



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

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

217



Check out Capstone on Facebook.



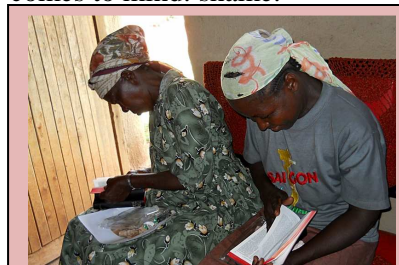
Capstone participates in Savemart/Lucky Supermarket’s SHARES program in N. California. You only scan your card before purchasing your groceries and SaveMart donates 3% of your purchase. To date Savemart has given Capstone **\$2,741.72**...because of you.

“The Dignity of Self-Reliance”

“Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8,9

“Can you spare a little change.” How many times have you heard that line from a panhandler? Outside a sporting event, bus stage, airport; this is where they gather. A few weeks ago, Patty and I sat in the Naples train station coffee shop for a few hours waiting for our train to Rome. We watched with curiosity as one elderly woman plied her trade on another level. Several people would approach her; they would whisper, exchange something and the visitor would exit again. She would flip open her cell phone and have brief conversations. Later we discovered this woman had a syndicate of beggars covering different areas of the station. They reported to her, gave her the proceeds and went back “to work.” We even watched as she ran off one lady begging in the coffee shop. Obviously she was free-lancing in **her** territory. Needless to say she was given the bums rush. (excuse the pun)

As Christians who work among the poor every day, I felt uncomfortable and disturbed. I don’t criticize those who give to those who beg. But in that situation I just feel I don’t have enough information to give wisely. I also don’t like reinforcing what I see as an act of personal humiliation. Imagine how awful it must feel to put your hand out and beg for a few coins from someone. Only one word comes to mind: shame.



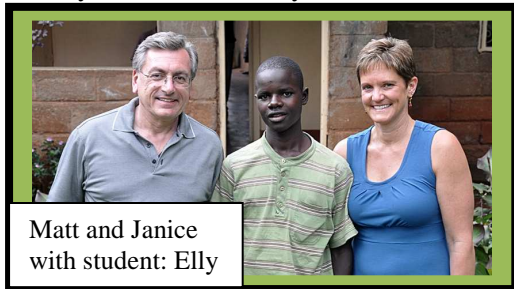
Kima Bible study group receives their Bibles through cost sharing to enhance ownership and to promote self reliance.

In their book “When Helping Hurts” authors Corbett and and Fikkert talk about the complexity of poverty alleviation. They say, *“Material poverty alleviation involves more than ensuring that people have sufficient material things; rather it involves the much harder task of*

cont. p.2

Patty's Post-It: Mentoring

On Sunday, March 15 we held our first mentoring day at Capstone Ministries. The mentoring was for our four boys in secondary schools. Modeled after a successful program in Nairobi called Palmhouse Foundation, this day brings the boys together during their school break and seeks to encourage the boys spiritually, psychologically and emotionally. The boys took the morning to share among themselves some of the challenges of being in secondary school. You may remember how



Matt and Janice
with student: Elly

difficult it was to be a freshman in high school. Fresh from being the oldest in primary or middle school, you are now on the bottom rung of the ladder.

In the afternoon the boys shared with the entire group of staff, directors and two special friends from San Diego, Matt and Janice Kurth who happened to be in Kenya for the Rotary District Conference the next weekend. Matt and Janice are also sponsors of the Elly, pictured above.

The boys received a lot of good advice from staff and even a young man who finished High School with all A's just a few years ago. To be given special attention and listened to is particularly encouraging to a Kenyan student. We are very proud of Maxwell, Adam, Elly and Derek. Keep them in your prayers.



Mentoring team with the four sponsored students

(cont. from p.1)

empowering people to earn sufficient material things through their own labor, for in so doing we move people closer to being what God created them to be.....How we work and for whom we work really matters."

We try to keep that perspective in all aspects of our work in Capstone Ministries. It is sometimes a very lengthy process of change within a street boy and his family. We feel strongly that change that is imposed from outside the person—often in the form of hand-outs--is no change at all. Rather change that comes from within a person is lasting and sustainable. That kind of change is then owned by the individual.

Our role then is to be a facilitator of change not an implementer of change. It is like your pastor's sermon on Sunday. He is merely facilitating the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is the implementer in the heart.

Here are a few examples of how we do this at Capstone:

- When our staff make follow up visits on families of reconciled children, our role is to listen, encourage and pray. They don't come with a basket full of goodies.
- When we started the secondary school sponsorship program we insisted that the family be involved and raise the necessary money to pay for all the incidentals for the boy's education. We only paid for the school fees.
- In our work with the HIV+ groups who grow moringa, we provide the seeds, but they have to plant, weed, water, and harvest. Then we pay them for their work.
- In our Bible study groups, the first meeting is held to emphasize that this is THEIR group not a Capstone group. They organize themselves; organize their own transport to the host's home. If they want to register as a CBO with the government, they go and get the forms, raise the registration fee and file themselves. They even cost share when they buy a Bible from us.
- In July we will be gathering all 7 of the Bible study groups together in Kisumu. The group members will pay their own way to Kisumu. The agenda will be full of items that focus on self reliance, faith in God, working hard as parents: all the good things they have done to welcome their child back home again and keep him at home. Struggles yes but victories as well.

One thing we have discovered is that it takes a lot of patience to facilitate change. You can't rush it and you can't take short cuts. But, my the joy!

Recently Repha Sikoti, a member of the Tumaini Women's group in Maseno addressed some visitors to their group. With her face beaming, she proudly shared the activities of their group. She recalled how they started and how poor in mind and spirit she was in 2006. "I couldn't even sweep my house," she cried. Then, as a smile crept across her face, she stood tall and proclaimed "Do you see me now? Do you see how I am now?" That is poverty alleviation! That image in my mind's eye of Repha, standing proudly, is "**The dignity of Self Reliance.**"

Luffa (Loofa, Lufah) Soap Project

One of the groups that grows moringa trees for Capstone also has a large group of disabled (physical and developmental) people as part of the group. We would like to help them become self-sustaining. Making soap is one avenue of income generating. The wife of one staff member (Benedict) already makes soap and is willing to train the group. The group also would grow and dry the luffa plant and add them to the soap. Watch for updates in the June newsletter. Feel free to write to us if you are interesting in supporting this empowerment.



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 The Loofa Soap Project. We also encourage you to consider being a monthly donor to our ongoing work.

Puppet Training for Counseling

Ongoing "capacity building" is critical for staff development. With this in mind we are planning on a training day in July to give our staff another tool in counseling with our boys. A program called "PIP" trains those who work with vulnerable children using the familiar Lego "people of the world" to allow children to identify conflicts and trauma in their life. Dr. Charlotte Koff from the USA does the training.



Feature: Philip Ondura



Philip Ondura was rescued from the streets of Luanda in September of 2009. The family was completely dysfunctional. The parents did not know how to discipline their children. Both Philip's mother and father were involved in selling marijuana and brewing alcohol. Sometimes Philip would complain that he was being beaten up by his parents.

Sometime later Philip's parents were involved in a road accident in which they both suffered broken legs. After some time the father died.

Philip was reconciled with his family and the mother was encouraged to create a good environment for her children. After several in home counseling sessions with staff members of Capstone, the mother gave up her illegal businesses and began to look for an alternative instead of dealing drugs.

During Capstone Camp in December, 2011, Philip was invited to attend as a boy who had remained at home in a difficult situation, persevered and still needed further encouragement. Philip's mother attended the parents day and learned a lot that day about parenting. She was encouraged as she talked with other parents in her same situation.

Since December, she has joined the Kima Bible Study group and has begun to mature spiritually as well. Currently Philip is at home and going to school and is in a much better family environment. His mother has hosted the Bible study several times and is very grateful for the opportunity to grow in the Word of God. She is pictured in the photo of the Kima Bible study group on page 1.

She has since changed her work and is now engaged in selling firewood in her area.

Philip and his family are a good example of the patience and persistence necessary in ministering to vulnerable children in their communities. Change does not come easily but through loving support, focused attention on problem areas and the ministry of the Word, change does come. We give God all the glory for the "new life" Philip has now at home.

Prayers, Praises

1. We hold up in prayer Pat Loschke who is mourning the death of his dear wife Kathy. Pat visited Capstone a few years ago with a Sending Place team and is a member of St. Andrew's Lutheran in Stockton, CA. Kathy battled cancer for almost two years. A memorial service was held at St. Andrew's during which mention was made that the memorials should be designated to Capstone Ministry. We give glory to God for Kathy's faithful life to her Savior and long for a grand reunion with her one day.

2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches..

3. Patty is presently visiting family in California and will return to Kenya on May 29. Pray that she has a relaxing time with her Mom, kids and friends.

4. Praise that we have the opportunity to share the vision of Capstone with Evergreen Lutheran, Evergreen, CO; Bethlehem Lutheran, Lakewood, CO; and Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio and Trinity Lutheran, Winfield, KS. 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

5. Praise that our application for a grant through LWML Kansas District was approved. Much thanks to Ann Jedele who championed this application. Ann and Chuck visited Capstone two years ago. The grant will provide office equipment. The items will be purchased in June and July. Thanks to all the "mighty mite" boxes in LWML groups in Kansas that made this possible.

6. Pray for upcoming World Wide Weekend of Prayer for orphans and vulnerable children. We will host it again at the Rarieda Parish just outside Kisumu on June 2,3. It will be a weekend of Prayer, Worship, Songs, Dramas, Games, Scouting activities and even a special movie. We thank Bethany Lutheran Church and Sunday School, of West Hartford, CT for helping to sponsor this event that will include 10 area congregations of the ELCK in addition to Capstone.

Fund Raiser for a new pickup

We have raised \$21,065 toward the goal of \$30K for a quality imported Toyota double cap pickup. We are hoping to purchase this truck sometime later this summer and your designated gifts are still appreciated. On the donor slip on page 4 just indicate your designation for the truck fund. Thanks.

Vocational Training

A grant from Semiahmoo Rotary in British Columbia will enable us to begin a program to help support older boys who have remained at home and are unable to complete primary school or perform poorly and cannot attend secondary. This program will be coordinated with family support to maintain parental ownership and supervision of the boy in training. Only those boys who demonstrate that they are serious about their future will be eligible for this program.

Photo of the Month



These are Plantain Eaters. They frequent our yard almost every day. These two seem to be conferring over something but most likely are only checking out the photographer.

Name _____ 

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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.

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

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