

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

## Overview

Following on from the break most team members and many Life Groups take in December and January, Impact Team members have begun their cycle of follow up with Life Groups. Many have begun doing this using the new “cluster” system developed as part of the Deeper campaign. Jo & Frank Kimball spent April in Namibia and Zambia working with our teams.

## Headlines

- **EQUIP Mkushi** ran in April with our teams from Northern Zambia gathering to push the **Deeper campaign** forward. Overall it was an encouraging week with the teams working together to make plans and work out solutions to upcoming challenges they predicted. For the first time we ran this with one representative of each team present, rather than the full teams. This was good for discussion based activities as it was easier to include everyone. Local planning activities were left to be completed when teams were back together, rather than at the camp. Next time we meet it will be important to review the success of running the training in this way.
- We were delighted that **Frank and Lyton from Tanzania** joined us for EQUIP Mkushi. They have continued to plant groups in their area and appear to be well organised with 18 groups up and running. They reported that they had at one point gathered the leaders of groups together using their own initiative. A priority is to provide a “**Living the Light**” Life Group training course for these groups as soon as possible.
- As part of the **Deeper** campaign a simple **Life Group introductory leaflet** has been written and translated into Swahili, Bemba and Lunda. Copies of these and the English versions (250 copies in total) were distributed to team members for use. Teams were encouraged to photocopy these if they needed more copies. Translations into Lozi & Chichewa are to follow. 40 copies of **Plant**, a book to help Life Groups teach others to plant and run groups, have also been distributed to the team members. Translations of this are also underway although some small edits are required.
- **EQUIP Kalomo** ran in April with a focus on helping to establish an Impact Team in the area. Lawrence is going from strength to strength and had invited some people who he has encouraged to plant Life Groups. There is potential for a team to begin to emerge, but the work is still at a fledgling stage.
- The **School of Evangelism (Intelligence) in Katima Mulilo, Namibia** saw 18 people gathering with representatives from Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. 4 people came as a result of Jon’s meeting with a church leader in Windhoek last year. During the training there was a sense of people giving ‘the right answers’ for but there were moments of real breakthrough. Feedback included, “I was wondering how to approach the alcoholics but this session has helped me see that I can go and sit with them and try to understand them. We can help each other with the resources we have around us.” Also, “What is killing us in our communities are ‘religious issues’. We must be based only on Jesus Christ. We need to learn to work with each other and cut off those boundaries that have stopped us.”
- **Update on Dignity Zambia:** Bernard and Hermien have been dealing with payments and arrangements and this is working well. During the next 6 months the aim is to move towards a more sustainable footing for Dignity Zambia. We are also been discussing some tax issues in Zambia with our accountants. For larger political reasons outside of our control there has been a movement trying to classify our volunteers as employees. With Abacus we have agreed a strategy of either applying for a renewed exemption to PAYE or simply submitting nil returns. Both are legal solutions to a bureaucratic problem and reflect that fact that the team members are volunteers not employees.
- **Windhoek, Namibia.** Jon recently caught up with our Namibian friends, Danie and Marisa. Marisa has been very ill, please pray for her. The encouraging news is that following on from the training course Jon ran in Windhoek last December, five Life Groups have begun in areas surrounding Windhoek. Jon is looking to follow these up in the coming months, hopefully working towards establishing a team in the area.
- **Mombasa, Kenya.** Tobias has been working in an area around 100km from Mombasa, named ‘Mombasa Rural’. Tobias is part of the ministry at Nairobi Chapel Mombasa. He and his team have been working to identify individuals who can come to the ‘intelligence’ school in July. They have encountered a good but difficult reception. Like Zambia the issues of dependency, distrust and disunity are very present. During a recent call, I talked through many of these issues and our experience of dealing with them.
- **Some big plans** All the above are huge steps. They are steps that the enemy would love to thwart. Please, please pray that we have the vision, the faith, the people and the money to make all of this happen.



EQUIP Mkushi gathering

### Upcoming Dates for next 3 months

- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jon, Jude and family return to Zambia after Ethan has completed some GCSE exams. They will return to the UK on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2018. (On a personal note, Ethan’s secondary school has been ultra-supportive which is very helpful and an answer to prayer).
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Prospective dates for intelligence course in Mombasa. This school will aim to plant the beginnings of a hub and a team in Mombasa.

### The Numbers from Southern Africa

Measurable	Number to date, 2017	Number for 2017 at Last Update	Number at end of 2016	Comments (*these numbers are cumulative. All other numbers are for the current year)
Total Number Life! Groups*	462	450	440	Inc. Windhoek groups
Impact Team Missionaries*	20	20	20	
Apprentices*	22	22	21	
Number of clusters*	14	14	14	
Impact Team Areas*	8	8	8	
Sole Team Impact Team Training	0	0	5	None run in 2017 so far
Equip Courses	2	0	8	April: Kalomo & Mkushi
Intelligence Schools of Evangelism	1	0	5	April: Katima Mulilio, Namibia
Areas Initial Visit	1	0	31	
Life! Group Training Courses	0	0	72	Started mainly from June
Volunteer hours	7,208*	1,760	16,708*	*Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group

# DIGNITY UPDATE: UK Mission

## Overview

This is a mini- update to let you know the networking and progress that there has been on the UK front.

## Headlines

- **Intelligence event in Manchester.** Jon has organised an 'intelligence' training event in manchester on June 17th. This is primarily aimed at Jen and Nick Riches who are preparing to go to Africa, Debs Marks and some of the refugees as well as some individuals from North Wales. We have also spoken to Nick Weyman who has worked in the Sudan and an old friend of Jon's called John Demizien who has lots of relationships there. The lead pastor of the Wirral Christian Centre has invited some of his church members along, particualrly those involved in mission,
- **Rural North Wales.** The training that was to run within North Wales has been out on hold due to current circumstances. We are sad that this has had to be postponed, but recognise that it is for the best. Jon and Jude have been talking to people, getting to know people and working out the way in. Some individuals will be invited to the 'intelligence' event in Manchester.
- **Lots of learning for Dignity.** Life Groups, intelligence, EQUIP and Love Your Village all came out of a desire to initiate a movement within sub-Saharan African locations. As we begin to apply these in different settings we are seeing that it is this motion, this experience that is the crucial ingredient. How do we cause others to go on the same journey in their locations, or more practically, how do they initiate movements of their own? Our intelligence event in the UK will concentrate on this practically. As we explore how to encourage and equip people to do Life Groups, love, community and reaching people within the UK rural context (or elsewhere) the answers may look a little different but will have the same ingredients.

## Upcoming Dates for next 3 months: (UK that involve Jon)

- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Social and prayer meeting at Andy & Amani Browne's house.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – Fund Raising and Dignity Evening at Malvern Evangelical Church, Malvern.
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – intelligence event in Manchester, UK.

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

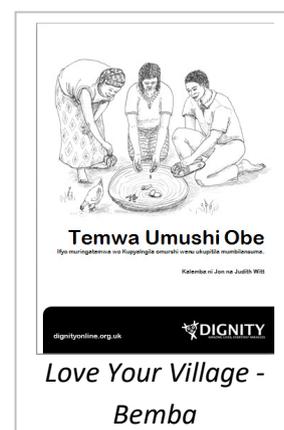
CORE

## Overview

Since the last update we have continued to work hard on producing and translating materials including *Foundations*, materials for the Deeper campaign and translations of *Rooted in Jesus*. Preparation for fundraising events has been progressing with both C2C Bike Ride and Walking Marathon happening soon. Maral Assadzadeh and Debs Marks have been volunteering in our office as time allows them and we are grateful for their help. Jo Kimball spent April in Zambia.

## Headlines

- Work on *Foundations* is progressing well. Book 1 is being read by 4 Zambian team members to highlight any cultural issues. The editing of Book 2 is underway. We are waiting for 6 sessions to be returned by authors and have yet to find authors for 2 sessions.
- We hope to finalise the **Lunda translation of RinJ Book 4** shortly as we have received amendments from Williams, our Lunda translator.
- Our **bi-annual report on our use of RinJ** has been submitted to *The Mathetes Trust*. Alison Morgan replied to say, "Thank you very much for the great report – really encouraging. I was interested to read that those who start with skills training rather than discipleship training don't do so well! It all shows how proper support makes all the difference. I am grateful to be able to contribute RinJ to what you are doing, and privileged to watch it all unfold!"
- The **Bemba version of Love Your Village** is with Royd for final edits and checks. Due to his helping us with other translations we have agreed that he will finish this by July.
- 12 people attended our **prayer meeting** on 13<sup>th</sup> February in Manchester. A social and prayer meeting are set for **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 2pm**. The format is an open house where people can pop in to catch up with Jon and Jude leading into an evening prayer meeting. Our thanks to Andy and Amani Brown for hosting this event.
- 6 riders are set to take on the **2 day C2C bike ride**, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017. One of our team sadly had to pull out due to illness. Fundraising for this has begun and we will be encouraging our team members as they fundraise.
- The route for the **Dignity walking marathon** on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 has been finalised and we are expecting 30 walkers although it is proving hard to get people to complete the booking formalities. **We would love to see 50 people joining this event so please do keep inviting people to join this event or volunteer as marshals on the day.**
- Since our last report 2 new regular monthly gifts have been started, and 2 gifts have been increased. Overall movement for 2017 to date is +£360.83/month.
- One **trust fund application** has been made seeking funding for the Deeper campaign. Two further trusts have been identified as potential supporters and applications will be submitted in the near future.
- This coming week we will be reporting to a trust that has pledged a further gift towards **Foundations for Life**.
- We are awaiting delivery of the 75 Bibles that have been shipped to Zambia by Medical Missionary News.
- Gill has been working on finding **public speaking opportunities** for Jon in 2018 when he is in the UK.
- The Iranian Life Group continues to meet every other Sunday afternoon, sharing the responsibility of leading the sessions and praying for each other. This has continued while Jo & Frank have been in Zambia.



## The Numbers

Measurable	Number to date, 2017	Number at end of 2016	Comments
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£360.83	-£10	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	48	46	
Trust fund applications made	1	4	
Prayer meetings held	1	5	
Events & church visits happened	1	11	
Events & church visits scheduled	0	-	
Bibles recycled this year	101 received 75 sent	11 received 31 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = 406 Bibles waiting to be sent = 89
Translation in progress/completed	10	3	LYV Bemba, RinJ 4 Lunda, 2 x Deeper materials into 4 languages currently in progress.
Volunteer hours (UK)	98.5	460*	*This figure is estimated