



Capstone Ministries

Child and Family Restoration Outreach

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" Psalm 118:22

A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya

January, 2012 Volume 7 Issue 1

2011 Year in Review - Program/Ministry Development

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1. Capstone conducts a street outreach every Monday at the Lutheran Church compound. 15-20 boys attend. Most are there by invitation after personal contact on the street by Capstone staff. It is an opportunity to minister to them with the Word, food and counseling. They also play games and have a chance to bathe and wash their clothes. In 2011 34 boys were rescued from the streets and reunited with family. Capstone Board Chairman Lee Kucker visited Kenya in September and participated in this outreach.

2. Capstone also has a Transition Center in Mbale where boys come whose cases are a little more difficult. Their stay here is short term while the child and family are counseled. 7 boys stayed at the Center in 2011 where they went to local schools. At each school break, they visit their homes to prepare them for their transfer home.

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3. Capstone started a Boy Scout program in 2011 with the Scout District trainer Livingstone Karui as leader. Scouting has proven to be an effective tool in the process of rehabilitation. It is also a strong component in our annual Camp. Rotarians in Evergreen, CO sponsored the scout program in 2011.

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4. The theme of Capstone Camp 2011 was “To us a Son is given...” from Isaiah 9:6. At the camp, 21 boys—7 from the center and 14 living at home—attended. The week long camp’s focus is on strengthening the boys spiritually, emotionally and socially. They received spiritual instruction leading to Baptism on Friday, played team oriented games, learned the principles of scouting, and participated in a community service project. The week concludes with a parents day on Saturday after which all 21 boys accompanied their parents/guardians to their home. 15 boys were baptized on the closing day.



5. For the sixth year Capstone participated in the World Wide Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children on the first weekend in June. The boys from the Transition Center also attended and participated in the worship service. Host for the day was the Lutheran congregation in Rarieda. It is a day long program of worship, prayer, drama, Scripture and games. More than 250 children attended from area Lutheran congregations. Moses, Dennis and Titus recited a poem. (left)



6. 2011 saw the development of group Bible studies with families reconciled with their sons. Five group studies are currently being held with 4-7 families in each group. This program is supervised by Pastor Isaiah with assistance from the vicar. The program has greatly enhanced the spiritual development of these families. It allows families with similar experiences to share their struggles, burdens and victories guided by the Word.



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7. The Vicar program continued in 2011 with Vicar Zadok taking over from Vicar Isidore in July. The vicars work 3 days a week with Capstone staff on family counseling and the Bible study program. This program is organized through an agreement with Matongo Lutheran Theological College, the Bishop's office and the home congregation of the vicar.



8. Capstone recently entered into an agreement with another organization called "Joining Hearts and Hands" to help achieving and needy boys to attend secondary schools. These are two pictures of Elly Owino who is, thus far, the highest achieving boy in this program. The picture on the far left is Elly when he attended Capstone Camp in 2009. The picture on the right is Elly with his mother today.



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9. Each Christmas Capstone staff identify the most needy families of those with reconciled sons. This year with special donor assistance we were able to help 30 families to celebrate Christmas with basic food supplies for the day. Pictured on the left is Maxwell with his family as they receive their gift.



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10. Capstone conducts income generating projects. This year we have continued with a hybrid goat project. Twins were born in December to a female goat named Massengill. A chicken project was also started. And by far the most successful has been our moringa project. This year we formed a partnership with 3 HIV+ women's groups. They grow the trees; we collect the leaves from them and pay them for their harvest. Through this initiative the women and the communities around them learn of the nutritional value of moringa. They also earn extra money from their own effort. This is the kind of development that Capstone strongly supports. Capstone also benefits from the sale of the moringa. More than \$2000 profit was realized from this project in 2011.



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11. Pastor Dan also serves as a rostered volunteer pastor in the ELCK. He preaches once a month at the Cathedral in Kisumu and also teaches homiletics one day a week at Matongo Lutheran Theological College. Here he distributes Holy Communion to the members of Orongo congregation just outside Kisumu. On this day Orongo had organized a day to celebrate the continuing construction of their new house of worship. Orongo has one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Kenya.



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12. Two staff members of Capstone were wed in 2011. Benedict married in September and Pastor Isaiah tied the knot in December. Weddings are colorful and long affairs in Kenya. It is not uncommon for a wedding to start 3-4 hours late and to last 3 hours. Dan preached for Isaiah's wedding and the sermon took one hour.

13. After the post election violence of 2007-8, Dan and Patty were involved as Rotarians in emergency assistance to those in need. In 2011 Professors John Michaelczyk and Ray Helmick from Boston College came to Kisumu to produce a film on the post election violence and the response of people. The film entitled "Passing the Baton" premiered in Boston on Sept. 21. Dan attended while traveling on the east coast. In this photo John interviews 3 bicycle taxi drivers who along with 1200 others wore T-shirts declaring "Peace Begins with Me" in English and Swahili. This initiative was supported in part by the Rotary Club of Scituate, Mass. and District 9200 Relief Committee.



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Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Pray for the 21 boys who attended camp and now have returned to their families.
2. For continued and expanded donor support so that we might expand the ministry and reconcile more street boys with their families and with their Lord.
3. Patty's Post-It will be back next month.

More Information!

Signup for Capstone Ministries' monthly e-newsletter: Email: Capstoneministries@gmail.com

Web site address: www.CapstoneMinistries.org



Check out the Capstone Page on Facebook. Pictures, News and more....



Capstone participates in Savemart/Lucky Supermarket's SHARES program in N. California. You only scan your card before purchasing your groceries and SaveMart donates 3% of your purchase. To date Savemart has given Capstone \$1,310.7612...because of your shopping!! Ask for your card.

Missionaries serving Capstone in Kenya:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer
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Kisumu, Kenya 40100

New Address

You will note that donations in the USA & Canada should be sent to our new address in Oakdale, California, USA. See below!

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