

DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

HUB

Overview

Over the last 2 months, we have been working to launch the “*Deeper*” campaign, an exciting initiative over the next 1.5 years.

Headlines

- The *Deeper* campaign has launched with the aim of doubling our Life! Groups by the end of next year. As part of this we are **clustering** our groups to make follow up and communication easier. We have also worked on early drafts for materials for every group to train others and plant out. **The more groups with training, the more effect!** See separate briefing paper and Material Drafts.
- Spending time with the Impact teams on location has also led to us **auditing our group data with each group**. This is still being compiled but it should give us more visibility into what is happening and where. There will be a new database and complete update out in October.
- Last week saw our **mid-year EQUIP camp event in Mkushi**. 23 Impact Team members and associates attended. The main sessions were centred on being alive and really needing the Spirit of God. On the last days we had a 3 hour testimony session that was extremely encouraging. We recorded it, so look out for the stories coming out over the next few weeks. I also recorded a portion of “The Spirit Gives Life” session. You can listen to it here: <https://jonpaulwitt.wordpress.com/2016/09/13/the-spirit-gives-life/>
- The Viral Conference that Jon attended in Nairobi was an **excellent opportunity** to not only network but also be encouraged in the path we should be taking. In particular, **I felt God speaking about the need for continuing to enable our teams and people to reproduce at every level. This also led to the thought that we should make our resources and teaching available to everyone we can**. Whilst enabling the vision, it could also provide an income stream. With that in mind we have asked the UK team to take a look at what would be required to develop an online platform to achieve this.
- An encouragement from the Viral Conference. I was listening to a New Thing seminar. The question was asked, “Who do you know of in Africa who manages to plant and reproduce?” The answer given, “The only people I know of at present are Dignity in Zambia.” Not only was that personally encouraging, it was a pretty cool verification of our methods as well.
- Jon met up with **Lynn Swart of New Day United** and we both discussed the possibility of partnering together in certain areas. Nothing concrete yet, but watch this space.
- Over the next 2-4 months it is also our aim to build our **Hub Team**. Even though Dignity Zambia has been formed, there is still a lot of work to be done to create a functioning team. Over the next period Jon and Jude hope to talk to existing and new members to form a wider Hub Team within Zambia.
- The **Foundations for Farming Training** has been postponed for this year simply due to the fact that they could not deliver it. They have some major building work going on. We’ve decided as we are investing time in creating clusters that we will use this structure to train for farming in the future. Training individual team members whilst OK, has met some problems also. We believe the cluster model will be better.
- **Pastoral Care**: Gervas was involved in a major minibus crash and is lucky to be alive. Bernard and myself have been keeping an eye on him. Encouragingly other team members, especially Esther were calling and praying for him. Festus needs prayer and support, unfortunately last week his son of 33 died.
- **Update on Dignity Zambia**: Hermien has been doing really well on the payments and also now taking control of the stock of books. We also had a meeting last week where we discussed how to build the team. In addition, we discussed how Dignity Zambia is a separate organisation from Dignity UK legally and financially however we are ‘one’ organisation in terms of relationship and intent.



Moses Praying with Esther and Lawrence

- **Upcoming Dates for next 2 months:**

- September 14th – An Evening with Dignity, Mkushi
- September 22nd – *Deeper* meeting with Namibia
- September 26th – Training with Lawrence in Kalomo Area, Bernard and Pilius attending
- First 2 weeks October – Focus on building Zambian Team
- Approx. October 10th – GYHD in Zambezi and Chavuma, North Western Province.
- October 30th – EQUIP Camp for New/possible Impact Team Members at Ndubaluba
- First 2 weeks November – Impact team solo training for *Deeper* campaign
- Early November – possible visit of Tobias Ngala from Mombasa, Kenya

The Numbers from Southern Africa

| Measurable | Number to date, 2016 | Number at Last Update | Number at end of 2015 | Comments |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Total Number Life! Groups | 356 | 324 | 311 | These numbers do not take account of latest figures, actuals will be higher. |
| Impact Team Missionaries | 21 | 18 | 12 | Currently 18 in Zambia, 3 in Namibia (payments work differently). In additions there is 1 Associate with 7 other people beginning some involvement. |
| Sole Team Impact Team Training | 5 | N/A | N/A | <i>Deeper</i> campaign and team/group audit |
| Impact Team Areas | 8 | 8 | 5 | Northern Namibia, Petauke and Mpika were added before the last report. |
| Equip Courses | 3 | 1 | N/A | 2 EQUIP 1st quarter, Central EQUIP Sept |
| GYHP (School of Evangelism) | 2 | 2 | N/A | |
| Areas Initial Visit | 31 | 14 | N/A | Areas visited by Impact Teams in 2016 |
| Life! Group Training Courses | 38 | 11 | - | Started mainly from June |
| Areas formally followed up | 103 | ? | - | We have decided to abandoned this figure and will be replace it with the number of clusters in the <i>Deeper</i> campaign which will be a more helpful measure |

An Audacious Prayer for our work

I was challenged to develop an impossible prayer, a request that only God could fulfil, that I would pray for and look towards every day. Please can you begin to pray with me as we look towards this ‘impossible’ dream?

“Lord help Dignity and I to bring love, peace, revival and Jesus, to the poor, the downtrodden, the refugee, the weak, the uneducated, the rural, the small and the side-lined peoples of this world.

Let there be thousands of newly planted ‘church’ gatherings across Africa, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. May those thousands of groups teach their community about Christ, love their community and in turn plant many new groups themselves”

DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

Overview

July and August have been quieter months with time to regroup and catch up with ourselves here in the UK. There are two exciting developments. Firstly, we have begun to work with a small group of Iranian Christians who find themselves as refugees here in Manchester. Secondly, we are making good progress on *Foundations for Life*, our new discipleship course. We have launched the 10x10 Challenge. We are shaping our fundraising plans for 2017 and our next newsletter.

Headlines

- Thank you for your prayers for Gill who works in our office. Her health has improved a lot, but she continues to struggle at times. She has a date to see a consultant but has to wait another month for this appointment.
- Jo, Frank, Gill & Andy Brown ran an introductory day for 9 Iranian refugees in Manchester and met with them again last weekend. They are keen to share the Gospel with people but are a little daunted by the task of speaking to Muslim friends about Jesus. They are also coming to terms with having to flee from their country, leaving behind families, friends, homes and workplaces. Please pray for them as they consider who they can invite to Life Groups and how to go about it.
- The updates and photos everyone has been circulating via our Facebook/What's App groups have been really helpful as we've been able to share up to date news. Thanks to everyone who has been sharing and praying. Please continue.
- The following dates are upcoming:
 - 14th September – prayer meeting – postponed due to board meeting.
 - 30th September (to be confirmed) – Welsh 3000s thank you/launch next challenge (incl. tasting evening)
 - 19th November – Craft Market (Online booking & payment system streamlining application process)
- 10x10, The Dignity Challenge has been launched using a video that Jon & Bernard filmed. Thanks to them both. Further information and the video can be found here: www.dignityonline.org.uk/10x10. **We all need to consider what we can do to raise 10 “tenners” be it Kwacha, Pounds or Dollars and ask our friends and family to get involved. Please ask people to be involved. A personal invite is very powerful.**
- Work has begun on *Foundations for Life*, our new discipleship resource. This has met a positive response and 25 of the 52 sessions have been allocated to authors. 5 further authors have confirmed they are willing to write sessions. We are continuing to ask people to join us in this project and need to consider appointing a chief editor to lead the next stage of work.
- Lunda translations of *Love Your Village* and *Rooted in Jesus Bk 3* are being finalised. It's a slow process. A first draft of *Rooted in Jesus Bk 4* has been received. The Bemba version of *Love Your Village* is being edited. Thanks to Royd Chishimba for proof reading.
- Since our last report 1 new regular monthly gift have been started and 1 gift has been increased and 1 gift has stopped. Overall movement since last update = £1/month decrease.
- Two trust funds have made gifts to Dignity since the last report, one of which was allocated towards *Foundations for Life*. Further trust fund applications are being worked on.



Practising our listening skills with our Iranian friends here in Manchester

The Numbers

| Measurable | Number to date, 2016 | Number for 2015 | Comments |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Movement in regular monthly giving | +£12 | +£375 | Refer to finance report for further information |
| Total number of regular givers | 47 | 48 | |
| Trust fund applications made | 4 | 0 | |
| Prayer meetings held | 4 | 7 | |
| Events & church visits happened | 11 | 12 | |
| Events & church visits scheduled | 2 | - | |
| Bibles recycled this year | 11 received 31 sent | 140 received 78 sent | Total Bibles recycled to date = 331 Bibles waiting to be sent = 92 |
| Translation in progress/completed | 4 | 3 | RinJ 3&4 Lunda, LYV Lunda, LYV Bemba |