

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

## Overview

Since September, we have been working to further train and prepare our teams for the Deeper campaign, restructuring some groups into clusters. We've also been concentrating upon building new possible team members. We have also been seeking to build bridges into new areas, both within Zambia and in particular Windhoek, Namibia and Mombasa, Kenya.

## Headlines

- At the last count (with some data subject to verification) we have seen a **surge in Life Group numbers**. The count is now around the 450 mark! This is nothing short of remarkable. What is even more encouraging are the areas in which this is happening. Petauke, Southern Zambia is growing because Cornelius has moved there, Mpika because we planted a new team there, Southern Tanzania because our work is resilient and Pastor Frank took it upon himself to do it and Northern Namibia, as the team there simply kept going and eventually it took.
- Preparation for the **Deeper campaign** continues. This has taken the form of changing the way we are training and equipping our teams over the latter parts of this year. We are spending far more time with individual Impact Teams, ironing out issues and helping them to go further. This investment of time into people and 'clusters' of leaders is being seen in the spread of groups and different leaders emerging.
- I'm in the middle of rebranding the **School of Evangelism/Get Your Hands Dirty as 'Intelligence'**. We used this model recently at a half day school we ran in Mkushi. Generally, I think the branding worked and it was far more accessible to people. With an eye on using the same branding elsewhere, this is a good step. We will offer 'intelligence' events in half day, full day and 2 day versions. This gives us a tool to introduce people to planting using Life! Groups in many locations.
- **New materials have moved beyond the draft stage for the Deeper campaign**. Jude and I have produced a shorter Life Group training manual for villagers to use. This will be translated into the following languages. Swahili, Bemba, Lozi, Lunda and Chichewa. We also have a Life Group leaflet which explains in very short form what Life Groups are. This translation is already underway. The UK office will be involved in typesetting and printing the materials in readiness for March.
- Jude, Bernard and myself took the opportunity to **train a team of Kenyans in Lusaka last week**. This is a very encouraging development. With earlier work we have done in Namibia, and will do in Windhoek it starts to give us a template for building the work elsewhere without stretching ourselves too thin. The key is to firstly get Life! Groups going with a team of pioneers and then to train a team to act like an Impact Team in the region. Tobias and his colleagues are from Mombasa, and we have made tentative plans to train a team there in June 2017.
- The **EQUIP camp at Ndubaluba at the beginning of November**, marked the return of training new and possible missionaries. 22 people came who were either linked to a team or who the current teams felt could do with being 'looked at'. Ndubaluba were very generous funding 50% of the cost. Apart from one lady who manifested a spirit and had to be dealt with, it was all good and we had a good look at many people associated with our work.
- We are holding a **3 evening 'intelligence' event in Windhoek, Namibia**. This will be with various people from outlying areas of Windhoek as well as high density suburbs of the city. Our aim is to encourage some people to run Life Groups, looking at returning to form a team in 2017. The trip has been largely sponsored by two individuals, Danie and Marisa Nel who are providing the flight, accommodation and even a car for the trip! Praise God for them!



*Kenyans from Mombasa with Jon, Jude and Bernard*

- We did have an Impact Team training event planned for Northern Botswana and Northern Namibia. Unfortunately, due to lots of reasons we have had to push this back into 2017.
- Bernard travelled at the beginning of **November to Zambezi to run GYHD**, which is right up against the Angolan border on the western side of Zambia. I've attached his report. Generally, it was successful and he believes that people will join our movement. One quote, **"In the history of Christianity in Zambezi, this is the first teaching of this kind"**. That's quite a quote!
- **Esther and Precious were involved in the Intelligence event in Mkushi**. I have been trying to develop people to help Bernard. Esther translated for the first time and was excellent! Both of them were really very good at interacting with people and answering people's questions. Precious's testimony about how she was a prostitute before going to a Life! Group really hit home!
- **Pilius has also been upping his game**. He is seeking to create a new team in Luapula South. He has been working with 2 members of other Life Groups to do this.
- **Update on Dignity Zambia**: Hermien continues to do payments and stock and the team is due to meet before Jude and I leave Zambia. Please pray that we would get the right people involved. I have been giving some consideration to the possibility of employing a hub core. Very early thoughts, but the work is growing and we need to ensure its long term growth. Please pray for this. I also need to renew my residency permit which is an utter pain in the neck. Again, please pray for this.
- **We've had lots of stuff breaking down**. Africa always throws up things that break down! The generator, water, power, printers etc have all had problems. This is time consuming and a pain!
- **Update on Data**: You may have noticed that the format for all of the Life Group data has changed. This is because I've migrated all of the data to a Microsoft Access system. It's a work in progress, but I'll hopefully include geo-location and dynamic maps in the next update.



*The Luapula North team working out their groups*

### Important Things to do

- Create project and funding proposal for the Deeper campaign that feeds into our budgeting. This will help with gathering funds and support. This needs to specify time, material and training costs as well as prayer goals to make this happen.
- Materials for Deeper to be translated and produced by end of March next year.
- Create a plan for on line distribution and subscription. This is key for us going forward given the latest developments that are taking place, especially in geographical spread and considering the new material we are writing

### Upcoming Dates for next 2 months:

- WB 21st November – Impact Team Equip Training for North Western Zambia and Luapula.
- WB 28th November – 2 evening 'intelligence' event in Windhoek, Namibia.
- WB 5th December – Work on translation of Deeper materials and Dignity Zambia
- WB 12th December – Preparations for return to UK
- WB 9th Jan – Jude and Jon attending Evangelists Conference in the UK
- Jan 2017: Working towards 'intelligence' event in North Wales/possibly elsewhere as a goal in 2017.

### The Numbers from Southern Africa

Measurable	Number to date, 2016	Number at Last Update	Number at end of 2015	Comments
Total Number Life! Groups	440	356	311	Huge jump up
Impact Team Missionaries	20	21	12	
Apprentices	21	5		Some may not work out
Sole Team Impact Team Training	5	N/A	N/A	Deeper campaign and team/group audit
Impact Team Areas	8	8	5	Northern Namibia, Petauke and Mpika were added before the last report.
Equip Courses	6	3	N/A	2 EQUIP 1st quarter, Central EQUIP Sept
Intelligence (previously GYHD/School of Evangelism)	4	2	N/A	Zambezi and Mkushi
Areas Initial Visit	TBC	31	N/A	Areas visited by Impact Teams in 2016
Life! Group Training Courses	62	38	-	Started mainly from June
Number of clusters	14	-	-	Replaces number of "areas formally followed up"

### 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

Since the last update we have been focusing our time on *Foundations for Life*. It is great to see it coming together. The next issue of our magazine has been completed and translations of materials are progressing. Between sick leave and annual leave the office has been down to 1 person for the majority of the time. Sachlin Asadzadeh has been volunteering a day a week to help with general jobs and it has been great to have her with us. She has offered to continue volunteering.

## Headlines

- Gill is now back in the office and has made a good return to health. Thank you for your prayers.
- The Iranian group is now meeting every other Sunday afternoon to share a meal together and do a study from *RinJ*. Jo and Frank join them. Everyone is taking a turn at leading the session. So far, this appears to be proving a worthwhile session with lots of questions being asked, discussion and learning taking place and growing friendships.
- Work on *Foundations for Life*, our new discipleship resource, is progressing well. Sarah Small has been appointed as Chief Editor. Book 1 is currently with the team for editing. Jo hopes to take Books 1 and 2 with her to Zambia in March for cultural editing. After a final proof read they will be printed and ready for Jon and Jude to take the first official version with them in June or July. Books 3 and 4 will also go with Jon and Jude at that point ready for their cultural edit. **We still need to find authors for 13 sessions.** Further information is available on our website: <http://dignityonline.org.uk/foundations-for-life-authors> The Message have agreed to design the front covers of the book for us at a 50% discounted rate.
- The Lunda translation of *Love Your Village* has been completed and sent to Zambia. *Rooted in Jesus Bk 3* is with ReSource for typesetting. *Rooted in Jesus Bk 4* is back from the translator and Gill is carrying out the first check. The Bemba version of *Love Your Village* is being edited and needs finalising with the translator.
- The next edition of our magazine *Together* has been written, published and sent.
- We held a prayer meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Numbers were low as some regular attendees were busy and others were ill.
- We had to cancel the Christmas Craft Market due to building works at the venue. Shortly after cancelling we received an unexpected gift from a new donor that equalled what the market would have raised. Praise God for his good timing and provision.
- The following UK based fundraising events are now live and further information can be found at: <http://dignityonline.org.uk/events/> **Please invite people to be involved.**
  - 10x10, The Dignity Challenge – ongoing
  - 2 day Coast to Coast bike ride, 19th – 21st May 2017 (£195/person)
  - Dignity walking marathon, 24th June 2017 (£10/adult, £5/child)
- Since our last report no new regular monthly gifts have been started, 2 gifts have been increased and 2 gifts have stopped. Overall movement this year = £2/month increase.\*
- One trust fund has made a gift to Dignity since the last report, one of which was allocated towards *Foundations for Life*\*. Further trust fund applications are being worked on.
- We have made two successful financial transfers to Zambia using Ebury rather than our bank.



## 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	5	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

\*Note that these figures are based on accounts till end of October