

helping
the poorest
help themselves



the **mutunga** partnership

the mutunga update
august 2005 - issue #4

The 8's

The recent G8 meeting and 'Live8' concert focussed our attention on Africa: debt, aids, famine in Niger, civil wars in Darfur and Congo- all dramatise the tragic story. Chronic poverty is central to this story.

The focus on Africa is welcome. It is the continent with the poorest people on earth. Debt forgiveness and promises to remove barriers to African exports in Western Markets are welcome "initiatives". The big question is, will these benefits really reach the poor and "make poverty history"? Will this flood of goodwill and good intentions, as it makes its journey through the labyrinth of bureaucracy and over the hurdles of the corruption, be reduced to a trickle as it reaches the lives and circumstances of the poor? Top down initiatives have a poor track record.

Anyway, this simply reinforces the need for the work of The Mutunga Partnership, which will work from the grass-roots up! So what is the current state of play?

Projects.

Mutunga now has the money for the first project. Funds (including promises) for a second are building, as Gideon has opened up a second front in another area called Tala and

Kangundo. Now he is registering the work with the appropriate authorities in Kenya, which is essential before we can commence operations there. Understandably we are encountering some delays in this process, and I have had to reschedule both my visit to Kenya and the public launch of The Mutunga Partnership, which is now planned for either late October or early November this year.

The Partnership.

I said a couple of updates ago that we need to build the partnership here. Of course we need donors, but especially we need partners: people who can come to share the Mutunga vision and see this partnership as a channel through which their compassion for the poor and their passion to end chronic poverty can be expressed. I am grateful to you for any efforts you have been making over the past few months. Georgina Saunders worked hard to set up a Mutunga Partnership stand at her church's mission's expo in

Queensland. Andy Callow and the staff at his school will focus on Mutunga for their social service project. There may well be other efforts that I haven't heard about.

I am happy to support any initiative you take, and I am willing to talk to any individual or group. Can I remind you of my earlier challenge and encouragement: "Maybe you are part of a group or a network that you can involve in 'Mutunga'? If each person could commit to being the 'hub' of a group, and those in such a group in time become the hub of another group, we could grow through an ever-widening series of circles." Can we work together to make this a reality?

The Mutunga \$2 challenge™.

A few people have been taking up this challenge, but I'd like to propose to us all - as the first partners in this initiative, that we join together in taking up the \$2 Challenge™ as a united activity during one week in August. It's simple: \$2 a day per person for food for a week.

Remember, this does not require finding extra cash – just a temporary change of lifestyle for a week. Taking up the Mutunga \$2 challenge™ can make a difference to the poor, and to our lifestyle! The awareness-raising benefits alone would be worth it. It's a challenge! And by the way if you

can't do the challenge on \$2, then maybe \$4 or whatever you can achieve. Don't let the \$2 figure exclude you. Can I have your feedback on whether you'd be interested in participating in this idea? The Mutunga \$2 Challenge™ has been accepted for registration as a Mutunga Trade Mark by IP Australia.

Feedback.

I had asked you as partners to please keep the communication going both ways by responding to every communication you received. Feedback is oxygen! It keeps me going. I'd love to hear from you, even if it is only two lines, and I affirm again my commitment to respond to every communication I receive from you.

Publicity and Brochures.

I have some brochures available which introduce Mutunga, its activities; the \$2 Challenge™ and its board members. If you'd like some of these, please let me know.

Prayer.

- Give Thanks for a growing partnership, for the funds which are coming in, and also for Gideon Mbuka
- Pray for the registration process in Kenya to proceed quickly and efficiently

- Pray for the start-up activities in the two projects
- Pray for the preparations for the launch
- And pray for the resources needed for the trip to Kenya, Gideon's trip to Australia and for the funds for the Kenya administration

I am pleased to be making this journey with you all. It is an exciting one. Soon we shall all be even more encouraged as we see and hear stories of our fellow sisters and brothers as they make their way out of the scourge that is chronic poverty.

In Partnership

Morris



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