

DIGNITY UPDATE: Zambia

Overview

More than ever I (Jon) am absolutely convinced that the way forward is the releasing and involvement of much wider groups of people in our work. The Christian principle of giving away power, resources and advantage to others, in short giving life away is the wind at our backs and a guide for the future. In so many ways I believe we are progressively on a course where we will achieve this more and more, through training people, producing resources or simply being friends to those who have no friends. Whilst this report is more focused on Life Groups, teams and their progress, we still haven't forgotten the social aspect of the Gospel and encourage every group to aid their community. Developing this remains a priority for our work but we should rightly take some pride in what God has achieved through our collective work.

Dignity Zambia

- Jon has been working with Bernard and others to try and **grow a team that does not rely upon the work of Jon and Bernard to thrive** (it used to be just Jon and Jude!) This is a long term project. We've decided that every 2 months (and linked in with existing training) we will meet together as a wider leadership team with representatives from each area. We are giving more responsibility and scope to carry the work forward to some of these team members. See 'Impact Team' section below. Bernard and Jon have discussed how we should give 2 or 3 of the team members more latitude to develop their skills and role within the work. This will develop a strong team over time.
- Lauren will now be responsible for updating the **database and producing reports** from it. We are also setting up a **resource ordering line through Hermien** where teams will be able to request resources centrally rather than them being stored at Jon's house! Both are new, exciting steps forward.

Life Groups (including Deeper Campaign)

- The **number of Life groups has definitely grown**, although we have not had the chance to do a full audit of them yet. Most team members only started training in June, so group numbers will surge towards the end of the year. From the figures we do have, some high points:
 - **In Luapula South, 9 Life Groups grew out of group to group planting** in the first half of 2018. This is a direct result of our *Deeper Campaign*, the *Plant* material being produced in Bemba and the dedication of Pilius and his team to help groups plant out. There is evidence of this pattern in every Life Group area.
 - **In Tanzania**, from estimated figures (it is difficult to judge due to language and differing ways of talking about the work), I estimate another 5 groups have begun, which considering the team has received no direct support as of yet, is amazing.
 - **South West Zambia (very new area) 3 new groups, North West 4 new groups, Luapula South 11 New Groups in addition to the organic growth, Central East 7 new groups.**
- **It is important to remember what these figures represent.** Every group is a community group studying the Bible properly (some for the first time), learning and growing together in faith and over time finding ways to love and serve their community. I realise the picture is very much incomplete but from what I can see **34 new groups in Zambia so far this year is a fantastic statistic to have.**



Impact Teams

- In Bernard's words, there is a **'wind of change' blowing through the teams at the moment.** There are lots of newer people and the energy that they bring. There is also a sense of God clearing out some of the 'stuff' that you accumulate over time and re-focusing the teams.
- Whilst we have retained the Impact Team structure, over the last year we have **significantly made the teams more flexible in their nature.** Each team now has the ability to manage its own budget and has to submit and report on activity each month. They are also able to recruit new team members and send them for training, involving them where they want and dynamically assigning their resources to the correct people each month. For example:
 - The Central East team has historically comprised of Precious, Esther and Bernard. At this time Precious and Esther are a little less involved but Peter and Ken are growing in their role. The new structure allows more flex to fit with the lives of individual team members at different times.

- Bernard has been completing **one Impact Team Assessment per month**. In general, these have been positive to encourage the teams but also to pinpoint problems and issues where we have been able to help and encourage.
- The stepping down of Cornelius and Augustine has exerted an effect on Life Groups and their respective teams.
 - Our capability in **Petauke** has been significantly hit. Bernard has been calling individual Life Group leaders to ascertain how they are and what is going on. During this process, we suspect that some of these Life Group leaders were fictitious (we believe around 10 groups or so). The positive is that there are some Life Groups and leaders who we can hopefully get together and plan to re-make a team in the area this year.
 - In **Mpika** area we also discovered that historically promises of money had been used to curry favour with people in 4 Life Group areas. Not a significant number of areas, but very disappointing nonetheless. The positive is again that the equipping a wide group of people has proved resilient and allowed these negative influences to be mitigated.
 - In **Luapula** we do not believe there is huge fallout thanks to existing team member Agness stepping up and I believe by sheer force of will and effort ensuring that the work prevails. Agness has risen to the occasion and provided coordination and commitment to reform the team by recruiting new members. Pilius has been providing support to Agness throughout this process.
- **We must remember it's a spiritual war we are in**. The enemy simply does not want this work and the people of Zambia to be successful.

The Numbers from Southern Africa

Measurable	Number to date, 2018	Previous Update	End 2017	Comments
				<i>(*these numbers are cumulative. All other numbers are for the current year)</i>
Total Number Life! Groups*	615	574	574	
Trained Active Impact Team Missionaries *	45	45	47	
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	
Impact Team Training course (visit or central EQUIP)	TBC	1	10	
<i>Intelligence</i> Schools of Evangelism	TBC	0	5	
Areas Initial Visit	TBC	5	71	Data from 4 main teams
Life! Group Training Courses	TBC	0	79	Trainings normally run between April and September
Encouragement visits	25	25	25	
Volunteer hours	18,968*	4,592*	23,296*	*Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group

3 Key Items for Prayer

- Pray for Petauke and the Life Groups in the area, pray also that God would defend his work and defend the various Life Group volunteers.
- Pray for the opportunities to bolster fledging teams and to present the work to new people.
- Pray for Bernard, and the other Impact Teams Leaders that God would help them to take the work forward well with a clear plan and with efficacy.

DIGNITY UPDATE: Developing Regions

Overview

From now on we will be reporting growing regions outside of Zambia as 'Developing Regions' to reflect the growth we have seen. This is more logical and reflects our long term aim of growing hubs in each area where we work. The areas here pick up from what was previously reported as 'Planting & establishing new Hubs'.

Namibia

- My impression of the Namibia team is that whilst it is working well and they are visiting and supporting Life Groups areas, twinned with training new areas **there is a need to widen and deepen the reach and organisation to allow more capability**. This is pencilled in for September and October.

Tanzania

- Since the beginning of 2017, a small team in Tanzania situated in the wider Mbeya region has been supporting themselves to visit and train various areas to begin and run Life Groups. We decided in January 2018 to support them in some small financial way to assist in their efforts. This of course takes some communication and coordination. Unfortunately, communication became confused due to one of the team members moving away and language differences. This made it more difficult to communicate effectively however, we have invested some time and effort in this recently.
- **During July, Jon and Bernard visited the border region of Zambia with Tanzania where they met Frank and Edward from Tanzania**. During a day meeting, they were able to discuss again how the team could work, how money could be transferred and what needed to be done where. We agreed around £70 p/m could be transferred to assist the fledgling team and 2 or 3 new leaders are going to be invited to Zambia for training.

Kenya

- Tobias Ngala of Mombasa Trinity Chapel recently visited an area called Ganze, some 100km outside of Mombasa. This trip was funded by Dignity. **Ganze is the area where Bernard and Jon visited last year**. Communication and support has been difficult in a region where Dignity has little direct representation. From reports by Tobias and Jon's anecdotal knowledge, we believe that there are 3 Life Groups meeting at a variety of stages. This is a fantastic development and once again we see the resilience of our planting method. **They need materials, support and development but the 'foothold' is there**.
- There are two opportunities that have opened up to us in Kenya within August (aka Kenya month as Jon calls it).
 - **August 6-11**: Jon will visit Nairobi in Kenya where New Thing's Viral Conference is being held. He will be presenting a workshop on 'How ordinary people plant churches' which will be an opportunity to present our Life Group methodology. 7th August is also a regional day where we will have the opportunity to meet people from throughout the region. Our new Away Kit will form the basis of teaching and take away aspect of the workshops and will hopefully lead to new opportunities and involvement.
 - **August 20 – 26**: Jon and Jude will visit the Mombasa region to pursue 2 strategic aims. Firstly, we want to reconnect with the existing Life Groups and at the very least we need to solidify and bolster those people who are running groups. Ideally we would like to form a small team that could possibly be operated in conjunction with the church in Mombasa (this is still very much a developing idea). Secondly, we have been invited to another church planting conference where we will have the opportunity to present our ideas and vision. Again the Away Kit will form the basis of our teaching.
- **There is a critical need for materials to be translated to Swahili, especially the Plant material and training materials. This affects both Tanzania and Kenya.**

DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

Overview

This primary focus of the last 2 months has been on Sharing our Knowledge with progress being made on our digital plans and on the materials we are producing. In addition, in May we sent out our 10th birthday mailing which has received positive feedback and in June we ran 2 fundraising events.

Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- Work has begun on upgrading our **digital solutions**, including our central database and hosting provision. A small team of volunteers with relevant expertise are leading this process with input from Jo and Jon. Our thanks to this team! This is the first step towards our intention of being able to **publish our materials digitally**.
- **Foundations 1: Life Begins** is undergoing a few final amendments before going to print. Copies of the draft print have been sent to Zambia to be trialled by a few Life Groups. **Foundations 2: Life Grows** has been sent for a short print run for wider proof reading and test use. **Foundations 3: Life Creates** is being compiled and typeset and **Foundations 4: Life Matures** is being edited by Sarah Small.
- We have placed a substantial order for **Rooted in Jesus** and have submitted the Lunda translation of Book 4. Our thanks to the Mathetes Trust for the ongoing use of this resource.
- We have received the **Bemba translations of Love Your Village and Living the Light** from Royd who has been checking these translations for us, our thanks to Royd. Work has begun on typesetting Love Your Village.

Core: General

- We have sent our **Directors' and Trustees' Report for 2017** to JA Fell for Independent Review.
- A **Gift Aid Claim** has been submitted for April – June has been submitted.
- A **Trustee Induction date** is set for our second incoming trustee.

People

- **Jo** had her annual appraisal and has begun a trial run of monthly phone meetings with Fran.
- **Maral** has increased her days to 1.5/week. Initially, her extra time will be allocated to typesetting materials.
- **Lawrence (Kingdom Fundraising)** is working with us to apply to a number of trust funds.

Resources

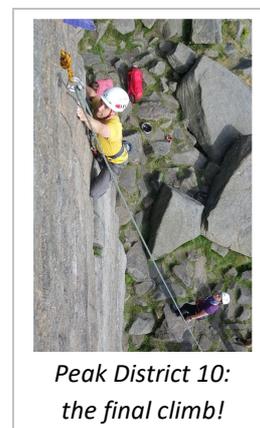
- Our **2018 Charitable Investment Prospectus** is [available online](#). Please do share it!
- We have received **16 Bibles through our Bible Recycle** in the last 2 months.

Supporter Care: We sent out a 'bumper' 10th birthday mail out including Together, our 2018 Year of Prayer and the 2018 Charitable Investment Prospectus. We have received a number of GDPR responses and financial gifts in response.

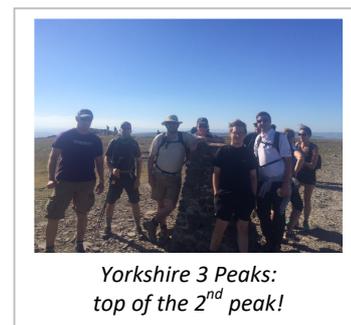
Visits & Events: Jo spoke at **St Margaret's, Burnage** in June.

Fundraising: We have run 2 fundraising events; The **Peak District 10** (9th June) and the **Yorkshire 3 Peaks** (30th June). Both were successful days out enjoyed by the team members and sponsorship is still coming in. Huge thanks to everyone who took part and to those who sponsored a friend.

Finances: Since our last report 1 **regular gift** have been increased and 1 has been started. We have also received some substantial gifts. **This is an amazing answer to prayer.**



Peak District 10: the final climb!



Yorkshire 3 Peaks: top of the 2nd peak!

The Numbers

Measurable	Number to date, 2018	Number at end of 2017	Comments
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£112.50	+£340.83	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	52	48	Now includes churches and individuals
Trust fund applications made	2	4	
Prayer meetings held	0	3	
Events & church visits happened	4	3	St Margaret's
Bibles recycled this year	181 received 316 sent	180 received 112 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = 759 Bibles ready to send = 25
Translations in progress/completed	6	8	In progress: LYV Bemba, RinJ 4 Lunda, Living the Light Bemba, Plant Tonga Completed: Plant Bemba, Plant Lunda
Volunteer hours (UK)	68.75	309	