

helping
the poorest
help themselves



the **mutunga** partnership

the mutunga update
september 2005 - issue #5

Making Poverty History?

Just yesterday the United Nations concluded its 60th anniversary debate in New York. As the chairman gavelled the end of the session, he remarked on the number of speeches that emphasized the need to meet the UN's Millennium Development Goals (a set of eight proposals 'designed' to halt the spread of AIDS, provide universal primary education and cut chronic global poverty in half by the year 2015).

35 Years ago the 22 most 'developed' countries pledged to give 0.7% of their Gross National Product (GNP) in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to the poorer nations. This goal was to have been reached by 1975. Today, only 5 of the 22 countries have either reached or exceeded that goal (Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands) Australia comes 16th and the USA 21st with Japan bringing up the rear! The commitment was renewed by these nations in 2000. Of course something is better than nothing, and billions of dollars are indeed 'given' in aid. However, if the track record in relation to the promises of 1970 is taken as a guide, then the Millennium Development Goals face an uphill battle!

So much aid is designed to serve the strategic and economic interests of the donor countries, making development assistance inefficient. And so much of it is wasted on overpriced goods from donor countries.

Micro-enterprise development, with its impressive repayment record, and its design which targets funds directly to its beneficiaries, is counter-intuitive, very efficient, and virtually corruption-free.

What a mouthful – just designed to encourage you (and myself) and keep the fire of MUTUNGA burning!

Kenya and London Oct/Nov 2005

In just three weeks Barb and I will be leaving for Kenya to visit the local partners and the first two projects in Mavoko/Kitengela and Tala and

Kangundo. We plan to meet with the local board of the newly set up partner agency Africashare Partnership, and with Gideon. It will be our opportunity to introduce ourselves to the beneficiaries and also to introduce them to you! We'll be taking some photos of you soon. I have a lot of strategising to do with the local partner as we plan together for the management and expansion of our work in Kenya and then in Africa. We shall be returning via London, where we plan to combine a bit of (mini) family reunion with work! Jonathan is constructing the MUTUNGA Website and shaping our 'brand', as well as producing a DVD presentation for the launch. We shall have some fresh material with us to complete this task in time for the Launch. The website is currently under construction and should be up while we are away:
www.mutunga.com.

Company Matters

ACN 112 932 788

I have copies of the 2004-2005 audit of the Mutunga Partnership, which you may view upon request.

Public Launch of The Mutunga Partnership Nov.25th 7.30pm.

After many proposed dates, The Mutunga Partnership will be launched publicly at TLC on Friday

25th November 2005. Pleeaaase put this date in your diary. Formal invitations will be sent out about 4 weeks before the launch. It will not be an 'invitation only' event, but there are people who I especially would like to be there, so I guess they will need to be invited formally! It is shaping up to be a great evening, and we are planning to bring Gideon Mbuka over from Kenya to address the gathering, and also to fulfil some other engagements, and meet with people in the Partnership. Sadly, Gideon has just lost his dear mother, so it is a critical time for him.

Out and about

I continue to take whatever opportunity I can to introduce MUTUNGA to a wider audience, most recently at a dinner of the Dromana Rotary club. We were very encouraged by the response of the Rotarians who expressed a desire to set aside a week to do the Mutunga \$2 Challenge™. Judy Piedrahita has also been working hard encouraging her parish in Blackwood to also do the \$2 Challenge™. They'll be doing so in October. Seven households who attempted it together during the last week in August discovered a new world of awareness, faced some life-style challenges and possibly some changes, and a certainly re-discovered that sense of community – as well as raising almost \$800!

Next! Next.

- Please invite people in your circle to the launch. I'll gladly provide invitations, and you will please provide Rsvp's!
- Pray for the growth of this work together with the poor to overcome chronic poverty
- Please pray for safety in travel for Gideon, Barb and me
- And pray too for the resources needed for these trips
- We can thank God for the growth of the Partnership. It is a walk slowly gathering pace
- And I thank God for you, your interest and your partnership
- And please remember: "Feedback is oxygen!"

In Partnership

Morris



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