

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Strategy & Growth

CORE

## Overview

Over the last 6 weeks or so, certainly within the UK team, there has been a strong sense that the way forward is to enable others. The over-riding theme of our annual Vision Day to 'harness the church, the people of God' and to 'develop products', aligning ourselves with the 'markets' of opportunity that exist to enable the planting of Life Groups in many different places. The church is a vast organism comprising people of different backgrounds, emphasis and priority. I think we are beginning to understand the need to engage and also harness the people of God to further what God is doing through the people that are linked with our movement.

## Core: Sharing our Knowledge – 'Home & Away Kits'

- We have recently come up with the concept of a 'Home' and 'Away' kit to equip others to begin movements of Life Groups wherever they are.
- **Away Kit:** This will equip people to share the vision of Life Groups in a mission context. It is primarily aimed at those doing ministry in Africa who wish to lay a foundation of something 'more' in terms of church planting, discipleship and community transformation and short term teams who are visiting Africa and can link with longer term relationships to raise up the people God has placed in an area they are visiting or working.
- **Home Kit:** As a companion to this kit we will also develop a 'home kit' to apply the same planting lessons back in the UK and elsewhere to encourage mission activity and planting here."
- **Creating the Away Kit:** We have begun to explore and shape this in partnership with Nick W who is working with Sudanese refugees in Uganda and a group from i61 Church who are building a school in rural Uganda. These two 'live' situation will allow us to learn the lessons as we shape the material.
- **Jon has developed a first draft of the Away Kit.** This will be proof read and have the input of a small focus group before any publication.
- **i61 Church:** The team from i61 church, successfully ran Life Group training near Jinja in Uganda. This is an excellent proof of concept and their feedback has allowed me to shape the Away Kit.
- **Nick W:** On his trip later this year Nick is still planning to run the training elsewhere in Uganda with South Sudanese Refugees.
- **Feedback and next steps:** What has been particularly encouraging has been some ideas that have developed over the last few weeks. Some of the i61 team have felt inspired by doing the training in Uganda to try and run a group like a Life Group in their rural locations back home in the UK. **Jude and Jon have been trying to encourage and support them in these early thoughts!**



# DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

## Overview

Jon and Jude have been in the UK since the last report and have spent time looking at plans for this year. The teams in Zambia and Namibia have been continuing their work and some have decided to start training a little earlier than normal this year so that it fits in better with the harvest and planting cycle.

## Southern Africa Hub: Dignity Zambia / Namibia / Tanzania

### Life Groups

- **Life Groups** are growing. We will not directly know the impact until I return in June (we are still waiting on some reports). However, a recent training trip to Southern Zambia in April started 4 new groups in Kibuyu, southern province. There are a few anecdotal stories like this but we are awaiting the formal updates with confirmed figures.
- One or two of the existing teams have decided to move the **training 'season'** earlier and have been involved with direct training for new Life Groups over the last month.

### Impact Teams

- **The Namibian Team is now receiving support directly from the UK.** 2 payments have been made over the last 2 months. Whilst it may seem a small 'happening' it is sign of something much larger; that is that the work there is beginning in a very small way to exhibit signs of being self-propelling and distinct from Zambia. The trip later in the year is in part to bolster and expand this. **Jon has established a system of accountability that ensures that specific ministry targets are funded. Dignity UK needs to confirm any requirements they have.**
- **Bernard has taken over the team assessment responsibilities from Jon.** Over the last 2 months, Bernard together with Royd and/or Pilius have visited teams in North Western Zambia and within Luapula. It's great to see how this very important function has been taken on directly by Bernard and some close members of the team.
- **Bernard's visited Southern Zambia and moved the possibility of a team in the province a lot closer.** After our key contact in this had to step aside we have been working to sure up the work and build a team there. On his visit Bernard spent time working with Gertrude (existing team member) and Collins (potential new Impact Team member). Once we can get a solid team to work previous experience says that the work will expand more and more.
- **There is a new possible innovation in terms of some small-scale funding.** One or two teams have been inspired by the example from our friends in Tanzania. Together with those hosting training events our teams have devised a way of villages contributing to their own training. For example this has taken the form of help with a bus fare or the contribution of mealie meal to feed people. Whilst the costs of these are low, this idea gives each team the possibility to be more self determined and self sufficient. The training season has moved forward to allow this to happen more easily with the harvest and planting cycle in rural Zambia. We do not want this to become a burden to any team though so we will continue to plug the gaps and support where needed.



Collins & Gertrude

### Dignity Zambia

- **Growing the leadership team.** I believe before July this year, we should attempt to grow the team to at least two other people. We have a couple of people in mind with a view bolstering Bernard's hand and capability.
- **Administration in Zambia.** Abacus have completed the accounts due for submission.

### Southern Africa Hub: Deeper Campaign

- We will be monitoring and evaluating feedback from *Deeper* over the coming months.
- **We have begun to hear stories of growth.** We recently heard that 8 new Life Groups began in the Chinchinki Area where Deeper training and materials have been used. This is really encouraging and we hope there will be many more stories like this when we receive the next reports.

### Core: Planting & establishing new Hubs (Impact Team / Life Group Pioneering in new areas)

- Jude and Jon sat down and held a discussion about the **leads and areas we need to try and follow up over the 6 month period we have in Africa.** There may be too many to follow up, but we will do what we can.
- **Trip to Western Zambia (July)** We want to scope out future training and opportunities.
- **Trip to Kenya (August)** There is a possibility of Jon speaking at New Thing Viral Church Planting Conference and another connected Church Planting conference in Mombasa. If these possibilities come off, Jon would be running work shops on using *The Away Kit* but in an African context directly. We still need to do some investigation here as

want to try and create something like an Impact Team outside of Mombasa but it very much depends how existing work has taken root.

- **Trip to Namibia (September into October)** In line with our thoughts on expanding the work through others, we want to visit several 'centers' identified with Moses and the Namibian team with a view to create a multiplicity of new areas and more importantly new people. We can then knit these people in to a wider Namibian hub.
- **Tanzania (either late July or in September)** Even though the 'season' has meant we are temporarily out of communications with one or two people in Tanzania, we have scheduled in time to visit the team and run a wider training with them so they can plant out more.
- **To help these expansions, it is going to be critical that we make some of our training and material available online even in a basic sense over the next 2-3 months.**

### The Numbers from Southern Africa

(Note that we are awaiting reports so have been unable to update most of these figures)

Measurable	Number to date, 2018	Previous Update	End 2017	Comments <i>(*these numbers are cumulative. All other numbers are for the current year)</i>
<b>Total Number Life! Groups*</b>	<b>574</b>	574	574	Anecdotal evidence suggests this number has increased in Jan/Feb.
<b>Trained Active Impact Team Missionaries *</b>	<b>45</b>	45	47	Has dropped by 2 due to team members stepping down.
Number of clusters*	31	31	31	We believe this number has grown, but we have not verified the data yet.
Impact Team Areas*	14	14	13	Stable at present, this will increase during 2018
Impact Team Training course (visit or central EQUIP)	1	1	10	Assessment and encouragement visit to North Luapula
<i>Intelligence</i> Schools of Evangelism	0	0	5	
Areas Initial Visit	5	5	71	Data from 4 main teams
Life! Group Training Courses	0	0	79	Trainings normally run between April and September
Encouragement visits	25	25	25	
<b>Volunteer hours</b>	<b>9,184*</b>	4,592*	23,296*	*Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group

### 3 Key Items for Prayer

- Pray for 2 Impact Team Members who have had to step down due to issues around money. They really need God's help at present.
- Pray for the Away Kit development and opportunities to use it to inspire growth and change.
- Pray for Bernard, and the other Impact Team leaders that God would help them to take the work forward well with a clear plan and with efficacy.

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

## Overview

It has continued to be very busy in the UK office while we work through a number of large tasks. These include preparations for the incoming GDPR regulations, finalising our trustee induction process, producing our newsletter and updating our website.

## Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- We have the Tonga transcript of *Plant* waiting to be typeset.
- *Foundations 2: Life Grows* is due back from the proof reader. *Foundations 3: Life Creates* has been edited by Sarah Small and is now ready to be compiled and typeset although 1 session still needs to be written.
- Work on *Love Your Children* is progressing and the team are currently reviewing their first draft. We have had some **initial discussions about safeguarding and it is important that we continue these.**

## Core: General

- **We hosted our annual Vision Day on 17th May.** This was a really encouraging day and helped us distil and progress ideas around strategy and direction (see Strategy & Growth Report). Thank you to everyone who attended.
- We have worked hard to make sure we are **GDPR compliant**. We have updated our Data Protection Policy and written a Privacy Notice. Both are now available on our website. We are working to gain the consents we require from supporters. 150 people have given this digitally. 300 letters are going out this week with consent forms. A further email will be sent to encourage any people for whom we do not have a physical address.
- Our **Trustee Induction Pack** has been compiled and the induction process agreed. We have run an induction for 1 incoming trustee.

## People

- **Maral** has been working 1 day a week since February. She has been picking up administration tasks and has done a lot of the administrations work for GDPR. This has been a great help and we are very thankful for her assistance.
- **Peter** has been volunteering 5 hours a week to help update the website. Thank you Peter!
- **Nest pension contributions** were increased from 6<sup>th</sup> April as required by law.

## Resources

- Our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday edition of **Together** is now available.
- Our **2018 Charitable Investment Prospectus** is available online and in hard copy. To maximise the effect of this, we have asked that **each of us share this with 3-5 personal contacts.**
- The **316 Bibles and training materials we dispatched in February** have now been sent by MMN. MMN kindly featured Dignity in their [recent magazine](#) – 2018 issue 1.

## Supporter Care

- **We are in the middle of sending out a ‘bumper’ 10th birthday mail out.** This includes **Together**, our 2018 Year of Prayer and the 2018 Charitable Investment Prospectus. It also includes a GDPR form for those who have not already given the required consent.

## Visits & Events

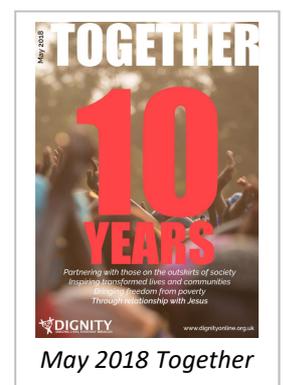
- Jon spoke at the **Link with Emmanuel Christian Fellowship** in April and at **Ivy Central** in May.
- We had a publicity stand at Spring Harvest Harrogate and Jon has been invited to speak at **Launch** in November.

## Fundraising

- Our **£10 Challenge** is live ([www.dignityonline.org.uk/10challenge](http://www.dignityonline.org.uk/10challenge)) The youth leader at i61 in Wales has run this and raised some money. Do encourage others to get involved any maybe even give them £10 to help them get started!
- The **Peak District 10** is set for 9<sup>th</sup> June and the **Yorkshire 3 Peaks** for 30<sup>th</sup> June. We have 7 team members for the climb and 3 for the walk so far. We have advertised these through our database and in 35 churches and climbing centres. **We need to work hard on increasing this team.**

## Finances

- We have seen some substantial gifts coming in over the last couple of months. **This is an amazing answer to prayer.**
- Since our last report 2 **regular gifts** have been increased.
- We have received 1 gift from a **trust fund** towards our general literature costs and a further pledge towards Foundations.



May 2018 Together

**The Numbers**

<b>Measurable</b>	<b>Number to date, 2018</b>	<b>Number at end of 2017</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£12.50	+£340.83	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	48	48	
Trust fund applications made	0	4	
Prayer meetings held	0	3	
Events & church visits happened	3	3	People's Church Partington, LwECF, Ivy
Events & church visits scheduled	0	-	
Bibles recycled this year	165 received 316 sent	180 received 112 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = 759 Bibles boxed and ready to send = 9
Translation in progress/completed	2	8	LYV Bemba, RinJ 4 Lunda to be finalised, 2 x Deeper materials in Tonga & Swahili to be undertaken.
Volunteer hours (UK)	45	309	