



# 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**

**July, 2012 Volume 7 Issue 7**

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

# 229

**+ 4 in June**



### **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.

## **"Weekend of Prayer"**

***"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10,11***

On June 2,3 more than 300 children joined Capstone staff, Sunday School teachers from 10 ELCK congregations at the Rarieda Parish, just outside Kisumu to observe the World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Supported through a grant from the Sunday School children of Bethany Lutheran Church in West Hartford, CT the children enjoyed two days of Bible stories and lessons, games, tooth brushing instructions, a special movie: "Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe" and a worship service filled with songs, poems, prayers, Scripture readings and dramas all performed by the children in the 3 hour worship service.



Four children prayed for various challenges facing children around the world. Prayers included the loss of a parent, child trafficking, street children, parental neglect and abuse, the frankness and openness of the prayers touched all who attended this special service. One particular prayer hit very close to home for us at Capstone. She prayed, "Father, help us as children by changing irresponsible parents."

The Scriptures were also read by children from the various congregations. The theme for the service was from Psalm 10:17,18 "The Lord is our Defender" and Dan focused on the Lord as the one who hears, listens and responds to our prayers when we are in a desperate situation as children. Several interactive short dramas made the sermon more interesting and practical for the 300+ children.

## Patty's Post-It:

Visitors are a blessing! This common saying in Kenya is heartfelt; Kenyan's truly believe that a visitor in the house is a blessing from God. We also believe it's true. Dan and I have been greatly blessed in the past month with some very special visitors. When I left California on May 29<sup>th</sup> the Soderstrom Family from Modesto also left SFO enroute to Kenya. I had just met this family through our Capstone Board Chair, Lee Kucker. I had been corresponding with Melissa for many months as she planned the "trip of a lifetime" for their family of four. Dr. Pete is a Modesto Dentist and they have two boys: Collins and Conner. We were able to meet up in London for a short visit. My flight brought me back to Kisumu a day ahead while the Soderstroms enjoyed the sights of London then had the chance to sleep in real beds before the last leg of the trip. They arrived the day after I did.

Melissa told me they wanted to see what Kenya is famous for and at the same time they wanted to know the people of Kenya. They were able to accomplish that desire through Capstone. Two days after their arrival Capstone was hosting the World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in a rural Lutheran Church. This rural Kenyan experience was overwhelming at times. We were concerned that Melissa was going to sneak a small child into her suitcase. She has a genuine and endearing love for children.

Two weeks later we received a call from friends from Colorado. Pastor Philip and his wife Liz had traveled to Tanzania and planned to go to the Congo. When the Congo portion of the trip fell through they decided to come and visit Capstone. It was a busy week and this gave them many opportunities to see the work in action. We had a great time getting to know Philip and Liz on more personally and shared the work of Capstone. Visitors truly are a blessing and lately we've been blessed beyond measure!! Our thanks to the Soderstroms and the Reimers for coming!

(cont. from p.1)

Here Dan and Michelle dramatize a conversation between a dad and his daughter as she comes home from school.



The drama pointed out the difference between hearing and listening. Once again this year, Pastor Isaiah wrote 2 poems which were performed both the Rarieda Sunday School and the Kisumu SS. The poems highlighted the plight of street children and their need for loving parents. Each poem was recited by the Rarieda S.S. pictured on the left.

Games competition Included sack races, egg races, jump rope, football and the game pictured below in which children had to carry water in their hands and fill a bottle with 500 ml. The joy of the day was only overshadowed by sincere prayers and worship of the children.



Jesus words from Matthew 18 resonated loudly in the hearts of those who participated in this prayer event. I can imagine the angels of these children smiling broadly before their Father in heaven.



## Water Foot Pump Empowers Widows

We want to thank Lutheran Church of the Cross of Evergreen, CO for co-sponsoring this empowerment project. Cost sharing enables the poor to advance in economic development and still creates ownership, initiative and self reliance. These are the “holy three” in the long term development and alleviation of poverty.

When items or money are just handed out, the individual being assisted has no stake in the success or failure of the project and the project is doomed from the outset and often the donors have only created a sense of dependency.



**Jane, on right, and Therese, on left, try out the foot pump.**



This foot pump project not only assists and empowers, the key elements of self reliance and the hard work of the individual are encouraged. This also encourages the recipients to give God the glory and feel good about their own efforts to change their own situation.

## Memorial

Hesbon Odhiambo Ateng, the chairman of the Rarieda Parish congregation and Rarieda Primary School passed away suddenly on June 25th. Hesbon was present at the World Day of Prayer on June 2,3 and was very supportive of the event sponsored by Capstone Ministries. The children used the classrooms for Catechism lessons and even slept in the school. Those present on that day witnessed how much he enjoyed seeing the children enjoy that event. His leadership at Rarieda School will be greatly missed. He is pictured below watching the children enjoy the games on that weekend. He is survived by his wife Eunice and five children. Hesbon served as a spiritual helper in many congregations and was constructing the Orongo church when he fell sick.



## Feature: Poems

These are two poems written by Pastor Isaiah for the World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The Sunday School children performed these poems during the worship service on June 3.

### The Sun Will Shine Again

The Caves and corridors. The corners I sit  
Nights are long. The dreams in times of darkness  
The sun will shine again!

When my mother and father went to an island  
without return. Far, Far....far  
The sun will shine again!

I want to go to school, to become a tree  
With long roots to water level  
Big branches I desire, sweet fruits I will produce  
The sun will shine again!

The gardener is gone with the village gossip  
Aha, like weeds we grow  
Hand me a book. Fill my belly  
Like a flower I will attract  
God my Defender; Reveal yourself!  
To smile for a mile!  
The sun will shine again!

### The Shield

We are children, The shoulders we need to lean on  
Who is our shield?

Our Parents are gone! Gone with the wind  
In the wind, hear the sobbing of trees  
In waterfalls our hopes fall  
Who is our shield?

They want to know, To learn  
With what means?  
For the children of fame have become the orphans  
Who is our shield?

Some of us are on wheelchairs, some mentally challenged  
Some on the streets, some can't see the light  
Who is our shield?

Stand up! Speak up!  
You can be a change, a shield we can use  
Oh Lord hear us  
The vulnerable, The fatherless  
Wipe our tears, then we will smile  
You are our shield and defender.

## Prayers, Praises

1. We currently have two boys at the Transition Center. Pray for Brian, and Osteen. Brian Victor was reconciled to his father during June.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Praise that we have the opportunity to share the vision of Capstone with Evergreen Lutheran, Evergreen, CO; Bethlehem Lutheran, Lakewood, CO; Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio and Trinity Lutheran, Winfield, KS; Bethany Lutheran, West Hartford, CT; Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH; Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, NH; Christ Lutheran, Scituate, NH. We will also attend the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Convention in Denver, CO. 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)
4. In June we hosted two visiting families. Dr. Pete and Melissa Soderstrom and their two sons Conor and Collin, visited from Modesto, Ca and attended the World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Rarieda. Pastor Philip Reimers and his wife Elizabeth stayed with us for six days and saw almost every facet of the work of Capstone.
5. In early July Capstone will apply for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have been working on all the documents needed for this application. Pray it is well received and approved.
6. In July all seven of the Bible study groups we have organized over the last two years will gather for a joint meeting. Watch the August newsletter for more on this fathering. Pray it goes well
7. We want to praise God and thank all those who joined us in prayer on June 3 for the World Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.
8. Pray our application for KEBS is approved. We have applied for the sale of moringa on a broader scale.

## Fund Raiser for a new pickup

We have raised \$22,590 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.

## 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.

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

Become a monthly donor and you will receive a hard copy of this newsletter along with your donation receipt. Bring lasting and real change to a boy in Kenya.

## Photo of the Month



**The Malachite Kingfisher**

Photo credit: Pastor Philip Reimers on the shores of Lake Victoria

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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

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

(Please cut and include with your donation)