

OUTREACH ACROSS AFRICA

April 2009 Newsletter from Andy Groome

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.
Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.”
Proverbs: 31:8-9.

Hi to all my friends,

I'm writing to you at a time of big change across the globe. With the world financial markets struggling, many of us are feeling the pinch, worrying about our jobs and cutting back on many monthly luxuries. However it's worth remembering that the poor of the world are probably going to struggle even more now, to a level that we generally in The West cannot even imagine.

There are some things that we just take for granted. I was told a little while ago that about *one billion* people across our planet don't have access to clean drinking water. Also that about *eight hundred million* people across our planet won't eat today, *three hundred million* of which are children, little children just like ours. What's more, about every couple of seconds someone in our world dies of hunger.

I have just returned from South Africa where I met many people who are devoted to helping the poor, some of whom are extremely poor themselves. As well as people, I have come across many charities in The West which are saying that donations are down dramatically. We all have to be sensible with our money, and we do have very real issues and hardships, with inflated food prices and worries about job losses. I know that many of us give to many different charities involved in relieving poverty at home and abroad, but please remember when cutting back on giving to your charity that even the smallest gifts of pennies, when all added together, will change real lives.

Find out more about
Outreach Across Africa

Tues 5th May
7:30pm
Luton Christian Fellowship
or
Thurs 14th May
7:30pm
Woodhall Farm
Community Centre
Hemel Hempstead

For more info
Visit
www.outreachacrossafrica.org

CHARITY STATUS

We are pleased to announce that we are now a U.K. Registered Charity. This has many very positive implications for all of us involved. We are accountable through the Charity Commission, so you can visit the



Charity Commission web site and check our details and our yearly accounts. It gives us credibility, which helps us work and network with other organisations and Registered Charities. Another massive positive implication is that all gifts or standing orders given by any U.K. tax payer can be Gift Aided. This means that just by filling out a simple form accompanying your gift you allow the U.K. government to give some of the tax you've paid back to *Outreach Across Africa*. This is currently at 28%. This means that if you give a pound, we will gain 28 pence, £100 we will gain £28. So you can see that gift aid is very important as it could give us potentially thousands of extra pounds to help people in poverty. We have enclosed our standing order form and gift aid form with this news letter.

A BIG THANKS TO YOU ALL

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been supporting us and become a part of Outreach Across Africa, all of you in these early days who have given a lot of your time at events, meetings, given funds and also remembered this work we are involved in to God in prayer.

SHALOM FELLOWSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA

On my recent visit back to South Africa I met up with many old friends and made many more. One of the new contacts is Marc and Mandy Poree and many of his team including Lauren Cawood, a newly appointed Nurse at Shalom Fellowship. They are based just outside Greytown and are attached to Shalom Ministries, the founder being Angus Buchan.

I had a very nice time with Marc, his wife Mandy and many friends. Marc and Lauren took me to the outskirts of town, which at first sight looked quite rural. They explained that in a dip in the land approximately 400 meters in front of me was a shanty town called Lindelani, home to well over two thousand people. As we walked over the brow, this little shanty town opened up in front of me, a mass of little muddy paths weaving



their way through a tangle of rusty tin shacks, patched up with plastic bags. We began walking down the muddy slope and into the neighbourhood. I could only imagine what this place was like in a heavy rain storm. We walked around and talked to some people and I saw at close quarters what people were living in. Later in the day I went to a prayer meeting in one of the little shacks.

Marc showed me many people near his town and further away in very rural Zulu villages, where they are working with local people to improve their lives with short and longer term projects to enhance their lives into the future. Marc and his church believe that these people in his area are his responsibility to help. Lauren helps look after the needs of many, some of whom are pre-school age and

now because of Shalom, they have a Pre-school outside the township. They are also presently involved in working with others in setting up a Baby Centre and Home Care Clinic to assist with the needs of the township. We have said *Outreach Across Africa* will support Shalom Fellowship by providing £30 per month towards the wages of Lauren, the nurse, and the pre-school teacher. The work I have seen that Shalom Fellowship is involved in, is fantastic, and invaluable to these poor people. Lauren can send us regular updates of what they are achieving. The Photo on the front page is a lady who was waving to us as we left Lindelani. The photo above is (from left to right) Marc, Lauren and Patrick Zondi a pastor who is also working with them in the villages.

OTHER VISITS

I have also visited Clive and Zoliswa in the Eastern Cape who belong to the U.K. charity T.M.A.T and they are nearing the completion of four buildings on the site that will be the beginning of a children's village for orphans. In the future they plan to look after up to 84 children. *Outreach Across Africa* continues to support T.M.A.T on this project with 60% of our monthly income.

ENTERING A NEW PHASE

At present I am entering a new phase channelling more of my time into the work of *Outreach Across Africa* here and in South Africa/Africa. Therefore I will be spending less time as an Electrician.

God Bless from Andy Groome