

helping
the poorest
help themselves



the **mutunga** partnership

the mutunga update
march 2006 - issue #8

On the move in Kenya

2006 promises to be an extraordinary year for Caroline Nthamburi.

“Africashare will enable me to achieve my dreams of improving my family income” she remarked during one of the training sessions. Caroline belongs to a self-help group in Kitengela. She and her fellow group members are excited by the opportunity to partner with ‘Africashare’. They feel that their prayers have been answered!

Gideon Mbuka and his small team are hard at work rolling out The Mutunga Partnership’s initiative in Kenya. In this newsletter, he provides us with an update on progress in Mavoko and Kitengela, and in Tala and Kangundo.

“Since October they have been developing various manuals which will serve as ‘road-maps’ for the work of The Mutunga Partnership’s partners in Africa. We have organised 15 groups in Mavoko and Kitengela and Tala and Kangundo. They are



currently being prepared to access their first loans with effect from April 2006. The groups are mobilising their group savings and getting training in business management and entrepreneurship.

“The Tala Development Self-Help Group

“Tala Self-help group is one of the groups in Tala and Kangundo that Africashare is currently organising and training in business management, record keeping and entrepreneurship. The group was formed in January 2005. It is registered with the Department of Culture and Social Services. The group has already opened a bank account.

“Group members have been mobilising their group savings. They meet on a weekly basis to review their progress and update their records. The group is composed of 14 members most of who are women. They have been able to save in total AUD\$ 2,640 since January 2005.

“The story of Africashare micro-credit has attracted a lot of interest in this area. Many of the group members feel more secure being associated with Africashare because of its core values and approach, which are Kingdom based. They say that the terms of Africashare are just, fair and considerate.”



Africashare Team members

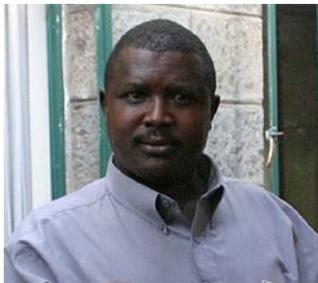
The team that is delivering these services comprises Gideon and his two staff-workers Pearson Kathenge and Michael Mendeni. Here is a short profile of Pearson and 'Mike'.



Pearson Kathenge is a father of two boys and the husband of Monica (the community health worker who was profiled in Update no.6. Oct.2005). Pearson is a trained teacher and community development worker. He has wide experience - over 20 years in teaching, church administration, working with international non-government organisations (NGOs), Kenyan community-based organisation (CBOs) as well as with faith-based organisations (FBOs) at the grass-roots. Pearson has a depth of understanding and experience in the management of micro-credit schemes. He is an accomplished facilitator and trainer. His experience in group dynamics, resource management and micro-enterprise development is being used in the development and organisation of the 'Africashare Partnership'. Pearson is the Cluster Coordinator for the

Africashare Partnership supported micro-credit project at Tala and Kangundo.

Michael Mendeni (Mike) 34 is married to Teresa. He is trained in leadership skills, pastoral ministry, participatory development approaches, accounts and agricultural extension services. He also has experience and training in micro-credit formation and management, group dynamics and business management. He previously worked as an accounts assistant with the National Christian Council of Kenya for more than 10 years. He is a Youth Pastor and counsellor. Mike possesses a good blend of knowledge and skills in the formation and management of micro-credit approaches. He applies these capacities well as **Cluster Coordinator** for the Africashare Partnership supported project in the Mavoko and Kitengela cluster.



Mike and Pearson are working three days a week at present, and as the initiative expands towards our goal of working in 20 Client Communities (Clusters) this year, they will become full-time staff, each managing between 300 and 600 borrowers.

On the move in Australia

Australia is now well and truly back at work after the summer holidays, and after a quieter start to the year, The Mutunga Partnership is 'on the move' again.

The Mutunga \$2 Challenge®

We have recently launched our first 'marketing campaign' for The Mutunga \$2 Challenge®. Our goal is to recruit 1000 households, groups/families to do the Mutunga \$2 Challenge® *four times this year!* This is not as crazy as it sounds.

The Mutunga \$2 Challenge® is a great way to build our Partnership here in Australia, to raise awareness and to build a sense of community with other Challenge participants, and with the poor. The encouraging story of our beginnings in Kenya provides us with the reason for mounting this campaign.

The four occasions on which the **Mutunga \$2 Challenge®** will run this year are:

Challenge 1:

Sunday 2 April to Saturday 8 April

Challenge 2:

Sunday 2 July to Saturday 8 July

Challenge 3:

Sunday 1 Oct. to Saturday 7 Oct.

Challenge 4:

Sunday 3 Dec. to Saturday 9 Dec.

If you haven't already signed up I hope you will – and bring others with you. If you have definitely decided to do the challenge but have not signed up yet please do so today! You can do any number or all of the Challenges.

Even if you are not taking up the \$2 Challenge, I'd value your feedback on the 'campaign'. Please take a little time to email me your thoughts on the idea!

the
mutunga
challenge

\$2.00

Day Conferences

The first in a series of four Mutunga Partnership day conferences to be held this year will take place on **Saturday April 8th: 10 am to 4pm.** This will be an opportunity to inform Partners and other interested people about our work at a deeper and more detailed level. It will also be an opportunity to address any questions and receive any feedback in a more sustained and unhurried way. Details of the venue and programme would be sent out some time in the next two weeks, but if you are interested in attending, please email your intention to me. This day conference will also be a great opportunity for you to introduce new people the Partnership.

Building the funds through strategic Partnerships

The Mutunga Partnership has been built so far mainly through the involvement and generosity of individuals, and this will continue to be our platform and strength. I am however constantly taking every opportunity to broaden our base by building other partnerships – with churches, with service clubs, with corporate entities and other interested parties. This is patient, painstaking and sometimes testing work, involving a long time nurturing relationships. I still nurture the hope that you are feeling as fresh in your enthusiasm for this initiative, as you did when you first heard of it. Indeed, our progress so far has been more

than encouraging, and this nourishes and refreshes my enthusiasm and commitment, and I hope it does so for you also. Remember, this is a place for you to make your contribution. The work of The Mutunga Partnership will only be built as we pool our gifts, skills, resources and passion!

I think I have shared enough here to encourage your good-will, your enthusiasm and your prayers.

Am I grateful to you and to God?
You Betcha!

Our ships are blowing in the wind.

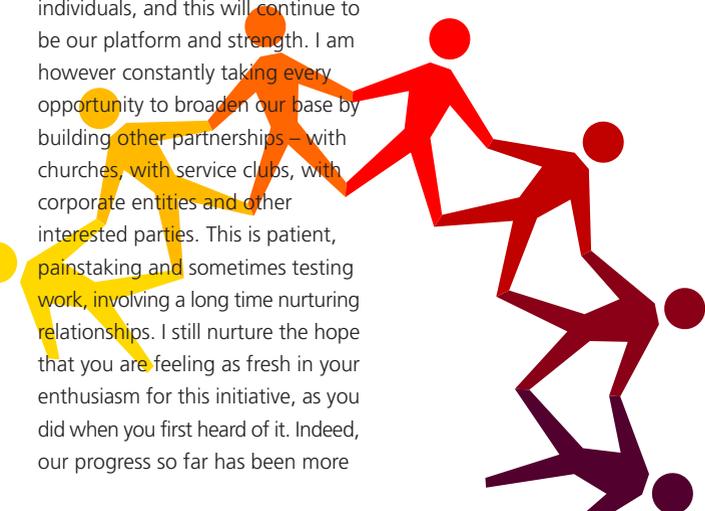
The wind is picking up speed.

I still need feedback.

Oxygen is!

In partnership

Morris





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The Mutunga Partnership Ltd
ACN 112 932 788

tel: + 61 3 9870 3369

fax: + 61 3 9879 1093

email: info@mutunga.com

16 Paxton street
Ringwood, Victoria 3134

The Mutunga Partnership

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The Mutunga Partnership
16 Paxton Street
Ringwood, Victoria 3134

www.mutunga.com

