

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Southern Africa

HUB

## Overview

Life Groups grow. The Deeper campaign is already showing more “green shoots”. Impact Teams are growing. Social change is happening.

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

### Life Groups

- **Life Group** numbers continue to grow, even when accounting for the inevitable fall off in some groups that occurs. The current total is 539 not accounting for growth in 2 areas, for which we do not currently have figures. This is a great testimony to being consistent over many months.
- **Social Change:** The Life Groups continue to pioneer ways of loving and helping people. The majority is one neighbour to another and many stories have emerged such as Brenda in Namibia where villagers have really started a ministry to help their community. I’m really pleased that as the groups have grown, so has this aspect of the work.

### Impact Teams

- In mid-September we hosted a **new team member training event** in Mkushi with 22 apprentices attending for six days of intensive training. This was a fantastic time and one we want to repeat more often. We saw God moving in people’s lives and also gave these teachers a solid foundation in our work.
- We’ve had to suspend a potential team member from **Kalomo** from our programme. Due to some personal spiritual issues he has, he went ‘rogue’ and started opposing the work and drawing people to follow him. We thank God this didn’t gain traction in the area.
- We’ve reformed the **Namibia Zambezi** team. Through discussion with Moses, we’ve replaced 2 team members. The team will travel to Mkushi in early December (with some others) for a 6 day training event. This will be followed in early 2018 by an event in Namibia where we seek to pioneer new areas through training new team members across Northern Namibia. Tanzania may well follow the same route.
- We are also looking at **changing Impact Team strategy** to make teams far more efficient, flexible and self driven. (see note attached). We will not have a difference between established members and apprentices, each area will have a coordinator and a flexible team that can be drawn upon at different times. This will mean our team is around 46 members, not the current 22.
- The latest **EQUIP event was at Ndubaluba in October**. 21 team members attended, with some ill who could not attend. The theme was adapting to change and maturing as a missionary. Over the last few months, we’ve really been pushing the subject of maturity and taking faith and responsibility.

### Dignity Zambia

- We’ve had our second ever **leadership council meeting**. We discussed local sustainability, fund raising, having a budget and using different models of team to drive the work forward. Using a Tanzanian example where a team has raised some of its’ own money, we were seeking to inspire this also within Zambia.
- Due to Bernard’s employment, we now submit monthly NAPSA (social security) and ZRA(PAYE) returns.
- There is a need to employ someone (part time, circa 2 days p/m) with the correct skills to handle the many admin tasks that are emerging: database entry, electronic returns etc. This is something we need to aspire to in the coming period.
- Fund raising centrally is an area we need to examine a little more. We’ve been encouraged recently by a gift to cover a month’s expenditure here in Zambia.

### Planting in new areas

- The work in **Southern Zambia** continues to grow with training happening in the next 2 weeks just outside of Livingstone.
- There are a number of physical areas that **need to be followed up** as well as some scoped and reached. Over the next 2 months, we will be visiting and seeking contacts in these areas for the future. Our link with the groups in Kenya is quite weak, however I have heard there are groups meeting. I do have a thought to ask the Tanzanians to visit them.
- The Radical? Teaching series has gone very well here in Zambia. View it here: [www.dignityonline.org.uk/publications/](http://www.dignityonline.org.uk/publications/)

### Southern Africa Hub: Deeper Campaign

- The 'Deeper' campaign is still showing many green shoots of promise. Many cluster areas (life groups who relate together) have prepared the ground for using the Deeper material, which is available in 3 languages so far. Availability of material has been an issue in the campaign really taking root, we just simply haven't been able to do it fast enough. As this now comes online, we will really start to see the benefit.

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

- **Mombasa, Kenya (July)** We believe the people we trained have begun to lay the foundations for some Life Groups.
- **Windhoek, Mid- Namibia** We hope to invite the people we know in Windhoek to the training we are planning with the Namibian team in early 2018.

### 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*	539	482	440	Inc. Windhoek groups
Trained Active Impact Team Missionaries *	46	41	41	Now incorporates Impact Team members and apprentices to reflect the changes to our working model.
Number of clusters*	31	31	14	We believe this number has grown, but we have not verified the data yet.
Impact Team Areas*	13	9	8	Including new and upcoming areas
Sole Team Impact Team Training	1	0	5	September Event for new Team members
Equip Courses	8	7	8	Includes October central EQUIP course
Intelligence Schools of Evangelism	2	0	5	UK and Ganze (Kenya)
Areas Initial Visit	45	21	31	
Life! Group Training Courses	40	24	72	Started mainly from June
Volunteer hours	18,884 <sup>†</sup>	10,904*	16,708 <sup>†</sup>	<sup>†</sup> Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group

### The Numbers from Southern Africa

#### 3 Key Items for Prayer

- Pilius is now a lot better, but sickness and disease continue to plague some members of the team. Pray for their healing and medical treatment.
- Pray for the Deeper campaign, for new leaders and trainers to be raised up from within the groups and clusters that comprise the work of Dignity. This is where I want the majority of growth to come from.
- Pray for pioneering, looking to the future. There are many areas and many ways we could reach them. Please pray that we would have the right ideas and resources to do this.

#### An Audacious Prayer for our work

Jon 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 me 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

We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in October and marked it with a party here in Manchester. We have also focused the production of literature for the Deeper Campaign.

## Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- As part of **Deeper** we have completed the typesetting and printing of **Plant** and the **Life Group leaflet** in English, Bemba and Lunda.
- We have printed 800 copies of Plant and 3,500 leaflets.** Packages of these have been sent by airmail to team members across Zambia and the rest will be sent by ship.
- Progress on **Foundations** has gone slower than planned as our focus had to shift the Deeper materials. However, we are now pushing forward and a draft print of Book 1 will happen in November for proof readers and funders. Book 2 will follow on shortly.
- A team has been gathered to look at producing a resource called **Love Your Children**. The idea is to produce a short course that explores the why and how Life Groups can work with children in their communities.

## Core: General

- Sadly Gill has continued to suffer ill health and has not been able to make a return to work. She has continued to support us in prayer and whatever practical ways she has been able to from home.
- Nicole Robinson has been volunteering in the office and helped massively with the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party. She is planning to continue giving a few hours a week which will be really helpful for regular administration tasks. **Thank you Nicole!**
- Jordan Bell kindly produced a 10<sup>th</sup> birthday video for us. **Thank you Jordan!**
- Roughly 60 adults and 30 children joined us for our **10th birthday party**. We had a great afternoon and evening full of fun, games and celebration of what God is doing through Life Groups. People really appreciated the stories shared as a way to understand the impact of our work. As an event, it was strong on awareness and thanksgiving, although fundraising was down on previous years.
- Materials from the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday will be circulated to churches in formats they can use to host a "Dignity Sunday".
- We are currently running a **series on social media** in which we are sharing the stories used in our 10 year timeline on a daily basis.
- Our **Year of Prayer continues** and we have a day of prayer taking place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November
- Our **income** has been lower than hoped over the last 2 months and we need to see an increase in order to finish the year in a healthy financial position.
- Since our last report there has been no change to **regular giving**. Overall movement for 2017 to date is +£270.83/month.
- A **trust fund application** has been submitted seeking core funding. One further trust application is to be written for *Deeper* and we will report back to the trust funds who have supported Foundations as soon as the draft print of Book 1 is available.



10<sup>th</sup> birthday party - UK

## 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	3	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	106 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 in English, Bemba and Lunda complete (Tonga & Swahili to follow).
Volunteer hours (UK)	300.5	460*	*This figure is estimated