



# 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

February, 2012 Volume 7 Issue 2

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### USA Address:

Capstone Ministries  
P.O. Box 123  
Oakdale, CA 95361

### Kenya Address:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer  
P.O. Box 3962  
Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

The number of street boys reconciled with family by Capstone Ministries to date:

# 208



### Check out Capstone on Facebook.



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.

## Education: A path of Deliverance

*"You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed..." Psalm 10:17, 18*

The missing family member in many Kenyan communities is the father. Absent either by choice or circumstance, fathers are not there. Mothers, aunties and grandmothers are for the most part, rearing the next generation in Kenya. But the Lord is not absent. He reminds us through King David's pen that he is there to encourage and defend the fatherless.

Patty with Maxwell Abwamba who enters his second year of High School in 2012.



God uses his people to express his presence in tangible ways. He is using Capstone Ministries to bring hope and restoration to boys in Kisumu. In 2011, 34 boys were rescued from the streets of Kisumu and reconciled with their families. Along with ongoing encouragement, Capstone has initiated a sponsorship program to assist achieving and needy boys to go to high school.

Cont. on p. 2

## Christmas Party with Staff

Every year we hold a Christmas party for all our staff members to show our appreciation for their efforts during the past year. This year we hosted the party at our home. Good friend Moses, the husband of our house girl did the cooking. He cooked up a storm. We played games, sang and enjoyed the good food. Some staff members even had their picture taken next to our 3' tree. Without these wonderful people, Capstone Ministries would not be the effective ministry it is. Please join us in praise to God for the good work they do every day.



Staff enjoy the spread at the Capstone Christmas Party

“Education...” Cont. from p. 1

Education is a key component in bringing hope. It is one of the few paths available for someone from a poor rural village to escape the cycle of poverty. Some families, however, are simply not able to afford the high school fees. Families that exist on a few dollars a day find it impossible to pay the \$400 + annual secondary fees. In the cases where a boy has performed well on his exit exam (KCPE) from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the family is deemed to be in financial distress, Capstone seeks for a sponsor to cover the tuition and boarding fees. The family and community remain responsible for transportation and personal items for the student. It is important for families to cover these incidentals even when it is difficult. Sacrifice results in a sense of responsibility and ownership.

Capstone is also initiating a skills training program for boys who either do not finish primary school or finish with a low score. These boys will have the opportunity to enter a local polytechnic where they can learn a trade such as carpentry, masonry, auto mechanics, or others. Capstone has received an initial grant of \$1000 from Semiahmoo Rotary Club near Vancouver Canada to jumpstart this initiative. Only boys who have remained at home and are proven to be stable and serious will be eligible for this assistance. The family must demonstrate financial need but also make a commitment to assist their son.

It is the vision of these two educational programs to develop boys with the skills to gain employment, be stable and help to provide for themselves and their families.

### **Mercy or Enabling?**

The sight of a 10 year old boy on the street is a devastating experience for someone who sees it for the first time. The boys are dirty, have sores, head lice and ring worms. They huff glue, sleep in open areas and beg people for food. It can break your heart and create a desire to do something.

Many people reach into their pockets for a few coins to give to these boys, some buy a loaf of bread for them, still other well wishers organize regular feeding programs. All these are well intended expressions of mercy. However, these expressions of mercy only address the immediate need. They do not address the long term, permanent change these boys require.

(Cont. on p. 4)



### **Patty's Post-It**

Pesa is the Kiswahili word for money. Usually it's used as a noun but in recent years, a form of the word is often used as a verb: Mpesa. Kenya has a very unique money-transfer system, the first of its kind in the world. The local mobile phone service provider called Safaricom has developed a nationwide [mobile banking](#) service called [M-PESA](#). It allows people to transfer money via [SMS](#) text. The service does not require users to have bank accounts, an important aspect in a country like Kenya, where many people do not have bank accounts. With M-PESA, the user can deposit digital funds at any M-PESA agent and send that electronic cash to any other mobile phone user in Kenya, who can then redeem it for conventional cash at any agent. The agents are located even in many remote villages. An M-PESA enabled mobile phone can also function as an [electronic wallet](#) and hold up to 100,000 [Kenyan shillings](#). Safaricom stakeholder Vodafone, which partnered in the development of M-PESA, has announced that it intends to roll out M-PESA internationally. Watch for it in the US and you can say you heard about M-pesa FIRST from Capstone Ministries. Hamm, I wonder what they'll call it in the U.S.?

Dan and I use Mpesa as a savings type holding account. I pay all of our household utilities via Mpesa. We also receive payment for the Moringa Leaf Powder orders via Mpesa. In addition, it works well in case a Capstone employee runs into an emergency in the field and needs additional cash. What a fantastic system! So, you may be wondering how Mpesa (money) becomes a verb. Let me illustrate: A moringa customer calls Patty, "I'd like to order 100 packets of Capstone Moringa Leaf Powder" Patty, "Thank you for your order. It comes to 6,000 shillings plus 350 shillings for shipping." Customer, "I'll *Mpesa* you by tomorrow" Just imagine, one day you'll be able to Mpesa your Capstone donations!

### **Income Generating Project**

Moringa Leaf Powder continues to lead the way as the most successful income generating project for Capstone. But not only does this project help our operating budget here in Kenya, it is also promoting the nutritional benefits among the rural poor as well as giving HIV+ women's groups an opportunity to earn some extra cash by growing the tree and selling the leaves to Capstone. Three groups currently grow moringa for sale to Capstone and a fourth in Kakamega town will be trained in 2012.

Capstone also recently received KEBS (Kenya Bureau of Standards) approval recently which will allow us to enter more formal super-markets like Nakumatt and Ukwala this year.

## Bible Studies

Capstone began Bible studies this year as a way for families near each other to support each other through a forum of the Word. Capstone now has five groups that meet every two weeks.

## Christmas in Kenya Project

Each Christmas we make a special effort to help the neediest families to enjoy a Christmas meal. Providing ongoing food assistance is not part of the mission or vision of Capstone Ministries. However at Christmas we want to make sure that families are able to celebrate Christmas with a nice meal and are encouraged by the Christmas Gospel. This year we targeted 30 families who were especially in need. We provided a basket of food and other items for each family. It was delivered by one of our staff members. The head of the family even inspected and confirmed the items they received, signed a letter from us as the directors and had their picture taken with the food items. This program was supported by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Hartford, CT as well as several others who sent in specific donations. Last month's newsletter pictured Maxwell's family receiving their Christmas gift. Pictured below are Peter Ogada and his grandmother receiving their gift.



## Supporting Capstone

You too can be an ongoing supporter of Capstone Ministries and bring real and lasting change to the street boys of Western Kenya.

Capstone Ministries is a proven effective program supported by churches, individuals and Rotary clubs in the US and Canada. Fill in the form on the last page of this newsletter and send your donation today.

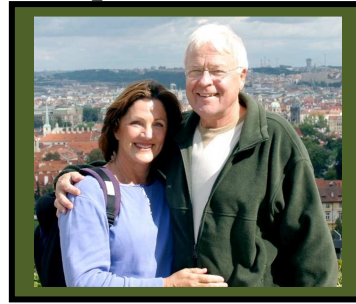
Be a spokesperson for Capstone in your church, Bible study or club. Make copies of this newsletter and share them with your friends.

Every year we have specific ways you can target your donation. In the past year opportunities were available to support The Capstone Camp, The World Wide Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, The Scout Program, Educational Sponsorship, Vocational Training, The Staff Loan Scheme, A Christmas Food Basket for needy families, Bibles for Bible Study Program, The Intern (Vicar) program, Income Generating Projects and others.

## New Congregational Sponsorship

We want to welcome two new congregations supporting Capstone Ministries: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Stoney Plain, Alberta, Canada and Messiah Lutheran Church of Fitchburg, Mass. One of the pastors at Immanuel is Jim Bredeson. Dan has known Jim since 1970. Jim and Dan went to the same high school in Saginaw, Michigan. Pastor Phil Alexander is pastor of Messiah Lutheran in Fitchburg. Messiah is supporting Capstone to continue with the Vicar Program.

## New Capstone Board member



Edward G. Schroeder joined the Capstone US Board in September of 2011. Mr. Schroeder was born in 1942 in St. Louis, MO. At 14 the family moved to Long Beach, CA. Ed attended UCLA where received both his Bachelor's and his Masters degree in Public Health. He began his career in hospital management as the assistant executive of Long Beach Community Hospital and most recently as Sr. Vice President of Catholic Health Care West. He is a member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church and also serves on the church council. Ed and his wife Patricia have four adult children.

## Feature: Titus Aseka



Titus Aseka is from the Luanda area., born in 1997. He was rescued on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2010 through the street outreach program in Kisumu. He performed well in school in class 5 at Kegoye Primary while at the Transition Center. During his time at the center he grew in faith and became a very spiritual young man. Benedict, welfare officer, for Capstone noted that late one evening he found Titus on his knees in prayer. In the Scout group, Titus was the leader and led the team in prayers frequently. He developed in interest in farming and goat keeping. He proved to be obedient, respectful and responsible. After the camp in early December Titus went home with his father, Wilson Aseka. His father has him now enrolled in Class 6 at his home.



## Prayers, Praises

1. Pray for the boys from the CTC who went home after the Camp. Titus, Kevin, Ronnie, Daniel, Dennis, Sylvanus, and Moses.
2. January is always a hot and dusty month in Western Kenya. Often we struggle with sinus colds and sore throats. Pray that all staff of Capstone remain healthy.
3. Classmate of Pastor Isaiah, Jerem, was in a serious road accident a few weeks ago and is in the hospital with broken bones and internal injuries. Pray he recovers and heals.
4. Praise that Patty's passport was quickly renewed at the Nairobi US Embassy.
5. Pray for Capstone's application as a 501c3 with the IRS. We should hear something soon. Capstone continues to operate under the umbrella of Key Ministries as we await this application. Your gifts continue to be tax deductible as always.
6. In January we are revamping the structure and procedures of the Transition Center. Pray for wisdom as we go through this process.
7. Pray for the three new boys about to enroll in High School: Ezekiel, Elly, and Derrick. Maxwell is in his second year.
8. Thanksgiving for the good health of Josie and Chrysta, mothers of Patty and Dan.
9. Capstone will be going through a process of strategic planning this year.
10. 2012 is an election year in Kenya. While four Kenyans will be going on trial at The Hague sometime in the next year, pray that Kenya remains peaceful during this process.
11. Pray for new opportunities to present Capstone to new congregations during the fall of 2012. Dan and Patty are planning their time in the states for Sept-November. If your church would like to hear more about Capstone from Dan and Patty you are welcome to write and invite them to visit your church. [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)
12. One of the items to be considered in long term planning is having an experienced missionary couple to fill in for Dan and Patty so that they both can visit the states together for fund raising. Pray that this process is clear and certain.

"Mercy..." cont. from p. 2

Capstone Ministries' vision is a restored and reconciled boy, living with family, receiving the ongoing emotional, spiritual educational and physical support from his family and community.

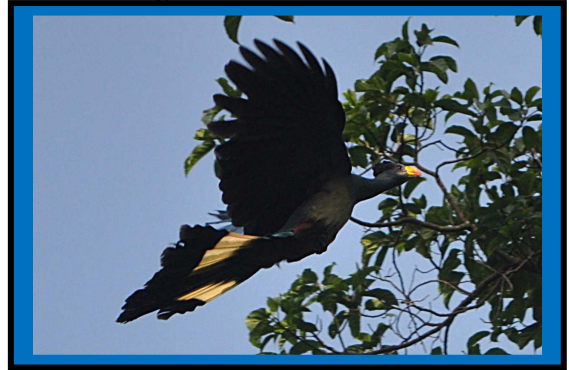
Human behavioral change often is undermined by well intentioned individuals who genuinely love the person who needs to change. However, if the intended acts of mercy only reinforce the bad behavior, the result can be an act of enabling instead of change.


One of the challenges we face in Kisumu is that there are a number of well intentioned programs that reach out in mercy to street boys with food and clothes. Many of these programs lack any long term outcome goals. This only makes it more comfortable for boys to live on the streets. The result is that they are not motivated to change their behavior and consider a long term solution to their situation.

Our Lord encourages us to "love our neighbor as our self". Our response must not only flow from the heart but also from the head. Helping in a way that brings long term, sustainable and self determined change not only is God pleasing, it makes sense.

## Photo of the Month

One of our favorite places to relax and recharge is Rondo Retreat Center. Our favorite bird here is the Blue Turaco. Here is one in flight.



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