



# 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**

**March, 2013 Volume 8 Issue 3**

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

# 249

3 went home in Feb.



Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



Important changes are ahead for Thrivent's Choice Dollars program. Learn more about steps you need to take to ensure you can take full advantage of this program and continue your support of Capstone Ministries through this program. Go to

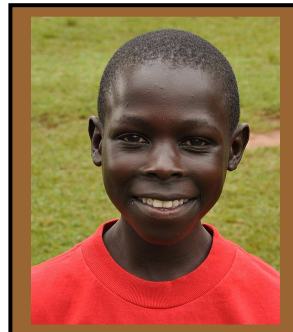
[www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

## **Message or Money?**

### ***What brings change in Africa?***

***"Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two. These were his instructions: 'Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts'...They went out and preached that people should repent."*** Mark 6:7,8,12

When Moses Okoth was first rescued from the streets of Kisumu and taken to the Transition Center of Capstone, his parents responded with joy. They were happy and even encouraged George Owiti, the Capstone staff who visited them, by saying, "It is good that he is with you. You just keep him." Parental responsibility and commitment was missing in the heart of Moses' parents. They didn't mind that their son was being reared by someone else. Of course, that needed to change. But how do you change a heart? How do you impact a parent in such a way that he loves and wants his son again?



Moses Okoth



Moses with  
his father on  
his way home  
from school.



Mark 6 records the very first Christian mission trip. The disciples were sent out by Jesus himself. It would seem significant to me that they specifically told what NOT to take with them. ***"Take nothing."*** It has often been pointed out that the reason the disciples were told not to take daily provisions with them was that they were to depend on the recipients of the Gospel for these things. I don't discount that, but I also think Jesus was sending a message that goes much deeper. He wanted the disciples to depend on the power of the Gospel to change hearts, nothing else! If the disciples had gone with lots of stuff, Jesus' missiology lesson would not have been as powerful. What changes people? Jesus does! His Word does!

Moses' parents eventually changed their heart and mind about Moses. What changed them was not goodies brought by Capstone staff. George and others on staff only brought a message, a message about Jesus. Gradually their hearts softened and now Moses is seen as the bright shining star in the family.

## .....Patty's Post-It.....

### The Power of Community

I'd like to share a couple of recent rescue stories illustrating the value of community in Kenya. Walking the street on a street work day, Pastor Isaiah found a very young boy who agreed he would like to go home. As they passed through the bus staging area Isaiah stopped to get a watch repaired. As they waited he continued to question young Michael about the location of his home. The watch fundi (repairman) overheard the conversation and said, "That's my home area" with interest he began to ask his own questions, "What is your father's name?" What is your grandfather's name?" The man was able to determine that the boy is actually an extended member of his own clan. He also asked Isaiah who he was, why he had this boy and what he intended to do with him. When Isaiah explained the program of Capstone the man was relieved and touched and asked for Isaiah's number. Very early on Monday morning Michael and a Capstone Welfare Officer left on the long journey home. Shortly after they left, Isaiah was surprised to receive a phone call from Michael's mother. She was beside herself to learn that her son was safe and even more joyful to know that he was on his way home. They had been looking for him in the nearest small town. Community! It is what identifies Kenyans.

The second illustration is about Kevin. He is a very young boy who decided he wanted to get back home and away from the bullies and dangers in the street. Benedict decided since the home was close enough he would extend his day a bit and get this boy home. They exited the van at a place that the boy said he knew was near to his home. After the van took off, the boy looked around in confusion. He couldn't remember. So they walked to the nearest town. Kevin continued to look confused until he saw a bicycle taxi man that he said he's been around his home before. So they went to talk to him. The man said there is a prominent member of the community who might have an idea of where the boy is coming from. They walked to a small café and found a lady named Margaret. She said she thought she knew the boy's mom and also a relative who is a prominent senior member of the community. They went to the old man's office while Margaret rang to the boy's mom. They described the boy and gave his name. He had a distinct scar on his head so the mother knew it was her son but... his name is not Kevin, it's Paul" When Benedict asked him if his name was Paul he agreed. (It's common for kids on the street to pick another name) The old man was the boy's grandfather. Once again, we see the value of community. People know people in the community who know clan names and senior members, grandparents, uncles, aunts etc. Community identifies every Kenyan, even a child. It's a connection beyond mom and dad, it's the truest sense of family. What if this boy had been picked up and taken to a children's home to live out his life? Where would he be in the family? Where would he be in clan and community?

## 7 Worst International Aid Ideas



*\*Maybe their hearts were in the right place. Maybe not. Either way, these are solid contenders for the title of "worst attempts at helping others since colonialism."*

### 1. One million t-shirts for Africa

Aid circles employ the cynical acronym *SWEDOW* (stuff we don't want) to describe initiatives like Jason Sadler's "1 Million T-Shirts project." Sadler had admittedly never been to Africa, and had never worked in an aid or development environment before. But he cared a great deal, and came up with the idea to send a million free shirts to Africa in order to help the people there. [Ctl+Click here to read the rest of the article:](http://matadornetwork.com/change/7-worst-international-aid-ideas/#sEHHPpvdeWWqs4lb.99)

<http://matadornetwork.com/change/7-worst-international-aid-ideas/#sEHHPpvdeWWqs4lb.99>

### March 4 is Election Day in Kenya

Many of you remember the sad days in early 2008 when post-election violence made Kenya front page news around the world. Kenyans go the polls again on Monday, March 4. There are 8 candidates vying for President of Kenya. Pray that peace reigns in Kenya.

I attended an emergency preparedness seminar and have have done all that is humanly possible to be prepared in case of any similar circumstances.

Aspirants who are vying for political posts have all made pledges of peaceful reactions to the polls so we are optimistic that all will go well.



## **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 \$3,752.90 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!

## **“4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”**

Street children stay at home when two important things happen: 1. The family matures spiritually, 2. The boy goes to school. With this in mind Capstone is launching a new project in which you can participate by sponsoring these two important areas of development. Called “**4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project**”, this project provides a way for you to be involved in these two critical areas of a boy’s stability at home.

In 4S, a sponsor supports one child with a \$25 gift every month. This relatively small commitment provides:

- A school uniform for one child
- A Lutheran Catechism in Kiswahili
- A Bible in the tribal language of the child
- Ongoing spiritual and emotional support through Capstone staff visits to the family.

In return, you will receive

- A one page description of your sponsored child.
- A recent photo suitable for framing.
- Updates as available

You can make your contribution monthly, quarterly or annually. You can donate by VISA or MC from the Capstone website.

You can make a difference in the life of a child. Write to [Capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:Capstoneministries@gmail.com) Lutheran Church of the Cross of Evergreen, CO displayed this framed poster in their church foyer.



## **Servant of the Year**

Capstone has started a “Servant of the Month” program. One staff is selected each month by his/her fellow staff as exhibiting qualities of servanthood. At the end of the year, Patty and I choose the overall “Servant of the Year.” For 2012 we selected Berline Omollo, Operations



Supervisor. She demonstrated consistent servant-like qualities. Berline and a guest will enjoy 2 nights at Rondo Retreat Center in recognition for her service.

## **Thanks to Lutheran Heritage Foundation**

We want to thank LHF for sending us 100 Lutheran Catechisms to help with the spiritual support element of our “4S” Project. I sent an email to the US office of LHF early last month inquiring into the availability of Lutheran Catechisms in Kiswahili for our School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project. I was not aware that LHF had translated Luther’s Small Catechism into Kiswahili several years ago and had them available in Nairobi. Visiting missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer picked them up and delivered them to Kisumu. As boys are sponsored, we plan to make a donation to LHF to enable them to continue their good work.

## **World Weekend of Prayer**

This year the “Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children” will be observed on the weekend of May 4,5. We decided to hold it a month earlier so that churches, schools and Sunday Schools in the US can observe this weekend jointly with us in Kenya before the school year ends in the USA. We encourage schools to observe this weekend with us and to write to us for some ideas. We will be producing a video of our prayer weekend. We will share it with those who participate with us when we visit the states in the fall.



## **Project Support**

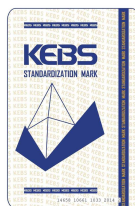
Interested in supporting a specific project at Capstone? Here are just a few of projects still in need of supporters:

- Primary School & Spiritual Support Project: \$25/month
- World Weekend of Prayer for Vulnerable Kids: \$250
- Joint Bible study gathering of the 8 Bible study groups of Capstone Ministries: \$500
- Health Insurance Cover for staff (annual) \$750



## Prayers, Praises

1. Capstone is upgrading its registration with the Kenyan government. Our application as a Society is pending in Nairobi. Pray it is approved.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Pray for peace in Kenya. March 4 a new president under a new constitution will be elected along with new a parliament.
4. In early August Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have completed all necessary documentation. Pray it is well received and approved. We should hear any time now.
5. Pray we find the right couple to assist in Kenya while we travel in the states fund raising for Capstone.
6. We have hired a young man to help with harvesting moringa. Fred will assist with the three growers groups as well as the 5000 trees on our compound.
7. Pray for new President of the New England District: Pastor Tim Yeadon as he ministers in Newtown, CT.
8. Pray for those battling cancer and life threatening illnesses. Prayers for God's peace!
9. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
10. We welcome Pastor Phil Reimers as a Capstone board member. Pastor Phil and Lutheran Church of the Cross have supported Capstone since 2008,
11. Pray for the new program that gives supporters the opportunity to sponsor a boy who has been reconciled with his family. This new program, called School Sponsorship & Spiritual Support (SSSS) provides a school uniform, a Bible and Luther's Catechism and to pray regularly for the specific needs of boy in Capstone's Program.
12. Praise God we received the "S Mark" from KEBS (Kenya Bureau of Standards) for moringa. This gives us the opportunity to market the moringa more extensively in shops and pharmacies in Kenya.



## The Call to Missions

Have you felt a tug on your heart to enter the mission field? Has God been preparing you?

There are many avenues to fulfilling that call to God's service. We are looking for a couple interested in helping with administration during the time Dan and Patty are in the USA. The commitment would be for 3-5 months in the latter half of 2013. This short term service may lead to a more full time opportunity to serve in Kenya with Capstone.

If you'd like to talk with Dan or Patty please send us a note at [Capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:Capstoneministries@gmail.com) We'd love to help you explore the possibilities. God bless you as you consider that step of faith.

We also welcome inquiries about being an Ambassador for Capstone in your congregation.

## Photo of the Month

*Fish Eagle in flight over Lake Victoria*



Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Need aS.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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Send to:

Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080,  
Oakdale. CA 95361

Donation: "4S Primary School Sponsorship"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

[CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

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