



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

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

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

February, 2013 Volume 8 Issue 2

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

246

+6 went home in Jan.



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 **\$3,752.90**...because of you.

“4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”

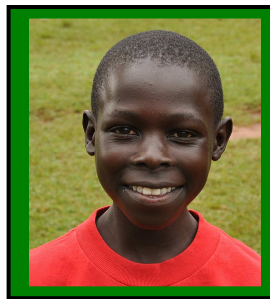
Street children stay at home when two important things happen: 1. The family matures spiritually, 2. The boy goes to school. With this in mind Capstone is launching a new project in which you can participate by sponsoring these two important areas of development. Called “4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”, this project provides a way for you to be involved in these two critical areas of a boy’s stability at home.

In 4S, a sponsor supports one child with a \$25 gift every month. This relatively small commitment provides:

- A school uniform for one child
- A Lutheran Catechism in Kiswahili
- A Bible in the tribal language of the child
- Ongoing spiritual and emotional support through Capstone staff visits to the family.

In return, you will receive

- A one page description of your sponsored child.
- A recent photo suitable for framing.
- Updates as available



Moses Okoth is one of many boys who would benefit from a sponsor. He was reconciled with his family in Dec. 2011 after spending much of 2011 at the transition center. He has done well at home and in school. He is a “candidate” this year which means he is in class 8 and will take his KCPE exam in November. He is a leader and loves soccer. His favorite subject is Math and wants to be a teacher.

Looking for a way to give your children or grandchildren a way to consider the many blessings they take for granted? Like to maintain a mission focus in your family? Like to have a way to help a specific child in Africa with education and spiritual growth? Looking for a mission project for your Christian school? This is the project for you. Ask for a complete program description from Dan and Patty Schmelzer and see for yourself.

Capstone Ministries has reconciled 246 former street children with their families. With your help many of these children have a better chance of remaining at home. You can make a difference in the life of a child. Write to Capstoneministries@gmail.com

.....Patty's Post-It.....

Servant Leadership

A visionary radiating humility

A simple strength drawing others

A steadfast voice demanding truth and justice

An open hand serving with heart

A quiet spirit lending an empathetic ear

A staunch supporter teaching the way

A risk-taker inspiring change

An upright mentor ethically guiding

A follower first!

This is the description of a Christian's expression of Servant Leadership. Whenever missionaries are sent to the field they are not alone, there must be a team of like-minded "senders" standing with them, there also must be servant leaders. Dan and I would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the outgoing members of the Capstone US board. These men and their wives have stood with us, lead us, followed us and supported us through the first seven years of Capstone development. Our heartfelt thanks go to Lee and Mary Louise Kucker, Tom and Pat Gingerich, Bryan and Sue Hofmann, Lou and Jane Weibe for many years of faithful servant leadership.



We would also like to welcome the new incoming members of the 2013 Capstone Board. Dave Hudon, Ann Jedele, and Pastor Philip Reimers. Each of these new members has spent extensive time with us in Kenya and knows the ministry from firsthand experience. Next month we will begin a more formal introduction of Capstone's US Board of Directors.

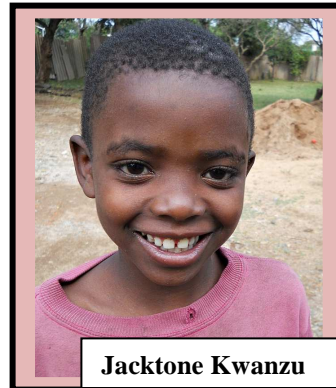
A letter from a Good Samaritan

**The following letter came to our attention when a Capstone staff member made a follow up visit on one of our reconciled boys named Jack. It shows the simple wisdom of the average Kenyan who knows that children belong at home and that faith is the key to family development.*

Greetings family of Jack, Dec. 25, 2012

I take this opportunity to greet you and wish you a happy and Merry Christmas. It is my pleasure to tell you that I happened to pick your son on 25th December, 2012 at the Busia bus park at 6:53 pm after I had finished spending time with a few street children here in Busia.

Your son's state of health was so touching and I couldn't go home just like that. I took him to our home in Bulanda village and we spent the night together at our home. Actually I don't know what happened to your son to end up in the streets and I don't know what were your efforts to try to find him. Jack is too small and young to be in the street. I took him to my parents who were very nice to him.



Jacktone Kwanzu

We should always take care of our children. We should love our children despite the hard life we are facing.

Look at the way Jack is sick. Please, I know many things can happen with a

purpose in life. Just believe in God and all will be well.

You are most welcome in Busia and are welcome to visit my family. We stay in Bulanda village just opposite the school. May God bless us. Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2013 to you.

Yours,

Vuvuzela Jordan

Peace & Peace

Jacktone was reconciled with his family in July 2012. Sometime in October he ran away and was found by Mr. Jordon in Busia who wrote the letter above. We are happy to report Jack has remained at home and his father is also in a Bible Study group now. This story demonstrates that reconciliation is a process that takes patience and persistence. God is at work!

SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. benefits Capstone

SaveMart Supermarket in Northern California has a program that benefits various non-profits organizations. When you shop at SaveMart, you only need to present your card before purchase and 3% of the value of your purchase is kept in the account you have designated, in this case Capstone Ministries. Capstone receives a check quarterly from all those who have participated by taking the extra 5 seconds to hand the cashier your S.H.A.R.E.S. card. To date



Capstone has received \$3,533.81 from this program. Do you live in Northern California? Do you shop at SaveMart? Why not help Capstone while you shop! Ask for your card on the form on p. 4 of this newsletter!

The Power to Effect Change

“We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.” I John 5:9

During the month of January we conducted performance evaluations on our six staff members. Each staff began by doing a self-evaluation with a ranking of their performance in various areas. Some of the areas included stewardship of ministry time and funds, spiritual development, skills assessment, and leadership.

During the discussion of spiritual development with one staff member, he raised a contemplative reflection in the form of a question: *Why do these children listen and respond to us when they have often rejected the natural and authoritative direction from their parents?* (That’s a deep and thoughtful spiritual question isn’t it?)

If one were to simply rationalize with human wisdom, one would come up with some fairly rational explanations. Children sometimes reject parental authority in adolescence. Some parents can be harsh and turn children away. Other children, after learning the harsh lessons of the street, are willing to listen to a kind word.

But there is a higher, Godly, and Gospel oriented explanation that makes more spiritual sense. Children in vulnerable situations are searching for a place of hope. Each of our staff reaches out with the hope filled message of the Gospel. This is the “testimony” John is talking about in the words above. It is this testimony about life and hope dwelling in the heart of our staff that draws these children to them. Pray that the Spirit may continue to work through them.

Change ahead for Choice dollars



Important changes are ahead for Thrivent’s Choice Dollars program. Learn more about steps you need to take to ensure you can take full advantage of this program and continue your support of Capstone Ministries through this program. Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice

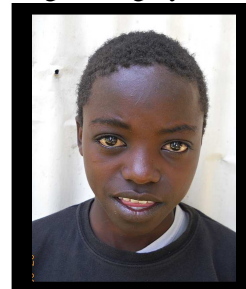
Bible Study groups and Self Reliance

The seven current Bible study groups were initiated for the purpose of spiritual development within the family. Members meet once a month at the home of one of the families. While each family has a pressing economic need, a poverty of the heart is even more detrimental to family stability. It is this spiritual development that Capstone believes is the key to all aspects of poverty alleviation, including material poverty.



Josephine (Mama Festus) with her female goat and the twins.

Material poverty, we believe, is best addressed from within the group not through outside aid. This is just what has been happening in several of the groups. St. John’s Bible study group near Luanda has started a goat project and the female goat has just given birth to twins. The intent of this self-driven initiative is to provide a goat to each family in the group. The beauty of this project is in the initiative taken by the members themselves. They identified their need, owned the problem and the solution, and acted on their own. We praise God for this initiative and action that came from the members themselves. It is our firm belief that this took place because the ground had been well prepared through spiritual strengthening by the vicars and Pastor Isaiah.



Festus Anemba was reconciled with his parents in June 2012. At first, Festus resisted going to school but is now enrolled in class 6.

Prayers, Praises

1. Capstone is upgrading its registration with the Kenyan government. Our application as a Society is pending in Nairobi. Pray it is approved.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Pray for peace in Kenya. In March a new president under a new constitution will be elected along with new a parliament.
4. In early August Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have completed all necessary documentation. Pray it is well received and approved
5. Capstone has been accepted as a mission partner with LCMC, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.
6. Pray we find the right couple to assist in Kenya while we travel in the states fund raising for Capstone.
7. We have hired a young man to help with harvesting moringa. Fred will assist with the three growers groups as well as the 5000 trees on our compound.
8. Pray for new President of the New England District: Pastor Tim Yeadon as he ministers in Newtown, CT.
9. Pray for those battling cancer and life threatening illnesses. Prayers for God's peace!
10. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
11. We welcome Pastor Phil Reimers as a Capstone board member this month. Pastor Phil and Lutheran Church of the Cross have supported Capstone since 2008,
12. Pray for the new program that gives supporters the opportunity to sponsor a boy who has been reconciled with his family. This new program, called School Sponsorship & Spiritual Support (SSSS) provides a school uniform, a Bible and Luther's Catechism and to pray regularly for the specific needs of boy in Capstone's Program.
13. We are still in need of sponsors for two secondary school boys who have just qualified by passing their 8th grade exams. Sponsoring secondary boys is a 4 year commitment of \$500 per year.

The Call to Missions

Have you felt a tug on your heart to enter the mission field? Has God been preparing you?

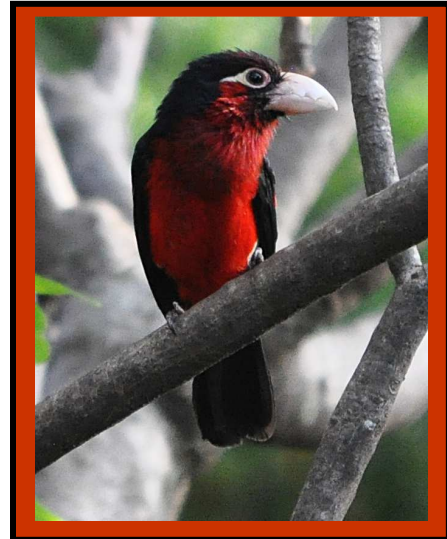
There are many avenues to fulfilling that call to God's service. We are looking for a couple interested in helping with administration during the time Dan and Patty are in the USA. The commitment would be for 3-5 months in the latter half of 2013. This short term service may lead to a more full time opportunity to serve in Kenya with Capstone.

If you'd like to talk with Dan or Patty please send us a note at Capstoneministries@gmail.com We'd love to help you explore the possibilities. God bless you as you consider that step of faith.

We also welcome inquiries about being an Ambassador for Capstone in your congregation.

Photo of the Month

Double-toothed Barbett



Name _____ 

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ (Include if you are not currently receiving the newsletter via email)

Donation Amount: _____ Send me a S.H.A.R.E.S Card for use at SaveMart _____

Designation if other than operational budget: _____ Send me info on School Sponsorship _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to: **Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080, Oakdale, CA 95361**

(Please cut and include with your donation)