

DIGNITY UPDATE: Zambia

Overview

It was amazing a couple of nights ago to see a friend share a post about a SIM missionary from New Zealand. Pictured to the right is Dee who with others is currently planting Life Groups in Kasempa region in North Western Zambia. What is amazing for me is that this activity is another step away from Dignity and it is still happening. Our practice has gone out from us into some villagers and leaders from Kasempa, who then shared them with Dee, who now teaches others. How cool is that? It's a story of the reach of empowering others and the strength of ideas rather. It's a demonstration of Dignity being a movement. This thought provides the theme for this report: **Movement**.

Life Groups

- We have been **working to get full Life Group numbers together** which, whilst sounding simple, involves multiple people in multiple regions & counties who have limited access to technology and is therefore a slow process. We have received updates from Mpika, North Western & Luapula Central in Zambia, Tanzania (partial, via Jo and Lambert) and Namibia.
- **Anedotally, we know that Life Groups have continued to be planted** even in this 'follow up and support' portion of the year.
- Of particular encouragement is the fact that slowly **others are picking up the planting and growth of Life Groups**, the work of Dee and SIM above an example.
- As part of equipping Life Groups and sharing knowledge with a wider group of people, a **few Impact Team members attended the Foundations Zambia conference** with the aim of gaining experience and knowledge of various schemes that could be shared with others. As part of this, Bernard was given the opportunity to share about Dignity. This is another example of the work of Dignity penetrating beyond our constituency into that of others. All of these areas are either neighbouring existing or are completely new opportunities for Life Groups to be planted. **This of course has the effect of more groups, more people, more gospel, more transformation.**



<http://sim.org.nz/dee-plants>



Dignity team members at Inspire

"Inspire conference was really good. I managed to share a bit and people were very encouraged. We distributed quite a number of tracts [about Life Groups] to people and were given some contact numbers from some of these. Places like Mumbwa – more strength for we got a number of contacts, Mbala Northern Province, Kabompo Northwestern, Ikelengi to mention but a few." ~ Bernard, on spending time at Inspire

Impact Teams

- **Impact Team Training Events:** As mentioned in our last report, we adopted a dispersed method of training our teams in the early part of the year. This literally means existing Impact Team members being trained to teach wider, support teams and run 'EQUIP events' in their locality. **This has the effect of raising the capability of the wider team**, something that both Bernard and Jon are keen to accomplish. **This training happened in February and early March and was a huge success!**
- **Petauke area in Southern Zambia:** You may remember that our team in Petauke region had some problems in 2018. After contact and smaller visits, Bernard and Royd visited in March to look at replanting the team. This was important as although there are many Life Groups in the region, supporting them was difficult. There are a number of individuals who will be included in our 2019 training events to rebuild capability.
- **Plans looking forward into 2019:** Bernard, Royd and others on the team have been involved in setting up pioneering work in new regions for 2019. People who have been visited and are interested will be trained through a variety of 1) Central team training events, 2) Local, dispersed team training events and 3) Progressive local village training courses.

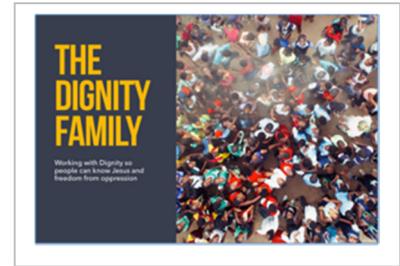
Dignity Zambia Updates

- **Bernard seems to have enjoyed and appreciated the extra time to pioneer work.** This is reflected in the new leads and contacts. This trial period is until the end of June 2019, where a new time level will be agreed upon.
- **The employment of Royd seems to be a huge success.** Foundations Book 1: Life Begins has been translated to Bemba and his contribution in teaching and personality has been great!

DIGNITY UPDATE: Developing Regions

The Dignity Family

- The current trajectory of Dignity as a whole is to keep on empowering, partnering and sending out wider, making everything we have available in a variety of ways and methods. This was affirmed in our recent UK vision and planning days. Part of this is publications like the one pictured on the right which helps potential partners to know how to work with us



Kenya

- Ganze, Eastern Kenya:** Joseph has started his trial mission engagement with Dignity through Trinity Chapel Mombasa. In April he spent time in Ganze area visiting the Life Groups and key villagers in the area. His brief over the next 5-6 months is to introduce the work to 2 or 3 new areas and to raise up a team of villagers to train. This is a precursor of an Impact Team. Jo & Frank will spend time with Joseph in July.
- Near Eldoret, Western Kenya:** Jon and Jo spent some time with Open Arms International who run an orphanage and community work near Eldoret. We have decided to run training for potential Life Groups there in August 2019. Another potential partnership!

Namibia

- In 2019 Jon and Jude will **follow up the training run in Central Namibia last year** and attempt to plant some new work there. Progress is slow and difficult at distance, but the plan is to spend some time in Namibia in July/August scoping out locations and contacts. A return visit is planned for September/October to train people in various locations to plant and run Life Groups.

Tanzania

- The **team continues to work** to Plant Life Groups and follow up with existing ones. Jo and Lambert have been working with them to help **provide some strategy to this**.
- The team want Life Group leaders to get to know each other and are looking at **introducing clusters** in the same way as in Zambia.
- There are **encouraging signs of growth** with a story of a group being planted out from an existing group and a local church asking Frank to come and share about Life Groups at their own expense.
- Frank has become known as **“Mr Butterfly”** because the influence of what he is teaching people seems to be everywhere!
- Jo & Frank are hoping to **spend time with the Tanzanian team in August** although the team there have asked to amend the dates which may cause a problem.

UK addendum

- Over the last few months **there has been a small but growing call for sharing some of the ideas underlying Life groups within the UK**. As part of this we have been considering writing some material and training to share these ‘African’ ideas in our own context, most notably rural or semi urban areas. Some very early forays into this have received a positive response.

Key Items for Prayer

- There are all kinds of exciting ideas around at the moment:** Expanding skills training (Love Your Children inc. safeguarding in villages for example), planting in new areas directly (eg. Bernards’ travels), planting through partners (eg. Open Arms, Joseph and TCM) or pioneering completely new regions (UK teaching/pioneering hub, Namibia Jon and Jude). Please pray for open doors and success. Pray also that the capacity in terms of people (and money) to keep the movement going forward will be created and supplied as we go, share and plant wherever we can. Pray in everything Jesus is glorified, people come to know him and step forward to love their community!
- We meet many people from many nations who express an interest in planting Life Groups in their own context. We also receive invitations to visit some of these places also.** Can you pray for two things? Firstly that, through the training we have made available, people can plant Life Groups in their own regions and encourage people to love God and their community. Please pray that some of them are nudged by the Spirit to do just that. Secondly, please pray that we can build the capability to respond either through ourselves or partners to the invitations that we receive.
- Please pray for every Life Group volunteer or group member,** the people they know, the churches they may or may not be a part of and the communities that they represent. They are based in multiple nations in multiple regions. Simply pray that the Spirit of God will raise up more Oaks of Righteousness and that his Kingdom, his ways and his love will spiritually and practically affect the community wherever they may be found.

DIGNITY UPDATE: The Numbers

From Southern Africa, including Developing Regions

Measurable	Number to date, 2019	End 2018	End 2017	Comments
				<i>(*these numbers are cumulative since Dignity began. All other numbers are for the current year)</i>
Number of Active Life Groups*	684	684	507	Numbers now ratified following EQUIP team meetings in February.
<i>(Number of which meet seasonally)</i>	45	31		We have begun to track stopped groups and differentiate seasonal groups (where a group migrates part of the year due to farming, fishing etc.) This measurement will help us intentionally focus on areas that need extra input.
Number of Life Groups currently paused or stopped*	68	68	67	
Total number of Life Groups Planted*	752	752	574	Numbers now ratified following EQUIP team meetings in February.
Distinct Life Group Areas Planted*	240	234	210	
Number of clusters*	37	34	31	
Trained Impact Team Missionaries *	73	73	47	
Active Impact Team Missionaries this year to date.	43	49	43	We now note team members as inactive if they are not currently contributing.
Impact Team Areas*	18	18	13	
Impact Team Training course (visit or central EQUIP)	7	17	10	
<i>Intelligence</i> Schools of Evangelism	1	3	5	
Areas Initial Visit	tbc	118	71	Data from Zambia & Kenya only
Life! Group Training Courses	0	47	79	Data from Zambia & Kenya only (numbers from Tanzania & Namibia to be added)
Encouragement visits	116	208	25	Data from Zambia & Kenya only
Volunteer hours	10,944	31,764	23,296	*Estimated figures based on 1 leader volunteering 4 hours/month per Life Group. <u>Now also includes</u> 8 hours per initial visit and encouragement visit 36 hours per training course
IT Training hours	tbc	1692		
IT encouragement & cluster visits	928	2808		Data from Zambia only (assumes 8 hours per encouragement visit)

DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

Overview

It has been a busy few months in the UK office, so much so that this report is coming out later than normal and therefore includes work done in May. Since our last report we have facilitated our Annual Vision Day, Quiz & Fizz and The Big Walk, all of which have been really positive! We have struggled to keep up with other areas of work but will be catching up in the coming month.

Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- **Foundations 1** has been translated to Bemba and is awaiting typesetting. **Foundations 2** is being translated into Bemba. **Foundations 3** is being read for very final comments and **Foundations 4** has made progress but still needs editing work.
- After communications with the **Bible Society of Zambia & Namibia** we now have the necessary written permissions to quote the Bible in our resources for the languages we are currently using.
- Since our last report the Lozi & and Tonga translations of **Plant** have been typeset and returned to translators for final checks. We have agreed a programme of translations moving forward.
- Work has continued on **Love Your Children** and has included some good exploration of how to ensure the study guide results in action. We have continued our discussions with **Tehila**, a Zambian organisation that equips, strengthens and builds the capacity of individuals, communities and organisations to create safer environments for children in Zambia and have planned a training event with them alongside our work with Love Your Children.

Core: General

People

- Our **UK team has settled into a good rhythm** with both Lois & Becky growing into the roles they have taken on.

Communications with Hubs

- Jo has met regularly with Jon while he has been in the UK to push forward on key actions.
- Bernard recently sent us some stories from Zambia as voice messages. This was really helpful and you will see these on our social media and website in the coming weeks!

Visits & Events

- We hosted our **2019 Annual Vision day**. This was a really encouraging day as we explored plans for the coming years. We were particularly encouraged by **Isaiah 55:5**. Coming out of this, our leadership team is continuing to shape the future steps for Dignity.
- Jon has recently spoken at i61 church, Ivy Sharston, Ivy Academy and at the Ivy Residency course.
- We are hosting an **'Open Office' on Friday 7th June** from 4-7pm. People are welcome to drop in!

Fundraising

- Friday 3rd May: **Quiz & Fizz** was attended by 41 people and was a fun evening. We will be packaging up the quiz so that others can run a similar event in their community.
- Saturday 18th May: **The Big Walk 2019 Team Challenge** went really well with 13 walkers all completing their chosen challenge. The Welsh leg of the Big Walk was also a great day out for those who took part! We now want to work to encourage other groups to get involved.
- Since our last report we have received a gift from a **trust fund** towards our literature costs. Lawrence has done 2 of his agreed 5 days work to help us make further applications and we have lodged 4 applications so far.
- Our **2019 Investment Prospectus** is [now available online](#) and in hard copy by request from the UK office.

Finances

- Since our last report 6 **regular gifts** have been started and 4 have been increased. None have been stopped.
- **Giving and Growing** has led to an increase in our regular monthly income, aided by the match funding we were offered.

The Numbers

Measurable	Number to date, 2019	Number at end of 2018	Comments
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£260	+£252.50	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	60	55	Now includes churches and individuals
Trust fund applications made	4	7	
Prayer meetings held	-	2	
Events & church visits happened	4	5	
Bibles recycled this year	36 received	313 received 316 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = 952 (of which 193 are awaiting shipping)
Volunteer hours (UK)	25	186.25	



Quiz & Fizz



The Welsh Big Walk