

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

## Overview

We have been concentrating on working with our Impact Teams in a number of EQUIP visits. We have been to Kenya, to talk to some people about the work of Dignity and Life Group numbers continue to grow. The Deeper campaign has started and is beginning to allow a wider generation of villagers to plant Life Groups. We have also been experimenting with Life Groups in other contexts and have heard how the Life Group model has been used to plant churches in new areas.

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

- We have been concentrating on **accountability and encouragement for the existing Impact Team members**. This has been done by visits to most of our teams over the last few weeks. For use in these visits we have developed an Impact Team Assessment. It helps us guide the conversation but also to provide accountability. Often there are small issues that need to be ironed out that prevent people from being effective.
- Bernard and myself have begun to talk about **a different way of running our teams**. Whilst we still have a lot to think through, the general premise is to keep a more static number of 'pioneer teams' and use the emerging cluster model to provide training and support to areas that are established. This will use our resources more efficiently and provide more leadership. At some point, we will produce a strategy document! The bottom line is that Impact Team numbers will reach a limit and local leadership will come from clusters.
- The **Namibia Team** earlier this year was struggling. New employment for two members of the team meant that their commitment could only be small. With Moses, we have planned how to recruit 'leading lights' into the team in Namibia. The team in South West Zambia is still forming, it seems however that we have three strong candidates to form a team there.
- **We will be placing 2 or 3 Impact Team Members on review**. This is a mechanism we use when an Impact Team member is not performing as well as they could be. This is not to discourage them, when there are problems we believe in dealing with them openly and honestly.
- There is now a **Lupaula North, Central and South team**. The area is huge and by separating out our teams, we believe we can more easily cover the area.
- In **Livingstone** we met with Collins and Evertisto of Kibuyu village. We discussed how life groups could work in their area! Also met up with Aldridge to find contacts west and north of Livingstone.
- **Dignity Zambia has employed its' first person**. Bernard Witika is now being employed to coordinate and lead the work within Zambia jointly with Jon, Jude and others. For Bernard and Dignity Zambia it brings some long term stability. There is need to strengthen the administration side of the work to allow Jon and Bernard to concentrate on growing the work into new areas. This could be done by employing a person with relevant skills part time.
- We have tried to form a **leadership team comprised of representatives from each Impact Team area**. The aim is primarily to allow leadership to arise from within the ranks of those committed to Dignity, but also to provide a forum to make decisions and communicate. There will be 4 meetings per year. January, April (with EQUIP meeting), July, October (with EQUIP meeting). Leadership in Africa is basically a bwana (boss – comes from Swahili 'Lord') telling everyone what to do. To move away from this and create a more collaborative team with collective effort will take some time!
- Jon & Jude's **residency permits** were approved in June, so they can continue to live and work in Zambia.

## Southern Africa Hub: Deeper Campaign

- **Impact Teams have either begun implementing Deeper or are planning to**. There are around 10 current groups that have been planted by people who are not part of an Impact Team (around 2%) of our current group number. It's an encouraging start that proves the concept will work. An issue hampering the adoption of the campaign at present is the availability of our materials. Translations have finally been done and very soon the materials will be on their way. The materials that have been used have been well received and are useful to people furthering Life Groups on their own. As part of the campaign, we have initiated a system of clustering groups together for training and encouragement. This enables easy communication but also leadership to arise within the wider family of Dignity.

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

- **Mombasa, Kenya (mid-July)** Bernard and Jon travelled to Ganze, 80km north of Mombasa. They ran an Intelligence School aimed at helping people to start Life Groups. Around 30 people attended from different churches and parts of the community. Ganze is about 1500km from where we live in Mkushi and 2 counties away! We have heard that at least one group is running in that area. What is really important is to establish a support contact for this group(s).

There are contacts with Trinity Chapel in Mombasa, and they have agreed to contact for a while, however, we are really looking for God to raise 1 or 2 people in the Ganze area itself.

- **Windhoek, Mid- Namibia** We hope to follow up our work here last year with Impact Team training for the people in Katutura, Windhoek.
- **Life Groups in other contexts** Jon has started ‘The Potjie’, effectively a men’s life group that meets monthly for the people who live around the Mkushi area. We have decided to run 2 evenings, (the last one was 30th August and had 21 people attending) and then see how it is going. The moniker of “Friendship | Food | Inspiration” has been used to convey the purpose of the group.

### Testimonies & Stories

- Some **amazing stories continue to come out of Life Groups**. From people becoming Christians, people finding love and acceptance or changes in the community, they continue to be a future paradigm of what the church should be. For example, see Brenda’s story published on our website.
- **Life Group numbers have continued to grow at pace**. The latest count is 482, which is a growth of around 8%. This is despite our groups in Namibia stalling a little due to the team issues and the usual ‘die-off’ of ineffective groups. The training phase of the year still has 3 months to go, so further 24 Life Group training events will further that growth. We are very close to 10,000 people!
- A particularly encouraging development has been **Moses using the Life Group model to plant the ‘church’** In Kaisosi (Namibia) and into Angola, he has used the model to plant the church for two very distinct reasons. In Kaisosi, there were numerous other church plants and he has used the model to unify the efforts of many groups. In Angola, he recognised that there was no knowledge of God and has used the Life Group model and material to actually plant a church. When they meet, they meet as a Life Group.

### Upcoming Dates for next 6 months

- Early September and October: Remaining Impact Team EQUIP visits.
- September 17th-23rd – Training for Potential Impact Team Recruits in Mkushi.
- October 23rd – 26th – EQUIP Meeting for all established Impact Teams.
- September-November: Radical? Teaching series at South Church, inspired from our work with Dignity.
- September: Work with Tanzanian recruits to pioneer work there.
- Later in the year: Work in to Namibia

### 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*	482	462	440	Inc. Windhoek groups
Impact Team Missionaries*	18	20	20	
Apprentices*	23	22	21	
Number of clusters*	31	14	14	
Impact Team Areas*	9	8	8	
Sole Team Impact Team Training	0	0	5	None run in 2017 so far
Equip Courses	7	2	8	April: Kalomo & Mkushi
Intelligence Schools of Evangelism	2	1	5	April: Katima Mulilio, Namibia
Areas Initial Visit	21	1	31	
Life! Group Training Courses	24	0	72	Started mainly from June
Volunteer hours	14,760 <sup>†</sup>	10,904	16,708 <sup>†</sup>	<sup>†</sup> Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

## Overview

July and August have been quieter months in terms of events here in the UK, however the team have been very busy managing the production of materials for the *Deeper* Campaign. We have also been working on plans to mark our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday both here in Manchester and also in a wider way.

## Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- Work on *Foundations* continues. 2 of the Zambian team members who have read Book 1 have given positive feedback. We are waiting for feedback from 2 further team members. Book 2 is ready to compile except for 1 session. Books 3 & 4 are with the editing team.
- *Plant* (one of the materials for *Deeper*) is now typeset and ready to print in English and Lunda. The Bemba version has been typeset and is awaiting corrections from the translator. We have also received the first draft of the Tonga version. An *introductory Life Group leaflet* is also ready for use in English, Bemba, Lunda & Swahili. The need for these materials is becoming urgent and we need to get them printed and posted as soon as possible.

## Core: General

- Gill, our office administrator, has been off work sick for the last month. **Please pray for her to return to full health.**
- Maral has been volunteering in the office since the start of the year but other commitments mean she is no longer able to do so. We are so grateful for all her creativity and the help she has given us. **Thank you Maral!** It would be great to find another volunteer.
- Our **Year of Prayer continues**. A handful of people have signed up to the online calendar, including a church in The DRC. Please invite people to pray with us and share the link [www.dignityonline.org.uk/pray](http://www.dignityonline.org.uk/pray)
- We have booked St Brides for our **10th birthday party** and will have a family friendly afternoon party from 3-5pm, followed by an evening meal and celebration from 7-10,30pm. Big Top Parties will cater for the evening event. Please do spread the word and invite people. Tickets are available online at [www.picatic.com/dignity10](http://www.picatic.com/dignity10) Invites to this are going out by email as well as phone call.
- We are inviting people to host a **Dignity Sunday in their churches** the following day and will produce a 10<sup>th</sup> birthday video that they can show. We plan to create an online pack that people can download to use wherever they are.
- Since our last report there has been no changes to our regular monthly gifts. Overall movement for 2017 to date is +£270.83/month.
- A **trust fund application** has been prepared seeking core funding. This will be submitted as soon as the year end accounts are finalised. One further trust application is to be written for *Deeper*.
- The **75 Bibles** shipped to Zambia by Medical Missionary News have made it safely to the teams!
- Our monthly emails have featured a **video testimony from a team member** for the last 3 months. To mark our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday we plan to share new and old videos via social media throughout July.



Bernard, Esther and Precious with Bibles shipped out recently

## The Numbers

Measurable	Number to date, 2017	Number at end of 2016	Comments
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£270.83	-£10	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	48	46	
Trust fund applications made	2	4	
Prayer meetings held	2	5	
Events & church visits happened	3	11	Intelligence Manchester. Jon visited Malvern.
Events & church visits scheduled	0	-	
Bibles recycled this year	107 received 75 sent	11 received 31 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = 406 Bibles waiting to be sent = 124
Translation in progress/completed	10	3	LYV Bemba, RinJ 4 Lunda, Plant & LG Leaflet: English/Lunda/Bemba/Swahili/ Tonga
Volunteer hours (UK)	243	460*	*This figure is estimated