



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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USA Address:

Capstone Ministries
P.O. Box 2080
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:

232

+ 3 in July



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 **\$3,533.81**...because of you.

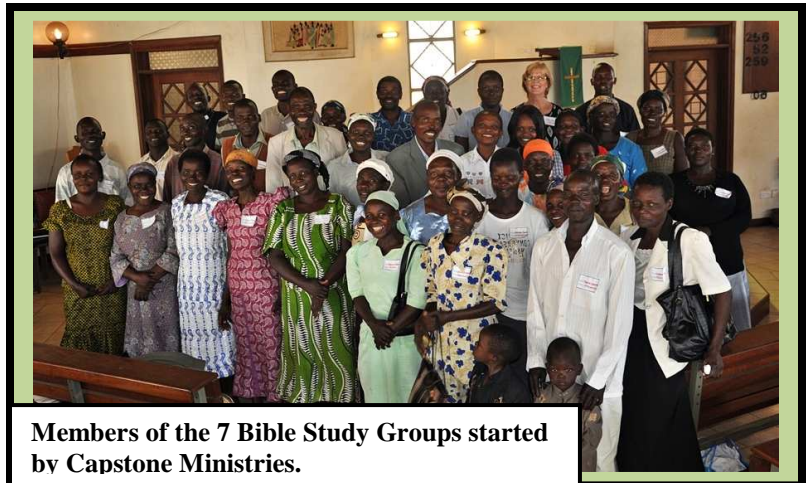


"Gathering of Bible Study Groups"

"God...comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." II Corinthians 1:4

"Walking in another man's shoes!" That expression emphasizes the importance of practical commonality in counseling. In Christian counseling circles it is called the "Concept of the Wounded Healer." From the counselee's standpoint, he is much more willing to listen to someone who was gone through the same experience. The common bond is established along emotional grounds and that creates a willing ear and trust. It is the concept upon which programs like AA are established. Former alcoholics are used in group therapy to share similar life experiences. They can identify with the individual who is just beginning the process of change. There is a greater capacity for understanding because they have "walked in that man's shoes."

Paul talks about this as he opens his 2nd letter to the Christians at Corinth. For the first 11 verses he emphasizes the common experiences of trouble and suffering. That common bond of suffering God uses to produce effective comforters and counselors.



Members of the 7 Bible Study Groups started by Capstone Ministries.

The comfort we have received is the comfort we offer to others.

Two years ago Capstone embarked on the formation of Bible Groups among the parents who have had a child reconciled from the streets. It began at the same time as the Intern program with Matongo Lutheran Theological College. During that first year 4 groups were established under Pastor Isaiah and Vicar Isidore. This past year Pastor Isaiah and Vicar Zadok added 3 more gatherings.

Patty's Post-It: Wild Africa

When people think of Africa, they usually think of the wild animals such as elephants, lions, giraffe etc. At least I did before we moved to east Africa 10 years ago. (Yes, can you believe in October it will be ten years since we moved to Kenya. My how time flies) I've even had people ask about the animals as if they are roaming through our backyard. Well, truth is, it's not quite that exciting, but on the other hand we do have opportunities to see different animals near our home and have some interesting and unique critters at our house. Here is a photo of our most recent visitor.



A monitor lizard that likes to "fish" in our pond and bask in the sun after a cool dip in the pool. Unfortunately there are no more fish left, he has cleaned us out.

Since we live only a few blocks from the lake we see hippos on occasion as we dine at our favorite lakeside restaurant. There is also a Kenya Wildlife Park within walking distance of our home. They have impala, zebra and monkeys roaming about and a few caged animals in the park including lions. Did you know a lion's roar can be heard for up to 5 miles away? So....once in a while we can actually hear the roar of the neighborhood lion from our house. It's then that we remember; we're living in Africa!! The park also has a pair of very nice Cheetah. Did you know a Cheetah actually purrs like your household cat? But much louder!! Here is a picture of me petting the Cheetah. "Soft kitty, warm kitty, little ball of fur, happy kitty sleepy kitty, purr purr purr" .



(cont. from p.1)

The intent of the gatherings was not only to nurture the faith of these parents but also to provide a forum where the parents could share their common struggles.

Early on, the idea was to have all of these groups come together to share with each other. This dream was final realized this past July 12th. The members of each group knew there were others like them but they had never met.

Group members were asked to fund their own transport to the Kisumu Cathedral where the gathering was held. This was an opportunity to demonstrate their self reliance and commitment.

(Often those who organize gatherings of groups will pay participants for their travel).

And they came! About 90% attended. Many have testified at their group gatherings since the 12th how much they were encouraged by the gathering.

Each group chose one member to share their experiences and challenges. Special guests invited included: Pastor Joseph from the

Kisumu Cathedral. Repha Sikoti from Tumaini HIV+ Support Group and trainers from SWAP. Each guest provided information on how small groups can do things to help themselves. Leah Etole (above) who is both a member of a Bible study group and Tumaini support group shared what Tumaini is doing in making various crafts and raising chickens. SWAP shared how they help groups to form small micro-businesses. But the greatest encouragement came from the powerful testimonies of parents. Wounded healers healing the wounded!



Alice & Dorcas from the Kima group



Leah Etole shares her story with the group



Enjoying lunch!

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!

PIP Counseling Training

In July, most of the Capstone staff was blessed to participate in a counseling training program for vulnerable children called PIP (Puppet Interview Program).

This technique uses the familiar Lego figures called “People of the World”. The people are used to identify

**Lego/Duplo
“People of the
World” figures**



members of the child’s family. Members who have passed away are laid down in a reclining position. The child externalizes painful issues associated with certain family members and allows him to talk about them in the form of the puppets.



George (left), a Capstone staff counsels using PIP

Feature: Kevin Ochieng



Kevin Ochieng was rescued from the streets of Luanda town in March 2009. He used to live with a sister to his grandmother. He was born to teenage parents who separated before he was born. His mother later died and he had never met his father.

He spent most of 2009 at the Capstone Transition Center as his real home could not immediately be located.

Kevin grew up spiritually at the CTC and when he was baptized at Capstone Camp, all the staff were struck with his sincerity and seriousness during his baptism.

After being enrolled in school at his grandmother’s home, Kevin found it difficult to remain in school due to the fact that he was so much older than his classmates. During all this time, Kevin yearned to know his real father

Eventually Kevin took a job as a herdsman to help earn something for his upkeep. Through all these challenges Capstone continued to visit and encourage Kevin and continued to look for his father’s home.

Then on Dec. 17, 2010 Kevin met his biological grandmother who welcomed him and recognized him as her grandson. However it was uncertain whether her son would accept Kevin as his own.

Just recently at a funeral of a patriarch in the family, Kevin met and was welcomed by his father for the very first time. In Luhya culture a child always belongs to his father so this was a huge step in Kevin’s development and sense of belonging.

More than three years have passed since we rescued Kevin from the streets. The journey has been challenging and winding. Certainly there are more challenges ahead for Kevin. But now he knows both his heavenly and his earthly Father.

Prayers, Praises

1. We currently have two boys at the Transition Center. Pray for Geoffrey and Austin.
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, MA. 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
4. Capstone has received a grant from LWML Kansas District. The grant is specifically for office equipment. A computer has been purchased and will be installed as soon as the desks, shelving and computer desk is built. All are on order and should be received before the mid-August.
5. In early August 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. Capstone has also applied for status as mission partner with LCMC, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.
7. Last year we made great strides in improving our Moringa production for sale. This year we hope to expand our market. Pray that markets open that will enable Capstone to become more self-sufficient.
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 met our goal in fundraising for the new pickup and look forward to purchasing the truck sometime in August. Thank you to all who helped.

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



In June we participated in the Rotary Health Day at Hambale Primary School. One of the events was a toothbrushing lesson. These 5th grade girls were more than willing to share their smiles. I only had to say, "I want to see your teeth!" Each child in the school received a new toothbrush during this exercise.

Name _____ 

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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**

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