our families and to the community.

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It is encouraging to know that God calls us His people and the sheep of His pasture. We can trust him to lead, provide and protect us.

In the month of March, PHARP interacted with beneficiaries from Moshi-Tanzania, Tiaty-Baringo County, Kona Baridi-Kajiado County and Kibera slum-Nairobi County. All these people had one cry: 'Lord send us rain. Remember your people Lord'.

As this newsletter is being penned down, there are showers of blessing falling down in the form of heavy rains. We give God all the glory and praise.

**On 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>:** PHARP has been engaged in peacebuilding and discipleship at Redeemed Church-AMREF Grounds, Kibera slum. We are grateful that the youth, women and men are embracing the teachings seriously. These beneficiaries are devoted to discipleship, evangelism and fellowship. In between the month, the lead pastor and those being empowered and equipped had several sessions of doing door-to-door evangelism. Out this, 9 gave their lives to Christ.

Being the lead pastor of the church, I am witnessing a new revival in this church. Whereas its me and two elders who would do these door-to-door evangelism, I was very much blessed to see the whole class of 18 being trained exercising what they are being taught. We are now working with the new believers. Though two say they come from a different location than ours, I was able to connect them to a pastor friend in kawangware. We are seeing the move of God in our church and the community. After being taught the convictions of the Great Commission, we realized that as a church we were focused more on weekly attendance of congregants, advancing the church building and the cash that came in. But the facilitator kept repeating the words; GO, TEACH AND BAPTIZE. We then realized; we need to move out of our comfort zone.





Left: Claudette sharing on importance of youths in discipleship. Left: Pst Sophie sharing on issues affecting the church in Kibera.

**On 8<sup>th</sup>:** This day marked the International Women's Day which marked various ways of accelerating equality and empowerment and how women's leadership and collective action can make a difference at the family and community level.

PHARP celebrated this day with women of Kona Baridi-Kajiado County who are most forced by circumstances to be the heads of their families. Empowering them and walking alongside them has greatly contributed to them being able to fend for their families and even educate their children.

As the pastoralist women, we are very much grateful for the continued support from PHARP office. Indeed, you have turned our mourning into dancing. In the recent past our husbands did not consider us as adults, they would classify us like children; but now because we are empowered and can provide for the family, they find food at home after many days being away grazing the animals, children are able to have uniform to go with to school, we now have a voice in our households. Even I want to complete my secondary education and I dream of being the women representative of my area. We ask that you continue walking with us and educating us- Elizabeth



Naserian women group. Naserian means 'Peace' in the Maasai language

**On 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>:** PHARP had a 4-day peacebuilding and discipleship training with 58 pastors invited from 10 churches under The Council Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania (CPCT) in Bomangombe- Moshi, Tanzania. The four days focused on the power of a church community with a focus of discipleship and those factors that bring about conflict amongst the believers and the church leadership. Most of the discussions revolved around a group of burnt-out workers, those wounded and hurt by hirelings and wolves in the church. Then in return many over-react and withdraw and declare majority of churches to be unsafe. Amongst the participants were also those who worked out of the country and didn't have a biblical church available. They live in a place where they cannot find a church that is faithful to the Gospel.

I am very delighted to be part of this training. My senior pastor when he got the invitation to the PHARP training; he immediately called me to ask exactly when I go back to Mogadishu- Somali land for work. And it so happened that my departure date was three days after the training. Am a technician with the UN in Mogadishu. Since I was posted there 9 months ago, there is no church at all. The other Africans I found from Uganda and Kenya, have no church or any form of meeting to worship God. We all depend on YouTube online services. But since back at home, I belong to a local church, I was missing the physical

fellowship with other believers. After this training we were urged on the need of making disciples where God has placed us. But the challenge was; even if I summoned my fellow Africans to meet, we didn't have any literature that could guide us. Today I was given a discipleship manual 'Finding your place in the World' both English and Kiswahili version. This helps me to start weekly small group meeting in my room. Am very grateful to this training because I have been empowered and equipped. My pastor too promised to be checking on me weekly. I will make sure that the next follow up class in July I be present. Emmanuel









Top left: Pelagie facilitating a group discussion. Top right: Emmanuel sharing on what is needed to be a fully committed disciple.

Bottom left: Bishop Palajo facilitating a group discussion. Bottom right: leaders of Bomangombe-Moshi in training

**On 22**<sup>nd</sup>: On this day 40 pastors from the Kadokoi Interdenominational pastors fellowship met together guided by a former PHARP beneficiary Pastor Kitis from Tiaty-Baringo County. This county was and still is among those counties grouped under the alarm stage being faced with severe drought and famine. With the help from friends and partners who heeded to the Macedonian call and sent support to help the brothers and sisters in the tough situation.

I don't know what I can say, me I don't know what I can say. Having this meal today was the first in four days. My three sons and I walked long distances taking our cattle to find any little grass, but now they died on the way. So, we came back with nothing. We have been surviving on wild fruits and leaves. I was very hopeless; where do I start from now? My younger children are becoming thin by the day as I see. Pastor says we pray, but I was starting to doubt the prayers. Thank you very much for today's meal. Above this, you have given me maize flour, beans, oil, sugar, salt to also take to my family. This indeed is the love of God to me and my family- Elder Lodio





Top left: distribution food supported by friends and partners. Right: the elderly women having a meal before walking long distances back to their homes.

## PEACEBUILDING AND DISCIPLESHIP IN BLANTYRE, MALAWI

Pastor Chikopa, a PHARP beneficiary and discipleship graduate of 2021 pastors the Fullness of Light Church in Ndirande, Blantyre- Malawi.

We for sure are seeing the goodness of the Lord upon this ministry. When I learnt that I needed to be intentional on raising leaders, that I don't have to work alone; I have witnessed great growth. After the graduation in 2021, I went into prayer for God to show me who I can appoint as leaders and train them for ministry. God showed me 4 men and three women. Today we now have the youth ministry, men and women ministry. Before this, we only had one big service each Sunday that would run from 9:00am to 4:00pm. What I didn't know is that these services were tiring people. So, members would leave the church one by one.

Today we have 5 small groups that meet weekly and these groups each have allocated days to go and do evangelism in the community. Ministry is now growing in number and also spiritually. Because it is the members in the groups doing the door-to-door evangelism during the week. We however have financial constraints, but together with the church members, the little that we get we are putting up a bigger church to give us more space. We meet in this structure with walls but no roof. We dread that the rains come before we complete the roof. Through the peacebuilding and discipleship program, I have seen the importance of raising leaders who in return are a great resource to the body of Christ. Am not as tired as I was before, because I have people to share the ministry burden with. Thank you for all the continued support, supporting me, sending me notes and following up to know how the church and small groups are doing.





Top left: Pastor Chikopa teaching the word on a Wednesday meeting. Top right: the congregants engaged in prayer

**PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT WORK IN JILORE, MALINDI:** We are grateful for the peace work and development happening at the PHARP-Centre. The beneficiaries are grateful for the rains that reached the area. Beneficiaries have been engaged in discipleship as well as tilling the land for farming. We pray that the rains continue and there be a plentiful harvest.



PHARP women of peace beneficiaries tilling the harvest.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. We thank God for good health and the rains that we have experienced for two weeks now.
- 2. Pray that the rains continue and farmers can have a bountiful harvest.
- 3. Continue to pray for DR Congo ongoing violent conflict. Many are being left homeless and fleeing to neighboring countries as refugees.
- 4. Continue to pray for the Russia and Ukraine ongoing conflict.
- 5. Pray for the PHARP April activities

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