



# 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, 2013**

**Volume 8 Issue 9**

## **In this Issue**

Page 1: "Encouragement by the Word and others"

p. 2: "Encouraged...." cont.

p. 2: The Cundiff Clippings

P. 3: Condiff....cont

p. 3: Savemart Shares update

p. 3: Capstone Camp Sponsorship needed

p. 3 High School Sponsorship needed

P. 4 Prayers and Praise

p. 4 Donor slip, Fund Raising Schedule



## **USA Address:**

Capstone Ministries

P.O. Box 2080

Oakdale, CA 95361



## **Kenya Address:**

Dan and Patty Schmelzer

P.O. Box 3962

Kismu, Kenya 40100

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

# 265

1 went home in Aug.

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

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

## **Encouraged by the Word and Others**

***"...that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:12***

There is nothing quite like sitting down and talking with a friend who has had some of the same experiences in life. The bond goes beyond friendship. It is like you have walked in each other's shoes. As they say in Kenya, "You know where the shoe pinches." You know the precise location in the heart that hurts and why. There is no need to dance around delicate topics. You can speak directly and openly about joys, sorrows; pain and disappointment.

On August 8, the nine Bible study groups came together to share, pray, and encourage. Perhaps even cry a little. Each group has between 4-7 members who gather at least once a month with either Pastor Isaiah or Pastor Zadok. Each has had a boy run from home but more importantly has been reconciled with their son again. That unique experience is a special challenge for a rural family. Within that experience there is the challenge of community shame, personal accountability, the struggle with regret, repentance and reconciliation.



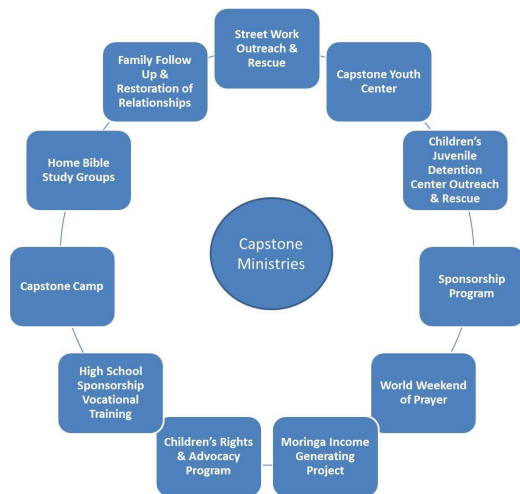
As the 50 or so participants gathered, they laughed and rejoiced in the power of faith. Pastor Abuor—the pastor at the Lutheran Cathedral—presented a moving message on Ezekiel 37. Dead bones coming to life by the power of the Word from Ezekiel. How appropriate an image for parents who all but

Cont. on p. 2

# The Cundiff Clippings

*(Jennifer and Joel Cundiff have been in Kenya serving as volunteers at Capstone for one month. Patty is working to orient them to the specific challenge of ministering in another culture. During their stay I wanted to share some of their experiences with you. Below is one of their blog posts. For those of you who don't know the Cundiffs, Joel serves as associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT)*

Within the first three weeks at Capstone I've come to know many different outreach and in-reach programs. I will not attempt to tackle them all in one article, but I'll tell you about a scenario that will connect some of the programs in the diagram below.



Chris is an 11 year old boy that took to the streets in January of 2012. He went out to tend to the cows for his parents (a common chore) and never returned. Chris ran to the nearest city to look for a better life; a life without an unkind step-mother and an often absent father. Here he finds no bed, no food, and the harsh realities of independence.

An older street boy soon meets Chris and offers him protection and a bit of food Chris desperately needs. However, this will come at a price! Chris takes to the street to start begging for handouts to share with the older boy. Younger boys have a greater success at begging because of their innocent demeanor. Older boys will also show younger boys where food is given out during the week. On Monday morning, the place to be is at the Capstone Youth Center. Here, Chris is given soap to take a shower, detergent to wash his one set of clothes, a Bible study to hear the word of God, and bread and juice to nourish his body. Capstone staff, George and Isaiah, encourage Chris to go home. George tells him that if school fees are needed Capstone can help, and if you want Capstone staff by your side when you return home, you can have that too.

Cont. on p. 3

Cont. from p. 1

counted their son as dead! Each attendee was then paired with someone from another Bible study group for introductions. Each person stood and introduced their new friend. (Formal introductions are very much part of any Kenyan gathering) What followed was the most emotional part of the day: each Bible study group chose one member to share their story of reconciliation. All talked openly about mistakes and sins, some made by their son, some by themselves. Each story concluded with expressions of thanks to God and Capstone for the change in their family. They were particularly grateful for their group support.



**Pastor Isaiah with those who purchased Bibles on this day through Capstone's cost sharing program.**

Individual members of several groups then shared some of their economic empowerment initiatives they have started. These are all self-driven and funded by the participants themselves. One group talked of how they collected a few shillings to purchase two chickens and then shared the chicks with the participants. Another group bought a female goat and when it had twins, gave the offspring to group members. Still another group has been trained by a group member in making various craft items to sell.

As the day concluded, all participants shared a meal together provided by Capstone. It bears mentioning also that all participants—and 95% of the group members attended—paid their own transportation to come to this gathering. Capstone only helped each member with their return fare on public transport. Encouraging self-reliance, building spiritual community while trusting in a Savior who changes hearts. This is the work and objective of Capstone Ministries among the families of reconciled former street boys. Thank you for your generous support of this vital work. It is changing lives, giving hope, and expanding the kingdom in rural Kenya. To God be the glory!

## **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.



Capstone has received a total of \$3969.89 to date from the "S.H.A.R.E.S." Program. Keep swiping!

## **Capstone Camp Sponsor(s) needed**

Every year Capstone Ministries holds a one week camp for boys who have been reconciled with their family during the past year. This camp provides encouragement for those boys who have remained at home and in school. The activities include teaching in preparation for Baptism, activities, games, community service and training by two of the district's Boy Scout trainers. It is a wonderful time for the boys and our staff. The budget for the camp is \$2000. If you would like to be a partial or total sponsor of this camp, please indicate so under specific designation on page 4 or write to us for more information at [Capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:Capstoneministries@gmail.com).

## **High School Educational Scholarship**

Capstone has a unique opportunity for those who would like to sponsor a well deserving and needy student in high school. While primary education is free in Kenya, high school fees can be beyond the capability of most rural poor families. For those boys who are both needy and achieve an above average score level on their finishing exams in primary school, Capstone offers a scholarship subject to sponsorship funding. If you are interested in making a 4 year commitment to sponsor a needy and deserving high school student, the cost is \$600 per year. We project that we will have five students who will qualify for a possible scholarship. Primary exams are coming up this fall. We will send you a photo and description of your sponsored boy along with ongoing academic reports. If we are visiting your congregation this fall, ask us more about this program or write to [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com).

Monday morning at the center is coming to a close and Chris sees his fellow street boys leave the center one by one. He wonders if he should stay behind and take George's offer. Chris gets up from his desk and leaves the center.

Later in the week, George travels to "the stage," where boys are known to congregate, and carries out Street Work Outreach & Rescue operations. "The stage" is a transportation staging area where boys can work illegally and obtain a small amount of cash for washing vehicles, or carrying luggage. He walks up to a group of 12 boys. Most already know George by name. He recognizes the new boy Chris and asks if he can speak to him. As the other boys move on, George talks one on one with Chris. Chris talks about the broken relationships he has at home. But he also mentions how hungry and tired he is. Chris agrees to let George take him home.

George calls another staff member to help facilitate the rescue operation. It is too late in the day for the boy to return to his home that evening. In order to protect Chris from hostile street conditions, Capstone staff calls on their ally Pandipieri, a local Catholic program with whom Capstone partners occasionally. Chris will have a safe place to stay and a bed for the night.

In the morning, George sets out to transport Chris home. The boy does not know his parent's phone number, so they set out in hope that his parents will be home and that the reintegration process goes well. The Lord has blessed the work of Capstone and the reintegration has not been a challenge thus far, so Chris reunites with his family.

One month later, George visits Chris at home for the Family Follow Up and Restoration of Relationships. George is relieved to see that Chris has still remained at home. As the family and George greet one another they open their meeting with prayer. During follow up visits Capstone records family lineage, school status, birth date, and other information. They also look for signs of a possible relapse. George is able to communicate best with Chris because of the rapport that they built on the street. George records reasons for the family's strained relationship. Chris's parents also tell George that Chris's behavior is deteriorating a little. This is one sign that their son may take off for the streets again. George also notes that Chris's spiritual life could use some improvement. A visit by Pastor Isaiah will be scheduled to encourage the family to join a Bible Study Group. George closes the meeting with prayer again, and will visit in another couple of months.

~Jen & Joel



## Prayers, Praises

1. Pray for Dan who has traveled to the US. His scheduled knee-replacement surgery has been postponed for now.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Praise for the successful Joint Bible Study gathering.
4. In early August, 2012 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 for Patty who has been plagued with Vertigo for the past month. She is taking medication to at least slow down the symptoms. Patty travels to the US to join Dan on Sept. 23.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
7. The next meeting of the Capstone Board will be Oct. 10 in California.
8. 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.
9. Pray for sponsors for our primary school graduates who will enter high school next year. Final exams are coming up soon and we may have as many as 5 boys who will qualify for a scholarship. Only boys who qualify by finishing with a score of 250 and above are eligible for this program.
11. Pray for sponsors for Capstone Camp 2014. This camp will be held at the Kima International School of Theology while students are on break in August.
12. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Barry, Eunice, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan, Landon, Ernie, Lori, Timothy, Curt, Alexa, Nicole, Elisabeth, Rod, Donna, Delanna, Bob, Daniel.

## Coming to California

We want to make our friends in California aware that we will be spending most of our time this fall on the West Coast. We are available for presenting in your church, to your school, LWML and others as you see appropriate. All Sundays are already book but we would be happy to meet you during the week. Here is the schedule to date:

- Sept. 22, Concordia Lutheran, Toledo Ohio  
Sept. 29 Bethlehem Lutheran, Herman, MN  
Sept. 29 Lutheran Layman's League, Wheaton Zone, Western Minnesota  
Oct. 6 Trinity Lutheran, Redding, CA  
Oct. 8,9 CNH District Pastor's Conference, Fresno, CA  
Oct. 13 St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA  
Oct. 16 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Elk Grove, CA  
Oct. 17, 10:00 AM Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockton, CA  
Oct. 18 LWML, Messiah Lutheran, Citrus Heights, CA  
Oct. 18 Evening presentation, St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA  
Oct. 20 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA  
Oct. 24 Semiahmoo Rotary Club, White Rock, BC, Canada  
Noon – North Delta Rotary, North Delta, BC  
Evening – Langley Rotary Club, Langley, BC  
Oct. 27 St. Paul's Lutheran, Tracy, CA  
Oct. 30 St. Paul's Lutheran School Chapel, Tracy, CA  
Nov. 3 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA  
Nov. 6 St. Peter's Lutheran School Chapel, Lodi, CA  
Nov. 10 United Lutheran, Manteca, CA  
Nov. 13 Grace Lutheran School Chapel, Modesto, CA  
Grace Lutheran Church, Evening Presentation  
Nov. 17 St. John's Lutheran, Valley Home, CA

There are still a few days here and there available on our schedule. If you would like us to visit your church, Bible study or small group, we would welcome the opportunity to share more about the work of Capstone Ministries in western Kenya.

Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Specific Designation? \_\_\_\_\_

Need a S.H.A.R.E.S Card ? \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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