

Out There...

Issue 4 2013

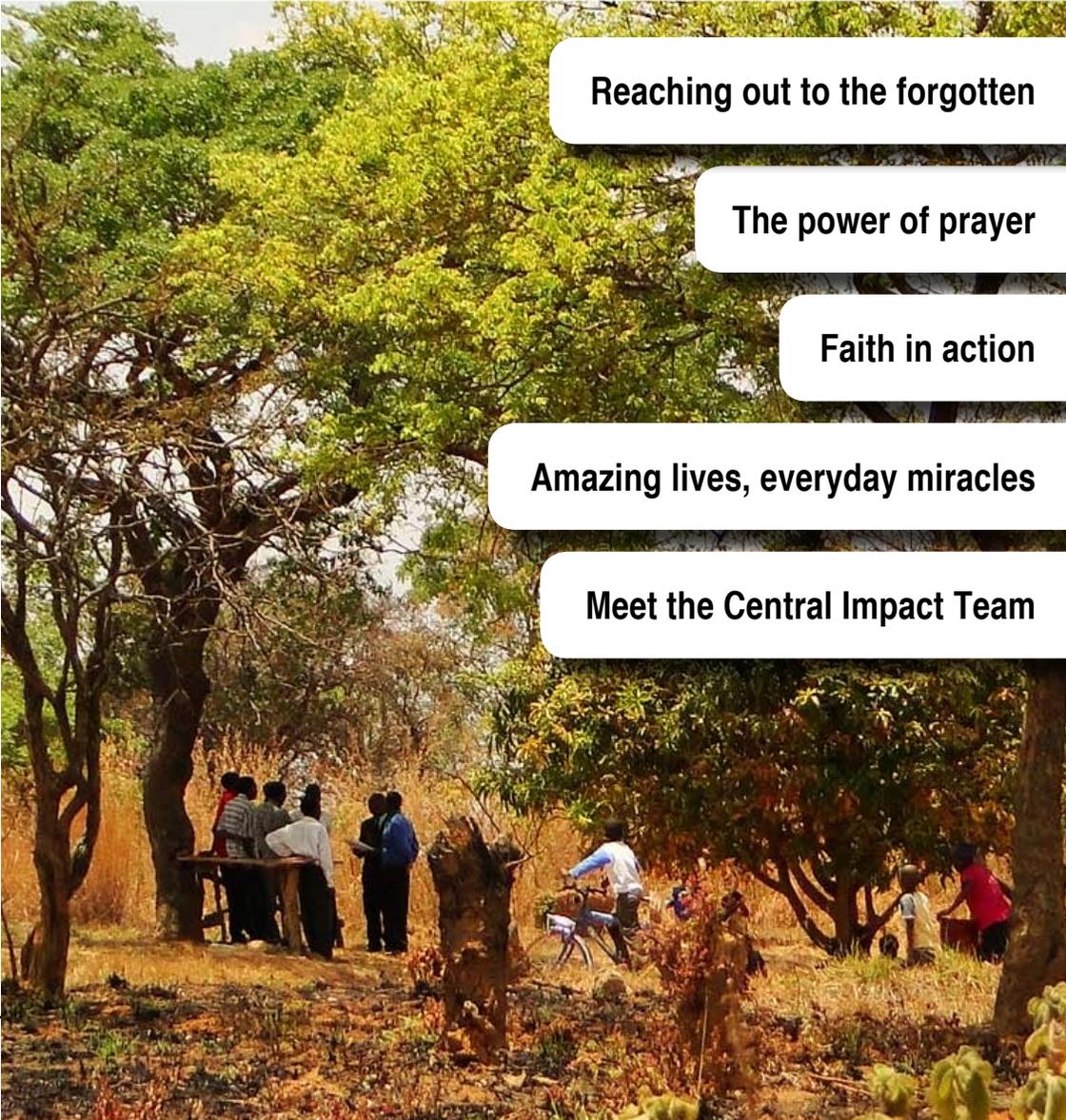
Reaching out to the forgotten

The power of prayer

Faith in action

Amazing lives, everyday miracles

Meet the Central Impact Team



Reaching out to the forgotten

Rural Zambia is a stunning and beautiful landscape. The scenery varies from salt marshes, to vast lakes or dusty desert planes with isolated hills. One thing however remains constant; alongside the tarmac road, men, women and children from local villages flock to the roadside to sell their wares.



It is these villages and their people that Dignity seeks to serve. Many villagers will never travel along the roads themselves. What they know of the world, is only what passes by their village. So, we go to them. Across rural Zambia, we have local missionaries, Impact Teams, travelling to different villages and reaching out to those who are forgotten or unnoticed by many others.

We work to bring freedom from poverty; both spiritual and financial. Starting with the root of the problems, we share the love of Jesus and explore together with villagers what this means in our day to day lives. As people discover what this means, historical barriers to progress begin to fall down and hope is born. Rising from this new found hope, people are set free to do more and be more than they ever thought possible and lives are being changed for the good. Read on to find out about some of the amazing lives and everyday miracles we are privileged to be a part of.



Illustrations from top:
Sunset over the lake
Roadside stalls
A group of villagers in Lumpapa after a training session

In 2008 we planted our first ever Life! groups; Bible study groups encouraging people to support each other through the ups and downs of everyday life. We were in Chingola. Daniel Ponde and his wife Mary (pictured) were among those we were working with. Something amazing has happened since then.



Today, Daniel and his Life! group are providing home based care for the elderly and orphans. Daniel writes:

“For the orphans we are giving them courage to go on with school; we provide school fees, books and uniform etc. Currently we are taking care of 9 orphans and 10 old aged, the work is growing and we managed to get it registered with the government... We are still giving the Life! group lessons to our old aged and conducting prayers. Some have charms and witchcraft but after ministering to them, they throw these away and are set free. Mostly the last phase of their lives is so pathetic because they are abandoned and hence there is need to give hope to these people so that when they die they will go with hope.”

“I really appreciate your work very much. From the time you came as Dignity; I received from you many teachings that ushered me in the dimension that God wanted me to be. You talked about the oaks of righteousness, team work, and community work and many more things of course...”

What is most powerful about Daniel’s story, is that the ideas, energy, time and resources came from Daniel and his Life! group. We helped Daniel and his group see that things could be different, and then they - with God - have made the difference.

Meet the Central Province Impact Team

The Impact Teams are at the heart of what we do. They seek out new people and new opportunities as well as supporting well established Life! groups. Each team member spends 2 weeks a month working alongside Dignity and some time working to support themselves and their families. They support existing Life! groups, lead training events and meet with people who are keen to set up something in their area.



Bernard, his wife Doreen & their 3 children live in Kalweo. Their house is only 20m away from the tar road and the roar of trucks passing by is a regular interruption. As well as being part of an Impact Team, Bernard is also a tailor and Doreen runs a small pre-school next door to their house.

Gervas & Margaret are married and have both committed to being Impact Team members. They have been married 29 years and their children are growing up fast! It would be great if you could pray for God to support them as they work hard to serve him together.



Dignity supports the Impact Team members in many ways with prayer, friendship, training and financial help. For the work of Dignity to spread, we need more Impact Team members and we are always on the lookout for local leaders. We are sure that God knows who these people are and are praying that He will bring us alongside them in his timing.

There are two simple ways you too can support the Impact Team members:

- by praying: Sign up for our monthly mail outs on the Czontact page of our website www.dignityonline.org.uk
- by giving: Working in Zambia means our pounds go further. We give each Impact Team member an allowance and expenses of about £150 per month. This helps them support their families as well as covering the costs of food and travel. The more financial support we receive, the more team members we will be able to support. If you would like to support a team member visit www.justgiving.com/dignity/donate to make a one off or regular gift

Seeking more...

For the past year we have been praying about and working hard to expand our work into 5 new regions (shown in blue). We felt it was time for an update!

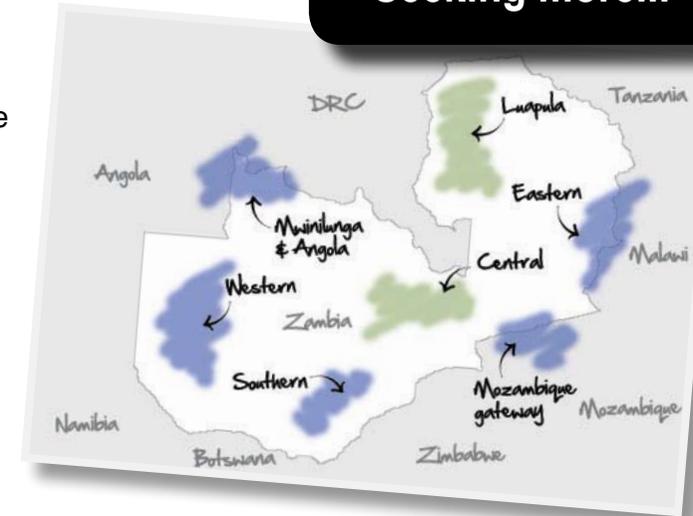
We are delighted that we have been able to establish relationships

in the Southern, Tanzania, Mwinilunga &

Angola areas. We are beginning to see Life! groups taking root. We will continue to strengthen and work with the leaders God has placed in each place.

As well as supporting what has already begun, we are committed to continuing to seek out relationships in Western Zambia and around the Mozambique gateway.

It is our hope that Impact Teams, made up of people like Bernard, Gervas and Margaret, will be established in all 5 areas. Please do continue to pray for God to open doors.



Amazing lives, everyday miracles

Nothing will stop us!

The Central Province Impact Team were expected in a remote village. The bus dropped them off at the junction with the dirt road that lead to the village, the closest they could get on public transport. Without bikes their only option was to walk...and walk they did, all 20km to the village! The roads were dirt tracks and they were carrying all their luggage. Once there, they ran the Life! training sessions before making the return journey a few days later.



Dignity has committed to buying bikes for the Impact Team members to help them reach more remote areas.

“I wasn’t sure” becomes “I am urging others”

“I wasn’t sure whether to attend this Dignity training program because I didn’t know if I would be welcome as I don’t attend a church. I am very happy that I did attend. I found a program of Christian fellowship and action that would consider a person like me important in the eyes of God. Since attending the training I have decided to attend a church in my community. I am also urging others to work together as the Dignity program has come with many new and helpful ideas”.

Fruit from our labour!

During the autumn of 2012, volunteers from the UK worked alongside the Impact Teams to help run training events across Zambia. Thanks to the extra pairs of hands, villagers from around Lumpampa, Mbilimawenge, Chipili and Siavonga had a chance to learn how they can transform their villages. We are hoping to see 35 new Life! groups take root as a result of the volunteers’ efforts.



The power of prayer



At the time of writing it’s been 4 months since Jude’s accident in Zambia. Late one night she fell down a car inspection pit, breaking five ribs, rupturing her spleen and leading to fluid on her lung. She was pretty badly beaten up.

Jude is now doing much better. There are still scars and a few lingering issues but her recovery is well under way. It’s

also been a difficult time for Jon and the boys. It’s been at times both distressing and traumatic. Events like this thankfully don’t happen very often, but when they do you need to look purposefully for the good in all situations.

Part of our challenge with the work in Zambia is simply to get enough people to pray for it. One of the overwhelming things about recent events was that so many people prayed, thousands in fact, in many churches across the world. That is a deeply humbling experience. Wouldn’t it be good if thousands could pray not only for us, but for the villagers and Life! group members that comprise the work of Dignity. Imagine if every day, every hour of every day, prayer was strategically directed at Rural Africa. Maybe the continent would be very different?

We want to thank everyone for their prayer and help. Looking forward we also want to encourage you to pray more and to pray more strategically both for us and the work.

Jon & Jude Witt

Sign up for our monthly prayer updates on the Contact page of our website

Want to be a part of it all?

One of the central understandings that underpins our work in Zambia is that we are all part of the body of Christ. We work alongside people to help them discover God's calling in their life. We are seeing lives being changed as people begin to step out in faith. We believe that this is the model we should use for the parts of our work that take place in the UK.

We'd love you to join us as we work to bring hope to many. Become a...

*Dignity
Superstar!*

Help us raise money to support the work we are doing. Challenge yourself by doing a sponsored event, invite your friends to a dinner party or sell cakes at work or church...there's loads of ways to do it and we're sure you are full of great ideas!

*Dignity
Seed Sower!*

Set up a regular gift to our work - just £5 a month can help fund a place at one of our training events. £25 a month helps us get resource books to villagers.

*Dignity
Pioneer!*

We have an exciting 2 week mission programme giving you the opportunity to learn about mission and work alongside our Impact Teams. Our mission school and outreach will take place in October this year. Want to pioneer? Get involved!

*Dignity
Prayer Warrior*

We firmly believe in the power of prayer. We want to cover all we do in prayer. You can sign up for our monthly updates on the Contact page of our website www.dignityonline.org.uk You can pray on your own, get your church involved or begin a *Friends of Dignity* prayer group. We would love to hear from you if you feel God is speaking into our work.

For more information about any of the opportunities to be involved or to speak to us, please contact us on:

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