

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Pioneering

CORE

## Life Groups

Small groups have always been the foundational building block of the church. Life Groups are an expression of these that bring people to Jesus and teach a new way of living, build unity and transform communities holistically; bringing life in all its fullness. They allow everyday people to become beacons of hope in their community.



## The Big Picture

**Our vision, 8.5 years from now, includes the aspiration of planting 500,000 Life Groups.** We have already acknowledged that **this is a task that 'we alone' cannot achieve.** God is saying the time is 'now' to speak and influence openly to encourage this to be a reality. The key to this is enabling and encouraging everyday people such as villagers across Southern Africa, those on the margins and people just like you and me. We must find and link with more people and allow them to access the tools they need to be the 'priests' of God. This is how God, his love and transformation become real for people.

To achieve this will require three things of Dignity. Focusing on the 'least' first (Matthew 25:40) we must **continue to enable the 'least' to plant Life Groups.** We must also **convince and teach others to plant groups** through their own ministry and areas of influence. In addition, we must **influence the thinking and wider agenda of God's people** to use and adapt Life Group methodology to release people in their own settings.

## Influence

We want to **share the concepts, models and tools we have developed,** encouraging others to adapt Life Groups to their own settings. We need to position Dignity to do this. This will catalyse Life Group movements in a wide and diverse area.

We have started with the **simple step of talking with friends** (individuals and organisations) and dreaming together about the possible ways in which Life Groups could be a powerful tool for others. Our hope is that as we work together with people we will see some of these conversations lead to action this year.

Looking forward, we need to **continue to grow our team so we can invest time in actively seeking out collaborations,** listening to how others are working and how we can best encourage and equip them. We will need to trial different ways of partnering with others and monitor and evaluate progress.

## Convince and Teach Others to Plant Groups

Last year we recognised that we need to **decouple the growth of Life Groups from the physical ability of a Dignity to visit an area.** We will always value proximity. We also know that for exponential growth to occur, ideas have to be set free. With 'least-first design' and the intrinsic value of relationship at the core of our thinking, **we are developing Journey,** a multi modal, 4-module course that will equip people anywhere to learn and implement the concepts of Dignity, God's people and Life Groups. *Journey* replaces the idea of a physically gathered residency which we had planned for but had to re-evaluate in light of COVID-19. The distance learning method of *Journey* is in many ways more in line with our 10-year vision.

Since our last report, we have **invested substantially in making Journey a reality.** Based on our existing materials and with some new materials, Module 1 in nearing completion thanks to a team effort! Special thanks to Becky & Akash for their hard work and contributions.

Alongside this, we have been inviting people to take part in Journey. Participants in Namibia and Kenya have signed up to date with more promising to send their forms to us soon. **Do pray that the right people will connect with us!** We are encouraging existing team members and those signing up to ask themselves **“Who else can I get to do this?”**

We will **launch Module 1: Village Journey in October, at the time of our 13th birthday!** People will work through *Journey* at their own pace and will be supported by local teams or, where no local team is present, by our established team members. In line with least-first thinking, **we are working hard to ensure that anyone can access Journey, even when they do not have digital access.**

Looking forward we need to create Modules 2 (target Q4 2020) and Modules 3 and 4 (target Q1 2021). Without taking too firm a grip, we need to formalise network of implementation and support. As we move into 2021 we need to examine wider online teaching and access and develop our delivery methods.

### **Continue enabling the ‘least’ to plant Life Groups**

We have **continued to support Impact Teams and Life Groups** meeting across sub-Saharan Africa. Refer to the later parts of this report for further details.

Throughout 2019 Dignity representatives worked across the full width of the continent helping people to plant Life Groups. We established relationships and provided training, encouragement and materials. We have continued to invest in these relationships and champion those who are responding to God’s call in their communities, primarily through invitations to Journey.

Looking forward we need to continue to invest in these relationships with return visits where possible and remote support where not, nurturing the seeds that have been sown. We will follow up invites for key people from each area to take part in Journey. We will also continue pioneering work through our teams as we have always done.

### **Jon & Jude**

**Jon, Jude and the boys are returning to Zambia this week.** A key focus of their time will be to assist with supporting people through Journey. They will work to help others support the people around them. Jon and Jude have decided not to travel to Namibia this year due to the additional quarantine periods they would be subject to.



# DIGNITY UPDATE: By County

## Zambia

### Life Groups & Impact Teams

- We have been **actively encouraging growth through multiplication** (Life Group to Life Group) rather than growth through large training events. It seems prudent not to resuming training in villages in the 'normal' sense for a while yet.
- As travel restrictions have been lifted within Zambia, **team members have been able to meet together**. This has been good for encouragement, planning and the passing on of materials. Bernard recently met with the Luapula team (pictured).
- **Pioneering in new areas is taking a different form this year**. Bernard has been able to travel to areas where we have contacts and, rather than following our normal pattern of returning to run a training event, he has invited a handful of people from the area to take part in *Journey*.



### Materials

- Royd has worked hard to produce **Awaken in a number of different languages and coordinate distribution**. This is being sent out by WhatsApp where possible, and where not possible, it is being sent by bus to local coordinators.
- We have undertaken a **local print run of a number of materials** including Plant, Love Your Village and Foundations 1. Royd has coordinated the photocopying of these to meet an immediate need and avoid waiting for a delivery from the UK.



### Development of the team in Zambia

- Work continues to develop the team in Zambia. Richard Thompson of Ndubaluba will begin giving 1.5-2 days/month and will begin by building an understanding of the current team.

## Kenya

### Ganze, Eastern Kenya

- In partnership with Trinity Chapel Mombasa, we continue to seek a way to positively assist those who are struggling most in and around Ganze. Joseph believes this is still of value and has mobilised Life Groups to identify those most in need of assistance.
- Joseph has been working to develop relationships with people in other areas around Mombasa. He is using *Journey* as a tool to help Life Groups take root in these areas. He has invited a number of people to take part in the course.

### Near Eldoret, Western Kenya

- We have extended an invite to *Journey* to Open Arms and to those we are in contact with since our visit last year.

### Nairobi, Central Kenya

- Beatrice is keen to take part in *Journey* and is inviting a number of other people to study alongside her. She has agreed to support others in the area through this process. We will work closely with Beatrice and others taking a similar role to encourage them and assist them.

## Tanzania

- Although COVID-19 restrictions in Tanzania appear to have been lifted, we have encouraged Frenk to **avoid arranging large gatherings or training events for the time being**.
- He has printed a number of copied of Plant locally and is going to **work with existing Life Groups to help them plant new groups**. This is a really positive step forward and Frenk thinks this will help places where he has struggled to return for additional training.
- It will be important to **translate Journey into Swahili** in due course to help people in this area access it.
- A friend of Frenk's who lives in Tanga (eastern Tanzania) wants to learn about Life Groups and does speak English. We are following up with Frenk to invite his friend to study Journey and circumnavigate the need to Frenk to travel across Tanzania.



## Namibia

- Jon and Jude will not travel to Namibia this year. Instead they will invest time in pioneering remotely through the people we know in Namibia. Jon has been working hard to contact people and **encourage them to take part in Journey**.
- **Elias and his wife live in Havana, a high density area of Windhoek in Namibia**. Elias is a pastor of a small church in the Havana slum area. He earns an income by working as a cleaner in Kleine Kuppe, 20km and a world away. Late in 2019, Jon and Jude met with Elias and few of his friends. They spent an afternoon talking about Life Groups and the transformative power people can have in their community through faith and working together. Elias spoke about a group of people addicted to alcohol and sniffing glue who live by the river. He explained that he and his wife had got to know these people and they'd been talking together about God however they found that nobody wanted to come to church. They were struggling to know what to do and how best to help these people. The conversation turned to how a Life Group can take 'church' to people, rather than expecting them to come to us, to fit in with us and do things 'our way'. Jon and Jude left Elias and the others with some training materials and promised to keep in touch. Skip forward 6 months and we recently caught up with Elias. Despite the pandemic, **Elias and his wife have found a way to start a Life Group that meets down by the river, creating a place for a people who are fighting addictions to come together and explore life and faith**. They meet when they can – the complexities of living with addictions mean that many people struggle to meet regularly – and something amazing is happening. **Elias says that he sees that they are getting to know God. They are beginning to grow**. Elias is enjoying running a Life Group so much that he has started to teach a friend in Gobabis, 200km, how to plant a Life Group! We have invited Elias and his wife to take part in our distance learning course, Journey, that is launching later this year. We are excited to hear the next chapter of their story.

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Digital

CORE

## Overview

We have facilitated our inaugural Least-First X event, initiated our transition to cloud-based document and content storage to develop our digital initiatives through conversation and exploration.

## Least-First Approach

1. **Least-First X Series – round table discussions to explore different aspects and implications of least-first design**
  - **Done:** Event 1 – Least-First Gaming. Shared the idea of least-first design and Dignity’s mission with a wider audience of technologists through discussion on computer gaming.
  - **Next:** Event 2 – Least-First Social Media. Documentation and preparation to be completed.
  - **Issues/help:** What opportunities do the board see and outcomes would they expect from such an event?
2. **Early conversations around a Dignity Pioneering System**
  - **Done:** Notes from conversations with Bernard and Jon around how they engage with communities and teams in Zambia.
  - **Next:** Compile a list of capabilities, potential technologies and expressions by end of 2020. Explore overlap with ‘Residency’
  - **Issues/help:** still early, but will require support reviewing and aligning with our wider mission. Will be informed by delivery of ‘Journey’ programme.

## Continuous Delivery for Dignity (Dignity’s Digital Systems)

3. **Cloud-based Content Management System**
  - **Done:** Submitted a specification to our preferred supplier, Reeves Creative.
  - **Next:** Awaiting an estimate for supply.
  - **Issues/help:** None at this time.
4. **SMS Pipeline/Gateway Specification – A means to sharing Dignity materials via SMS**
  - **Done:** Initial discussions with Zambian team to shape our requirements.
  - **Next:** Write gateway specification and select a supplier based on the market reviews we have carried out. Testing with Zambian team. Understanding of what training will be needed.
  - **Issues/help:** None foreseen
5. **Informing our vision to transform our Website to a Community Hub**

*No updates at this time: Scheduled for Q1 2021.*

  - **Done:** Outlined ideas and requirements for a community hub, which would extend our current website. Recognised link to delivery of ‘Journey’.
  - **Next:** Review the requirements and scope
  - **Issues/help:** None at this time.
6. **Cyber Essentials Security Review**
  - **Done:** Identified the Government Cyber Essentials Scheme as a tool that will guide us towards good practice.
  - **Next:** Apply the guidelines to our systems and highlight any areas for improvement and compliance, particularly as we build new digital systems.
  - **Issues/help:** None at this time.

# DIGNITY UPDATE: Central Administration

CORE

## Overview

Work to coordinate the production of materials for *Journey* has been at the forefront in the last 2 months. In addition, we have been pushing forward with other materials.

## Core: Sharing our Knowledge

- **Foundations 4 has been completed for trial use and proof reading!** This feels like quite a milestone.
- Coordination of production of materials for *Journey* has been prioritised and Module 1 is nearing completion.
- **Love Your Village** has been translated into Swahili. This needs checking and typesetting. It is an exciting step forward for Life Groups in Tanzania and Kenya. We have been granted permission to quote the Swahili Bible for use in Kenya and are working on the same for Tanzania.
- **Foundations 2** is being typeset in Bemba and the Lunda translation is expected soon. **Foundations 3** is being translated into Bemba.
- The next 6 issues of **Awaken** have been written. These will be translated in due course.
- **Plant** has been translated into Persian and is about to be being proof read.

## Core: General

### People

- We held our first **volunteer evening on Monday 17th August**. This was a chance to help volunteers understand the bigger picture that they are a part of. It was a fun evening and good to see volunteers connecting. The next event is set for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November and Dolina King is going to co-host. **Huge thanks to each of you who is giving your time to Dignity. We really value you and the work you are doing is significant. Thank you!!!**
- Becky Burr has almost completed a **work package produce the materials for Journey**.
- We continue to provide **support for overseas teams** with regular contact between Kenyan, Tanzanian and Zambia team members.



### Collaboration & Partnerships

- Early discussions have taken place around **connection and collaboration with others** working in the areas where we are. We are meeting again to push this forward and give shape and direction to our collaborations.

### Fundraising

- The 20:20 Challenge is going to be a **key part of our fundraising plan this year** as we do not expect to host any events. Please do encourage people to take on a challenge.
- We have been given some **match funding for our birthday appeal**. This will be in support of Journey.
- We have a number of **trust fund applications** to lodge.

### Finances

- Since our last report we have received gifts from 1 **trust fund** and confirmation of another gif to come.
- Since our last report there has been 1 increased regular gifts.

### The Numbers

Measurable	Number to date, 2020	Number at end of 2019	Comments
Movement in regular monthly giving	+£21.50	+£217.50	Refer to finance report for further information
Total number of regular givers	56	56	Includes churches and individuals
Trust fund applications made	2	13	
Prayer meetings held	-	-	
Events & church visits happened	2	5	
Bibles recycled this year	34	117 received 190 sent	Total Bibles recycled to date = <b>1,067</b> (of which 118 are awaiting shipping)
Volunteer hours (UK)	82	25	

Publications & Languages



	Zambia										Kenya / Tanzania	Namibia			Angola
	English	Bemba	Lunda	Tonga	Chewa	Nyanja	Luvala	Kaonde	Mambwe	Namwanga	Swahili	Lozi	Rukwangali	Luchazi	Portuguese
Love Your Village	✓ refreshed	✓ refresh underway Becky C	✓ to refresh								2				
Love Your Children	PR: Helena, Will, Kate N?														
Plant	✓	✓	✓	✓	3		?				✓	✓	✓		
Life Group Leaflet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		?			1	✓	?	?		
Part of the Team	✓ update														
Living the Light (to be replaced by Journey)	✓	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Journey: Module 1	H: A/E Becky B														
Journey: Module 2	H														
Journey: Module 3	M														
Journey: Module 4	M														
Foundations 1	✓	✓	1 TS: Fariba					1				1			
Foundations 2	✓	2 TS: Alison	L									L			
Foundations 3	✓	1													
Foundations 4	✓ PR: Will Helena Sarah														
What is COVID-19?	✓	✓									✓				
Life Groups: What to do	✓	✓									✓				
Making an Impact	✓	✓									✓				
Awaken 1-6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					
Awaken 7-12	✓	Jan-21	Jan-21	Jan-21	Jan-21					Jan-21					
Awaken 13-18	✓														
The Away Kit	✓														
Rooted in Jesus 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓
Rooted in Jesus 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓
Rooted in Jesus 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓
Rooted in Jesus 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				✓

**Key**

✓ Translation available to print as required

Coming soon New resource, English edition being written

**Translations underway**

1 Manuscript has been sent to translator

2 First draft received from translator

3 Document typeset and queries returned to translator

4 Second draft received from translator

5 Final draft compiled

**Translations to do**

H High priority

M Medium priority

L Low priority

**Volunteer roles**

PR Proof read

TS Check and typeset

A/E Author/Editor