



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

September, 2012 Volume 7 Issue 9

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

235

+ 3 in August



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.

"Reintegration from Detention"

"...I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord,... when did we see you in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:36, 37, 39,40(ESV)

Nelson Mandela remarked once concerning the strength and courage it took to live in prison for 27 years: *"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."*

There are few things worse than finding yourself in a third world prison. Conditions are bad. Mandela lived it...for a very long time.

Now imagine yourself a child of 9 or 10 and finding yourself in that same circumstance. Yet more than 170 children in the Kisumu Remand Center (Juvenile Detention) find themselves in exactly that situation. Most are there because they have committed some petty crime or were simply loitering in the wrong place at the wrong time. Sadly, hardened 17 year old criminals are squeezed in with the innocent 10 year old who got separated from his parent in town.



Boys in a Remand Hall in Kisumu

Following the encouragement of our Lord to visit those in prison as an outward expression of our faith and love for him, Capstone Ministries' staff visit this Children's Remand every Mon. Our objective is to develop a trusting relationship with those who are ready to change their life and go home. Our staff facilitates that restoration, accompany the boy home, and continue to visit them.

Capstone began working with Remand in March of 2010. The first boy to be rescued and reintegrated was a boy called Silvanus Okumu. Since then 46 boys have been reintegrated with their families from the Remand alone. 34 of those boys are still at home. Considering the past of many of these boys, we consider 74% a good success rate.

Patty's Post-It:

Happy One Year Anniversary!!! This month we marked a milestone in Capstone's moringa history. It was the one year anniversary of the moringa grower's groups.

The Maseno Group and the Kajulu Groups consist of mostly ladies all of whom are HIV+. For the past year we have visited these ladies every other Wednesday. They never cease to amaze us with their honest and open sharing about being HIV+. Their common introduction to visitors is: "My name is Jane, I'm living with hope." They inspire us with their dedication and determination to improve their lives. To look at these ladies you would never guess a few years ago people like they--living with AIDS-- were the outcasts of society. You would never guess that not so many years ago they believed they were given a death sentence with the diagnosis of HIV. Today they are managing their health; they are happy leaders in their communities and are beating the battle against stigma.

This month we also welcomed a new group to our family of growers. This is a group from the rural Lutheran Church Congregation of our pastoral intern Zadock. Today we collected their second harvest and gave out the first payment.



Patty with some of the ladies in Tumaini Women's group.

If you meet Dan while he is stateside, ask him about the beautiful jewelry made by the ladies of the Maseno Group. Know that your purchase of a beaded or paper necklace goes directly to help a family put food on their table, clothe their children and pay for school needs.

Cont. from p. 1

Capstone is one of the few organizations that has consistently worked with Remand for more than 2 years. Cases can be complicated and reconciliation difficult. But it is this ministry to the human heart and soul that makes the difference in restoring the relationship between the boy and his parent/guardian.

One of the complications in counseling with boys in these circumstances is that they are a "captive audience." While they have no other option than to work with us, their desire for freedom can and does become motivation to "get out" in any way possible. As a result, our skilled counselors have to be able to read the attitude and motivation behind statements made by boys in Remand.



Board Chairman Lee Kucker & Patty visit with Remand Director Susan during Lee's visit in 2011.

This may be one of the reasons why Jesus cites prison ministry as a sign of genuine faith. Boys in remand often have an "attitude." Many are hard core at a very young age. They are often bitter, manipulative and with little hope. Yet they are still children... in prison.

Most of their actions are the result of acting out their fears. As our Lord reminds us in I John 4:18 ***"Perfect love drives out fear."*** Being wise and yet perfectly loving as a counselor of children in prison is a special gift. It is through this wise and perfect love shown by our counselors that produces the courage Nelson Mandela was talking about. It is this courage that overcomes fear; courage to face the shame of being called a street boy at home, courage to face the fear of confessing a wrong to a parent, courage to face the fears that no child should have to face. And it takes a heart filled with love to be the person to inspire such courage. No wonder Jesus said, ***"As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."***

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!

New Truck Purchase

After months of fund raising and a generous anonymous matching gift of \$10K, we have finally purchased a “new” pickup for the ministry. We want to sincerely thank all those who contributed toward this effort. It is particularly satisfying to know that Patty will have reliable transportation while I am away from Kenya. Traveling in the rural areas is never a completely safe undertaking and even more so during these tense times in Kenya. Knowing she will be in a much newer vehicle with fewer mechanical issues than our “old blue” gives me and the Capstone board peace of mind.

After two trips to Nairobi, we settled on a 2006 Toyota Double Cab D4D. It has only about 40K miles and since purchase a week or so ago, we have had it serviced and added new shocks. We also thank Shauen Trump, LCMS missionary in Nairobi for the referral of a good friend who did the leg work for us. He enabled us to look at only those trucks that were viable. He also facilitated the transfer of ownership. God bless all of you for your help in making this a reality. It is a great encouragement to us in the field.



Feature: Two new staff members

Two new staff members joined the Capstone team recently. Joseph Onyango and Jael Ochola. They both serve as welfare officers. Joseph joined Capstone in May and Jael in early August. Joseph has just completed his 3 month probationary period and has been offered a contract. Jael will complete her probation in early November. It was particularly important to have another woman on staff. While it is challenging for Jael to work with street boys, it is critical to have a motherly presence both with the boys and more so with the parents and guardians who are often female only headed households.



Joseph Onyango is presently engaged to Judy and is planning a wedding. He has a diploma in guidance and counseling and a certificate in HIV testing and counseling. He loves watching football and is an Arsenal fan. He also loves to travel and read and recently finished the book “Painful Tears.”

Jael Ochola is married with two children: Derrick and Lewis. She is working on her diploma in guidance and counseling. She loves Gospel music, singing and traveling. Her favorite food is tilapia.

Thanks to LWML Kansas District

Capstone received a grant from the Kansas District of LWML for office furniture and equipment. Thanks to Ann Jedele of Trinity Lutheran, Winfield, Kansas for helping with facilitation of this grant.



Prayers, Praises

1. We had two boys at the CTC: Geoffrey and Austin. Both boys went to visit their families during the school break in August. We are organizing for Geoffrey to remain at home.

2. During September and early October Dan and Patty will be visiting a number of congregations in the Midwest and the Denver area. Here is the schedule for next few weeks. If you are in the area, please do feel welcome to visit. Pray for Dan and Patty's safe travel.

Sept. 9th – Bethlehem Mission Fair, Lakewood, CO

Sept. 16th – Evergreen Lutheran Fair, Evergreen, CO

Sept. 23rd – Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio

Sept. 30th – Trinity Lutheran, Winfield, KS

Oct. 5th – Timothy Lutheran, Mission Presentation, Blue Springs, Kansas

Oct. 7-10 – LCMC Convention, Denver, CO

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 . Watch the Oct. newsletter next month for the October-November schedule of presentations and preaching on the east coast.

3. In early August Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The application includes a lot of documentation and numerous policy statements. We thank the board and Chairman Lee Kucker for getting the application prepared and sent. We have received confirmation that the application has been received. Pray it is approved.

4. Capstone has been recognized as mission partner with LCMC, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. We will be attending their National Convention in Denver October 7-10 with a Capstone display table. Pray that many show interest.

5. Pray our application for KEBS is approved for our moringa production. KEBS stands for Kenya Bureau of Standards. This acceptance will enable us to expand the sale of moringa and will greatly enhance our self-sustaining goals. This is our second round in the application process. We have encountered the "typical" problems associated with most government offices here.

Supporting Capstone

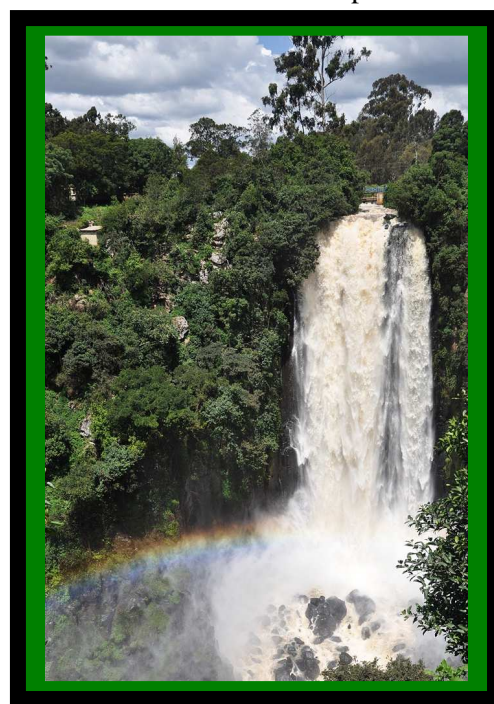
You too can be an ongoing supporter of Capstone Ministries and bring real and lasting change to the street boys of Western Kenya.

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: Thompson Falls

In Nyahururu, Kenya is a place called Thompson Falls with a breathtaking waterfall of 72 meters on the Ewaso Ng'iro river. The falls are named after the father of the first European to "discover" them in 1883. We visited the falls on our way back from Nairobi when we purchased the truck



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

(Please cut and include with your donation)