

FROM HAND-OUTS TO SELF-RELIANCE : A TESTIMONY TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF PA HOLISTIC MINISTRY



*Pastor Festus Ngare in a PA centralized training at Nairobi*

**Pastor Festus Ngare from Mbere in Embu County** is an abiding testimony to the ministry of PA. He was among the first group of pastors to be engaged in the PA holistic ministry. At the time he was a pastor of a small 10-member church all poor village people. He farmed Miraa (Khat) which is an intoxicating plant and which was his main source of income in addition to the minuscule offering he got from his small church. This is all he had to support his family.

His first radical step after beginning the journey with PA was to cut down his Miraa trees. At the time he had saved up some Ksh. 3,000 (\$30) which he used to start a small kiosk selling basic grocery. Ten years later, while several other pastors who were in the group have struggled to embrace the call to abandon a handout mentality, Pastor Festus stood out to embrace the trainings and practice of what was taught. He also took advantage of the opportunities given to him to access cheap micro loans by PAK directly and through the PAK Sacco. Just about a decade later, Pastor Festus has made strides, among them:

- has grown his store his small grocery shop from the initial KSh. 3,000 (\$30) to over KSH. 2,000,000 (\$20,000) in capital.
- has also bought a piece of land and developed his own home and business premises;
- has through the years faithfully taken and repaid the loans
- has educated two children through college, with two currently in high school, by utilizing his business proceeds.
- After learning more on leadership and church growth principles, he stopped the church he was running to allow himself to grow. Now he has planted a new church with 12 members, building it on the foundation of holistic transformation and focusing on discipleship;
- he is separately mentoring 7 youths in business and faith who he has introduced to the PAK Sacco and who have grown their own businesses as a result
- has become a trainer of other pastors teaching them on holistic ministry as he himself was taught by PA.
- He is also an official of the PAK Sacco helping many others who need to get small micro loans for their personal development

Pastor Festus has become a testimony of resilience, personal responsibility, hard work, servant leadership, and holistic transformation which PA teaches. He represents the hope that PA seeks to see in lives across Africa.



*A group of widows in Rachuonyo community.*

**Rachuonyo CIFA group is in Homabay county** with a membership of 36 pastors. This group has been together for just about 2-years and already making strides to impact their community. Some of the highlights are;

- They meet regularly to study God's word and pray to nourish themselves spiritually. This is important because pastors are divided denominationally, most have little to no formal education and they largely lack opportunity to grow mentally and spiritually.

**There are over 58 pastors of the larger Gusii area** (combining the counties of Kisii and Nyamira) who are engaged in the Possibilities Africa holistic transformation program

- Together the pastors are equipping church leaders in disciple making and church planting as they seek to strengthen the churches to be more effective.
- A number of pastors are keen on expanding their churches and have been planting churches in new areas. So far there are over 10 churches planted.

More recently (Sept), over 17 church leaders graduated after an 8-week training. see the pic of the graduating class.

- They also recently started a farming project for 31 widows to help them become more self-reliant.
- They Are working to address a community problem where widows in the community are usually abandoned, disinherited and generally left to poverty. They started by building simple but secure houses for elderly widows in the community who had been abandoned by their families after their husbands died.
- They have initiated a program to reach out to the youth who dropped out of school and started working as fishermen and brewing local alcohol. Due to extreme poverty, some of the youths are involved in prostitution to get fish as an income for their families. Others are into drug abuse and alcoholism as a coping mechanism to the hopelessness they experience.



*Graduating pastors from larger Gusii area.*

**In VIHIGA County 24 pastors of Vihiga CIFA group** are working as a group to impact their community. Their work is being seen in:

- providing children & youth mentorship. This year they trained over 200 workers from the churches in their region. They are also mentoring over 40 youths in small business creation.
- Overall, through their savings supported by the PAK micro finance and PAK Sacco program they have supported the creation of over 100 micro-businesses.

- They also make community health campaigns with a key effort of Jiggers' eradication



*Pastor leaders from Vihiga community.*



*Children in nursery school that Pastor Owino established in his community.*

**Pastor Owino from Malindi CIFA group** participated in a PA training in 2017 in Nairobi where he was challenged to minister to his community holistically. His specific conviction was in the area of mentoring the next generation. His response to the teachings on holistic transformation was to establish an early childhood development center. In agreement with his wife, the journey begun. Three years later, they have 103 children enrolled in the school, with 30 of them in day care, 27 in baby class, 46 in pre-primary

**Pastor Rotich is one of Nandi CIFA pastors.** He is building a better house for his family from the micro finance program run by his pastors' group and PAK Sacco. Other pastors from the same group have personal testimonies how being involved with PA is transforming their lives economically.

With all the pastors above, they have a story of how their church members are developing themselves through the PA shalom groups which are run by the pastors. Indeed, with God all things are possible, even transforming the lives of rural villages in Africa.



*Pastor Rotich's house under construction.*

***Please join us with your talents, treasures and time. Together, let us transform the lives of our people.***