

Half Year Report (January - June 2021)

1. A people growing in worship as a relationship with God

Objective 1: Encourage sustained spiritual growth in our congregants.

- The average number of congregants attending in person services monthly has been 346. The online space has continued to be a growing opportunity to minister, with an average monthly viewership 1672 on 4245 on you Youtube with 98% of those joining being in Kenya. By age strata, 25-34 year bracket continued to be the highest consumers followed by the 35-44 years bracket.
- We welcomed 130 visitors to our Church and were integrated into the church.
- The Youth church continues to grow in numbers as it grows in fellowship and discipleship; an average of 103 young people attended Sunday services weekly.
- The Children church had an average physical attendance of 195 children per week, with an average viewership of 500 on Youtube and Facebook. An average of 20 children actively served in the ministry through ushering and Sunday school registration.

Objective 2: Growing a prayer culture in the Church.

- The Wednesday prayer service has had an average of 59 people attending in person while an average of 150 have continued to join online.
- To grow our opportunities for corporate prayer a 7am prayer fellowship was introduced in April, with an average monthly attendance of 20 people. 10 young people in the youth ministry met monthly for prayer.
- 33 people joined Ombi school of prayer program as we multiply the numbers of prayers counsellors available to offer prayer support for our congregations.

2. A people engaged as a family; growing, caring for and serving one another and together. (Fellowship).

Objective 1: Caring for our volunteers by ensuring regular home visits and fellowship.

- The services team extended care to 17 volunteers in the first half of the year. 40 of their volunteers in the services and leadership teams participated in hangout and bonding sessions as they encourage friendships, accountability circles and open the door for engaging care.
- 48 congregants received care support through visitations and prayers during seasons of bereavement and health challenges.
- 6 staff members received care through the HR office to support them through challenging seasons.
- 7 couples graduated from the Premarital Counselling program.

Objective 2: Growing and sustaining affinity groups' fellowship.

- Men's ministry forum has not gained momentum with only one meeting this year with 12 men participating.
- The Women ministry engaged an average of 54 women in the monthly fellowships (There was an increase from an average of 25 women engaged in the first quarter to 83 engaged in the 2nd quarter). External speakers were engaged to speak on various topical issues of interest to women, health and the family.
- With a focus on building family the couple's ministry engaged 36 people in their monthly fellowships creating opportunities for couples to walk the marriage journey together and offering safe spaces for counsel.
- The over 45s group known as Hekima arranged a seminar on the important topic of succession, the session was facilitated by legal practitioners and it attracted 80 attendees (physical) and has so far received 1200 unique views on Youtube.
- The children ministry formed a group that brings together its teachers and volunteers in fellowship where 15 people participated in the weekly prayers.

Objective 3: Connecting members to Community Life Groups (CLGs).

- 65 people were connected to CLGs (50 in the 1st quarter; 15 in the 2nd quarter respectively).
- CLGs partnered with the Care team to offer support during bereavements and other life celebrations including weddings, child dedications etc (Evergreen, Gachie, Teleios, Early Church, Crossway, New Runda, Lavington, White Haven, Parkland, Havillah and Every Good Endeavour)
- 1 CLG was formed by congregants who completed the plug-in discipleship program.
- 2 Youth Groups were formed as we encourage the youth to create positive supportive relationships as they grow in Christ.

3. A people mobilized and equipped for service of Christ in all aspects of their lives (Discipleship / Training).

Objective 1: Growing leadership skills for Volunteer/Staff through training opportunities in order to nurture future leaders for the Church.

- An average of 60 leaders and assistants from Church family life ministry received focused leadership coaching, specific to their affinities/depts.
- An average of 34 CLG leaders attended various training/meetings aimed at growing their CLG hosting and leadership skills.
- The prisons ministry walked with 6 leaders, growing their leadership skills, with the aim of enabling them to support outreach in prisons; 2 mentors were also identified and coached in the prisons & rehabs ministry.
- 28 MED coaches trained as ToTs to support community empowerment skills building in areas such as soap and glass making.

- 69 KYSA coaches and referees received leadership and technical skills training by KaruraCC, and 122 other coaches trained on the same, by this first cohort.
- 12 youth leaders trained and equipped on how to conduct Spiritual Emphasis Campaign.
- In the youth ministry 8 counsellors were trained as facilitators to support the Vuka program in reaching and growing young people for Christ.
- The children's ministry trained 5 new volunteers on children outreach (how to teach children, doing bible lessons, mentoring school children) to support the growing opportunities in children outreach.
- There are 13 interns and trainees engaged in the Church as part of the commitment to grow Church leaders in Karura and for the Church in Kenya.
- 125 volunteers trained effectively to serve as volunteers within the church.
- 21 Children ministry volunteers trained on classroom management and bible lesson preparations.
- Staff members received training on methods in grief counselling to enable them support the ministry for care effectively and on soft skills.

Objective 3: Connecting volunteers and staff to mentors to support personal and professional development for ministry.

- The services department linked a total of 65 volunteers to mentors.
- The family life ministry has had 6 deacons attending monthly mentorship sessions.
- 32 staff members have been linked to coaches/mentors.

Objective 4: Making disciples who make disciples.

- Through the various discipleship programs congregants committed to growing in their relationship with Christ: 16 people completed Plug-In. 43 participants completed Freedom in Christ (FIC).
- 9 Lay pastors were engaged in pastoral work in the Care ministry as well as in the family life ministry where they are providing leadership to CLG growth.
- Through the Prisons & Rehabs ministry, an average of 554 people were disciplined to equip them to reach others with the message of the gospel. The rehabilitation centers served were: Jorgs Ark and The Retreat rehabs. AA meetings at KaruraCC, and another at Githogoro. The prisons reached were: Yatta, Kiambu, Kamiti, Nakuru, Naivasha, Nairobi West, Athi River, Kenol. The Church also hosted Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) meetings and outreach for the same in Githogoro as part of our commitment to supporting people with addiction.
- 26 students from neighbouring communities were mentored by Church congregants; offering career, life skill and spiritual care.
- 71 congregants were trained to effectively engage in the market place as ambassadors of Jesus Christ through the following trainings: Integrating life, business and work; caring for caregivers; basic counselling skills; wellness training.
- The school of Church planting walked with 4 leaders as part of the mission towards growing the Church community in the country.

- The worship and community project is part of the Church's discipleship goal; these new facilities will offer a larger space for our growing community to fellowship, grow and reach out together. Sanctuary development income was Ksh. 36.4m against representing 50.6% of the 72m goal for the period. .

Testimonies:

1. *Selystine, "I have had an awesome experience serving in the worship & service department as a departmental practical ministry assignment. I have learnt a lot concerning the way the service is conducted and the role of the service manager. I also got the privilege to join the mid-week prayer services and the prayers have been helpful for spiritual nourishment and my personal growth'*
2. *"I have learnt that one's childhood experiences have a great impact on future behavior and attitudes. I need to be more understanding with people knowing that people behave or react the way they do because they are coming from somewhere. Example I shouldn't just assume that a hot tempered person just wants to be arrogant maybe this person has serious anger issues stemming from somewhere." Anonymous*
3. *Integrating Faith, Life and business session- "I learnt the importance of relationships, that if you don't work on them, they easily die" Anonymous*

4. A people deployed as ambassadors, serving and influencing the world for Christ (Outreach—Engaging the World).

Youth Ministry

- 16 High School Leavers were engaged and equipped with The Knowledge of Jesus Christ and with Key Life Skills.
- An average of 4101 students disciplined, through High Sch. Ministry through sung worship, prayer and the word.
- Through our commitment to market place outreach an average of 17 people were reached monthly at AAR Ruaka & Bank of Baroda.
- Growth of Vuka program 2021; Currently handling 31 vukarians
- Emerge Program; currently walking with 17 Ex candidates.

Outreach Ministry

- An average of 44 football players and 993 KYSA players were engaged monthly in coordinating KYSA Football activities and supporting community service through activities such as community clean ups and tree planting.
- 1500 primary school children were reach monthly through PPI classes in schools.
- Through the prisons and rehabs ministry an average of 5467 people attended the Sunday and weekly services. 2 people were also reached through financial assistance to receive medical care in the prisons. Through outreach to prisoners 51 prisoners' families were also ministered to with the word of God.

- The prisons ministry also reaches out to prisons staff with an average of 312 wardens reached with the gospel in the various prisons.
- An average of 146 people reached through the weekly community care visitations providing food support and spiritual care through prayer.
- An average of 314 people reached monthly with the message of the gospel and love of Christ through multi-contacts evangelistic visits by Swahili Missional Communities.
- 39 students graduated with a certificate in basic computer literacy and 5 of these students gave their life to Christ. .

Dorcas

- A total of 23 individuals/ families assisted through the Emergency Relief with food rations. 25 grannies received food packs and household supplies on a weekly basis.
- 145 people received support through the monthly Church wide community visitations. This is an outreach that identifies needy people in the community and Church volunteers make visitations as they share the love of Christ. Often those reached are bedridden and elderly.

Tumaini Sponsorship & Mentorship Program

- 89 students were supported through the Tumaini sponsorship and mentorship program. The class of 2020 completed their national examinations with excellent scores.

MED

- 21 people (from Karura main, Githogoro, Kabuku) received business skills training including soap making, urban farming, detergent making.
- Growth and Impact of MED in Evangelism, Community Transformation at Githogoro very visible, Skills transfer, Basic Computer Classes already in session -graduation for the first 39 Students at Karura on 3rd July 2021

Children Ministry

- 83 children led to Christ through outreach events in primary and schools and vacation Bible schools in estates and Churches.
- The online vacation Bible school held in April reached an average of 300 children.

Church plants

Kitale Community Chapel

- The number of CLGs increased from 4 to 7 during Covid 19.
- 210 people in the community were reached through evangelism.
- A conference by the women's ministry in May reached 21 women.
- The church is ministering to an average of 17 children weekly.

- In the 6 months, they have walked with 9 volunteers who are actively involved in ministry.
- The church was able to reach out to 25 needy people in the community, showing love through donation of clothes and food.
- The church is currently discipling 84 congregants through various Church programs.

Thika Road Community Chapel

- The church went through the “Made for More” Campaign. A total of 18 individuals actively participated based on the number of books that were sold.
- An average of 22 Adults and 14 Children attended Sunday services weekly.
- There are 3 active CLGs, currently meeting online. The average attendance of the CLGs is 15. The CLGs have been active as the first line of Care to members during this period
- To enhance ministry, the leadership team was restructured to have two teams; One team focuses on the running of Ministry and the second team does oversight and accountability.
- We celebrate one person who got saved in the month of May.
- 11 Volunteers were engaged monthly in supporting all ministries.

Kiambu Road Chapel

- Maintained Sunday Live Service Recordings despite the April lockdown
- Completed the Made for More Series.
- Sustained/maintained Thursday evening corporate campus prayers
- Missional Communities Birthed two new missional communities (Ruaka West and Thindigua)
- Identified 25 families from Mji wa huruma that we raise funds to support with flour and cereals twice a month starting June 2021.

Kenol Campus

- The church attendance grew from 8 adults to 25 adults and from 3 to 15 children.
- The church has witnessed to more than 300 people and 40 have given their life to Christ, in the last 6 months.
- One (1) CLG group was formed in Githurai 45, bringing the total number of CLGs to 3.
- 15 people went through mizizi class.

Challenges & Lessons learnt

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Major challenges</u>	<u>Lessons learnt</u>
Youth	<p>Shortage of volunteers to help with missions.</p> <p>Lack of sound equipment to facilitate the Sunday service.</p> <p>Challenge of getting young people to small groups</p> <p>Youth did not connect with the campaign material in the SEC 1.0; consider different books for them in future</p>	<p>Invest more in Youth hangouts as a means of strengthening fellowship</p> <p>Invest more in Youth Groups as an avenue to disciple young people & the church.</p> <p>Look for ways of raising money for CSC way ahead of time to reduce pressure and fatigue.</p> <p>Low turnout of young people in the prayer sessions during Quarter 1; so there is a need to create more awareness</p> <p>Learnt that Youth services online are an opportunity to reach those who don't even know KaruraCC and hence the need to make them better so as to reach wider.</p>
Leadership	<p>Lots of trainings in the church affected some of our departmental trainings;</p> <p>Shared zoom subscription; causing delays in starting meetings/classes.</p> <p>Delayed flyer circulation due to late delivery of the same limited</p>	<p>Testimonies play a key role in program enrollment;</p> <p>Continuous encouragement and support of volunteers to increase motivation and commitment;</p> <p>Prayer ,presence and fellowship is crucial for ministry growth;</p> <p>Create more opportunities to dine and fellowship physically to enable trust building, fellowship and care for volunteers as well as interns;</p>

	<p>communication of events on social media and training attendance;</p> <p>Financial challenges;</p>	<p>People have a thirst and hunger to grow in their faith;</p> <p>Introduction of online charges / encouraging the attendees to support the ministry.</p> <p>Interns block courses; an opportunity to cover planned lessons even with delayed recruitment.</p> <p>Online fatigue; need to manage content delivery and time it takes to train or teach</p>
Communications	<p>Lack of enough resources;</p> <p>Lack of harmony on ministries; two similar trainings happened in the quarter;</p> <p>Lack of enough people to serve in the dept;</p> <p>Volunteers who are in very engaging full time jobs, thus not easily available;</p>	<p>There is a need to document Outreach activities better;</p> <p>Learnt the importance of documenting Spiritual Emphasis Campaign Outcomes/Impact;</p> <p>The importance of storytelling in ministry as an opportunity to keep communicating what God is doing among us.</p> <p>Team burnouts;</p>
Church Family Life	<p>Financial challenges;</p> <p>Lack of proper meeting space in church;</p>	<p>In future, use technology to interview PMCC participants (Save time, resources);</p> <p>There is a need to engage more leaders to facilitate the Plug-In;</p>

	<p>IT and flow of information challenges;</p> <p>Rallying teams to raise funds during the COVID pandemic has been a challenge;</p> <p>Dormant CLGs due to online fatigue;</p> <p>Volunteer/CLG leaders' engagement challenges.</p>	<p>Consider how Care can be explored as a means of Evangelism;</p> <p>Importance of prayer in ministry;</p> <p>Importance of partnering with other churches in offering care.</p> <p>For maximum member engagement in care ministry, ensure proper communication of care needs to the church family.</p>
Services	<p>Dropping service streams;</p> <p>Staff Fatigue;</p> <p>Volunteer fatigue and lack of commitment.</p> <p>Sense of individualism;</p>	<p>Learnt the importance of volunteer care and delegation of tasks</p> <p>Unity</p> <p>Love</p> <p>Team work</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Conflict resolution</p>
Children	<p>In Qtr 1, space was limited to handle in person attending (0-11 years).</p> <p>Currently, slow Sunday service reopening(only 7-12yr old allowed physical attendance).</p>	<p>Outreach to children in schools is better handled by school teachers that we are training.</p> <p>The online platform has taught us that weekly discipleship can continue beyond the numbers we reach physically.</p> <p>Parents have embraced online training hence the number of attendance grew.</p>

Outreach	<p>Harvesting of the Stories is a challenge;</p> <p>Lack of adequate finances;</p> <p>Lack of Skills;</p>	<p>The need to fully integrate the church plants in all ways.</p> <p>Learning how to do church plants in a new way, Missional Communities way.</p> <p>Working with supportive organizations instead of walking alone. e.g. CMS/LoveINC among others;</p> <p>Need to build more, synchronize and harmonize what we have before engaging on any new programs;</p> <p>Need to be agile enough and to move as God moves;</p> <p>We have more stories of what God is doing than we can manage to harvest, seeking for alternative ways of sharing the stories;</p> <p>Considering alternative Church Planting Model and Method;</p>
Operations	<p>Missing the budgeted income, Leading to many administration projects being shelved;</p> <p>Harvesting of the Stories;</p>	<p>Need for a platform that synchronizes all our members' data including their areas of gifting so as to engage them effectively.</p> <p>So many ministry opportunities and a lot is expected from the church, so planning is important & discern God's will/Priority</p>

	<p>Challenges in Volunteer engagement and Management – Unmatched expectations and fatigued volunteers;</p> <p>Lack of sufficient equipment to support ministry in the new era;</p>	<p>so that the church is not putting too much effort yet little impact;</p> <p>Many partners waiting to support Gods work- Need to tell all your stories.</p> <p>As the Financial and human resources might be limited within Karura does not mean that it has not been supplied elsewhere so reach out and ask for collaboration;</p> <p>Ministry fair/expose Christians to volunteer/serve opportunities.</p> <p>Importance of Marketing the church facilities as a possible alternative source of church income.</p>
KRC	<p>Materialising Weekly visits due to members cautiousness to Covid19</p> <p>Mizizi classes/Ombi classes didnt take off.</p> <p>Training hampered due to lack of a consistent core team that serves in necessary segments</p> <p>Growing a committed team of spiritual leaders in the area or prayer</p>	<p>To minimize the effect of ministry burn out - the worship leader and the lead pastor are to grow their pool of preachers/teachers and musicians who can be called upon when one needs a break.</p>