



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

March, 2012 Volume 7 Issue 3

In this Issue

Page 1: Lead Article: “Perceived Needs and Real Needs”

p. 2: Patty’s Post-it

p. 2: Ambassador Program

P. 3: 6th Bible Study

P. 3: Foot pump project

P. 3 Capstone boy Feature: Elly Owino

P. 3 Being a partner of Capstone.

p. 3 ELCK Sunday School Program supported by Capstone

p. 3 Visiting Rotarians from Colorado

P. 4 Prayers and Praises, Airmiles Donation, US Visitation, Pick-up Truck Fundraiser

p. 4 Donor slip

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

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

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

212



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 **\$2,741.72**...because of you.

“Just Give me 5 Shillings!”

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven...which is easier to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Get up, take your mat and walk.’”

Mark 2:5,9

Physical needs very often drive us to the one who will address the more significant needs inside our heart. This is the theme in the story of the paralytic from Mark 2. A man who could not walk was assisted by four friends to reach Jesus. But a crowd blocked their way. To get to Jesus, the men took desperate measures: they lowered the man on a mat through the roof of a house where Jesus was teaching. What drove this man was his physical need; he could not walk. But when he came face to face with Jesus, Jesus did something amazing. In fact, if we had witnessed it, it may have confused us. Jesus told him, *“Son, your sins are forgiven.”*

We have all been in the same place as this man. Lose your job, fight with your spouse, max out the credit cards, get into an accident, end up in the hospital, hear the “C” word from your doctor. Physical needs! So we come crying to the great physician Jesus. Help me, heal me, give me something! Please Lord!

Inside a more deadly problem lies festering. Something dark! Something sinister! ...infecting our soul, creating bitterness, resentment, envy, jealousy. This is what Jesus saw in the heart of the paralytic. The physical needs of the man were obvious to everyone and all assumed that is what needed addressing. Not Jesus! Jesus saw something worse than paralyzed legs; he saw a paralyzed soul. So he helped him with his greatest need: forgiveness. The King of the Universe looked deep inside this man, past the crutches and the mat, passed the well intentioned friends and healed him where he was really hurting!

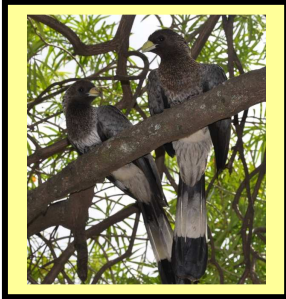
(cont. p.2)



Patty's Post-It

The View from the Schmelzer's Veranda

In February's newsletter you may have noticed a picture of the Great Blue Turaco, a unique and beautiful bird we're always excited to spot when we go to the rain forest. We have also developed a love for another bird that is in the same Turaco family called the Great Plantain Eater. Though not as beautiful in color as the Blue Turaco we have managed to develop an intimate relationship with the Plantain Eaters right from the comfort of our own veranda.



We keep seed out for the many birds that frequent our yard and invite them all in from the tiny little finches called Cordon Bleu to the bright yellow weaver birds to the very large predators called Kites, but the Plantain Eaters are different.



On average we have 5 to 8 of these birds in our yard each day. They are not seed eaters so they don't come for feasting at the feeders but we discovered they love water. Once we realized they love to drink and splash we added several stations around the yard. They also love to play in the sprinkler. These guys are unique in that they don't fly away when we approach; they just turn their head and give us the "eagle eye" of curiosity. Another interesting and unique aspect of the Plantain Eater is their call. They have a soft coo similar to a dove but they also have a very loud call that could easily be mistaken for a monkey. You might wonder what we do in Kenya for entertainment..... now you know! The pictures were taken from "the view from the Schmelzer's Veranda"

(cont. from p.1)

Street boys come to us with real physical needs. Often they are wrapped in a story designed to elicit sympathy. "Both my parents are dead." "There is no food at home." "My uncle beats me." "There is no money for school." The needs may be real, imagined, exaggerated or completely fictitious. The story and the need is expressed with the assumption that the physical needs are the greatest. "Just give me 5 shillings," are the opening words from many a street boy. Seldom, if ever, has a boy come crying because he has stolen something at home and is afraid to face the shame of his actions. Instead he ran to the street as a way of coping with his impenitence. Very often it is a breakdown in character; it is a compromise with moral behavior that has driven this boy to the street. It is SIN! Sin, wickedness, trespass, iniquity, duplicity, immorality! This is what divides people. It may initiate with the boy, the father, the step-mother, even the community. But almost always it has resulted in a breakdown in relationship. Parental love was compromised. Nurture became nasty...and the boy ran.

Just as Jesus went to the real problem in the heart of the paralytic, so do we at Capstone. We seldom have as dramatic of an experience as the story from Mark 2. More often it takes the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and the faith of Abraham. You see, we aren't able--like Jesus--to know the problem without hearing about it. It takes many conversations with the boy, counseling time with the parents, even time with the chief and community elders. And it is only then, when the truth is clear, the offenses openly stated that the soothing balm of the Gospel can be applied. "*Son, your sins have been forgiven.*"

Ambassador Program

We are introducing an Ambassador Program at Capstone Ministries. Ambassadors are selected to promote Capstone in their church and community in order to heighten awareness of the reconciliation work of Capstone Ministries. We are privileged to have a number of people around the country who have shared this ministry with others and we want to recognize, commend and encourage that faithfulness.

Each Ambassador will receive a lapel pin with the Capstone logo. It is pictured below. If you would like more information on becoming an Ambassador to your circle of friends, fellow club members, study group or church, just write to Dan and Patty.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com



Bible Studies

Capstone has added a sixth Bible study group in Feb. This group meets in the Maseno area. There are 5 members of the group. All Bible study groups have one thing in common; they have all had a boy reunited with their family. The purpose of these groups is to provide a forum for mutual encouragement and to minister to the families in an ongoing way through the Word. One of the members of the Maseno group is also a member of another women's group which grows moringa as income generating.

Foot Pump Project

Capstone works with three women's groups to grow moringa trees. They benefit with a regular income from the leaves and Capstone benefits as we market moringa to the community. One of the obstacles to expanding this program is the dry season. Many in the Kajulu group are near a river however. We have discussed with them the idea of a water foot pump which will enable them to irrigate their crops and moringa trees regularly. A foot pump will push water up to 300 feet. I agreed to find a donor to assist them if they raised 50% of the cost. They will have the money by the end of March. This is the type of development we encourage: Boosting an already hard working group through cost sharing! If you are interested, the partner cost would be only \$125. Just indicate this on the attached slip. Four pumps are needed but we will begin with one to establish a pattern of faithfulness. Write to us at

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com if you are interested in sponsoring one or more foot pumps.



Patty on a water foot pump irrigating moringa trees on our compound!

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.

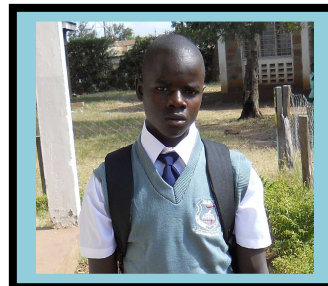
Capstone Ministries is a proven effective program supported by churches, individuals and Rotary clubs in the US and Canada. Fill in the form on the last page of this newsletter and send your donation today.

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 many projects. Currently we are promoting three ways you can help specifically: The Water Foot Pump Project, The Fund Raiser for a new pick up, and donating Air Miles. We also encourage you to consider being a monthly donor to our ongoing work.

Feature: Elly Owino

Elly Owino is one of boys who has done very well, graduating from Primary school with 332 marks. Elly was rescued from the streets of Kisumu in July, 2009. He was reconciled with his mother and father in Chemelil. His mother worked on a sugar cane plantation and his father tended cows for a local farmer. Elly is now enrolled in his first year at Onjiko High School in Ahero. He adjusted well from his time on the streets and was always the top performer in his class. We are very proud of Elly.



Colorado Rotarians visit Capstone

In February, six Rotarians from Evergreen, Colorado visited Capstone. They were on a tour of Rotary projects in East Africa. They were only able to stay one day as they were on their way to Tanzania. The Evergreen Rotary Club blessed Capstone with a Matching Grant in 2006. It was also special in that the Scout Trainer for Capstone was present and welcomed three former Scouts from the group. They are pictured with Livingston Karui below. Scout Curt Harris helped to sponsor the scout program through the Evergreen Rotary Club.



Sunday School Program and Capstone

For a number of years Capstone has made a small monthly donation to help the Sunday School Program at the Kisumu Cathedral of ELCK. This gesture has really born fruit. Susan, who became the Sunday School teacher in 2008 uses the CPH Sunday School Program each week and also leads the children's choir.



Susan (on left) enjoys seeing the CPH Sunday School curriculum for the first time during a training in 2009 by a team from St. Paul's, New Hartford, CT.

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. Praise that Dan recovered from his latest bout with malaria. Patty played nurse for several days and is perfecting her jabs.
3. We are asking individuals to serve as Ambassadors for Capstone. Pray that God leads each to give glory to God for this opportunity to serve Him.
4. Three boys were rescued from the streets this month: Zachariah, Collins and Eliud. Pray for commitment and parental love and care for these three boys.
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. Pray for God's blessing on our fund raising program for a new pickup for the ministry.
7. Pray for the three new boys who have enrolled in High School: Ezekiel, Elly, and Derrick. Maxwell is in his second year. Elly is featured in this newsletter.
8. Thanksgiving for the good health of Josie and Chrysta, mothers of Patty and Dan.
9. In April Patty will be visiting family in California. Pray for safe travel.
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
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.

Visiting the USA

We are planning a visit to the US this fall from Sept-November. We will be in the Midwest from mid-Sept to mid Oct and will be introducing new churches to Capstone. From mid-Oct. to the end of November we will be in churches in New England.

If you are interested in having us visit your area, just send us an email.

Donate Air Miles


As we consider our travel to the US in late 2012, we always spend time looking for the best airfare deals. Over time we have joined a number of frequent flyer programs but have never accumulated enough miles for a free ticket.

If you would like to gift your unused miles, it will help to decrease our travel expenses. We are members of the following air miles programs: Delta, Continental, Virgin, KLM/Air France, Emirates, Qatar, Royal Jordanian, American, and British Airways, . Why not put those unused miles to good use? Most airlines allow you to gift miles in increments of 1000 miles. Write to us and we will send you our account for the respective program.

Fund Raiser for a new pickup

For some time, our current truck which we use to move around Kisumu has begun to show its age. We received this truck through a grant from Evergreen Rotary Club back in 2006 so it has served us well these six years.

Recently a supporter of Capstone made a challenge to our donor base: Raise the funds to upgrade the truck and I'll match all gifts up to \$10,000. The deadline for this matching challenge is the end of June. If you would like to consider contributing to this non-budget item, indicate so on the donor slip on p. 4. You may also write our Capstone Board Chairman in the US for more information on this fund raiser. He is Lee Kucker and his email is kucker43@gmail.com

Name _____ 

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Donation Amount: _____

Designation if other than operational budget: _____

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)