



Dignity Prayer Bulletin

Putting down roots
August 2011

"They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour"
Isaiah 61 v 3 (NIV)

Our work isn't about us. It's not about what we do, what we think, and what we say. It's about those people we go to serve. It's about God's plan and purpose for them. It's about how he wants to reach out to them and set them free from poverty, both spiritual and physical.

With this in mind, everything we do has to work towards sustainability. We have to encourage those we work with to take ownership of the movement that is growing in their villages and communities. We have to hand over the leadership and the vision to them. We have to trust them... just as God trusts them. With this in mind, this month sees the launch of our very first Impact Team.

Luapula Impact Team

Meet Cornelius, Augustine and Agnes (pictured above) Dignity's first Impact Team! Based in the Luapula province in the north east of Zambia this team of three work alongside us in establishing, supporting and encouraging Life! discipleship groups. These groups provide a setting for rural villagers to meet together, study the Bible and learn what it means to walk with Jesus day to day.

The Luapula province is home to about one million people living in rural villages. With 38% of the area being water mass many people survive by fishing and can be seen selling fish at the side of the road. Poverty and hardship are very real and for many the day to day existence is tough.

As Cornelius, Augustine and Agnes help Life! groups and their leaders grow, amazing things are happening. One such example is a Life! group near Musonda Falls that has

begun to help the elderly and sick in their community in a very simple, but equally amazing way. Once a month they get together to mend the roofs of those in their village who don't have the resources or strength to do so themselves. This means that many will now have a dry house when the rains come. Simple...and amazing!

The idea to do this, the organisation, the resources and the energy have come from the Life! group that has begun to meet in this village; a group of people, focusing on Jesus, working out what his salvation means in their lives and in their communities and bringing his love very practically to their neighbours. This is an outward sign of an inward change. As they do so, in the background, encouraging and supporting them are Cornelius, Augustine and Agnes!

More to follow

We have known and worked with Cornelius, Agnes and Augustine for a while now. Their first involvement with us was to start Life! groups in their own villages and as a result of what they have seen they have taken it upon themselves to help others do the same. God has raised them up as people to take the lead in their areas.

Across Zambia, in many different areas, more and more people are getting involved and the number of Life! groups continues to grow. To maintain this movement, more people like Cornelius, Agnes and Augustine will be needed to take up leadership in their areas.

So much of what we do is relational. We work with those we know, or those who know them and we work hard to get to know more people! We have seen God bring the right people together at the right time and we believe he will continue to do so. He will root his work deeply in those people he has placed in each village to be his "oaks of righteousness".

- Pray for Cornelius, Augustine and Agnes as their involvement continues to grow. Pray for wisdom and discernment for them as they meet with different Life! groups.
- Pray for the Life! group in Musonda Falls as they bring practical relief to many. Pray for encouragement for them. Pray their actions will bring others to know Jesus.
- Thank God for bringing his people together in his own way. Ask him to carry on doing so! Pray for the right people to be brought up to leadership in their areas.
- Pray against division and dispute. An argument between two people can have a far reaching effect. Pray for unity in villages, provinces and across Zambia.
- Pray for Jon, Jude and their three boys as they continue to build their life in Zambia and seek to push forward in what God has called them to do. Pray for clarity about where to invest their time and energy.
- Pray for the salvation of many. The reason we do all this, is because we believe we all need God's gift of life!

Pray, make a difference