



# 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**

**December, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 12**

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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](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

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

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

# 302



Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



You can donate a portion of your premium for a policy from Thrivent Insurance. 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. Step by step procedure given on p. 4

## **Christmas Gifts that Encourage**

*"...they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts..." Matthew 2:11*

Christmas gift giving finds its roots in the gifts the Magi presented to the Christ Child. A gift given as a reflection of devotion and faith is received as having been given to Jesus himself. Each year Capstone staff select 30-40 needy families where a former street boy is now staying at home. We buy standard grocery items for the family to insure that they will not go hungry at Christmas.



## **Kevin & his mom**

You can participate by sending a gift through Capstone to a needy family. For \$20 your gift will buy flour, rice, cooking oil, tea, sugar, soap and some sweets for the children.



## **Charles and his father**

These are pictures from Christmas gifts given by Capstone last year. The gifts are given as Capstone staff does regular follow up visits on the families selected. You can choose to send as many gifts for as many families as you like.

## Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



We have been talking about it for more than two years. Finally, we can show you with an issued certificate that Capstone Ministries has been granted RSO status by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We pray that this provides greater opportunities for Capstone to expand the work of reconciliation of street children in Kenya. May God strengthen us for the task ahead.

### Capstone Camp Video link

You can watch some of the highlights from Capstone Camp 2014 held in Kima at the Kima International Theological School. We would like to thank Alexa Boldt who produced the video for Capstone. Here is the link to the Capstone website and the video. Cut and paste this link in your browser:

<http://capstoneministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/CCFinal-Version.mp4>

### Photo of the Month

A little different angle on the St. Louis Arch. Dan was in St. Louis last May.



### Elvis and his mom

Capstone staff make it clear to families that this Christmas gift is an expression of the love of Jesus at Christmas and is not an ongoing support program. Capstone encourages families to take parental responsibility for ongoing support of their children.

## Educational Sponsorship

Capstone has 13 boys who recently took their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Exam. This exam determines where and even if a boy goes to secondary (High School). Most of our families cannot afford to pay the school fees for secondary school for their children.

Unlike most western countries, in Kenya high school is not free. Parents pay some relatively high fees for high school. The boys on the next page are the top four of the 13 who took the exam. We will know how they did sometime in December when the results are released. Some will be eligible and selected for boarding schools, others we will deem more appropriate to go to Day Schools and the ones who do not pass we will encourage enrolling in Vocational Training. You can help by sponsoring one boy. High School boarding fees average \$600 per year, Day School fees \$300 per year and Vocational Training \$200 per year for the two year course. Carpentry, masonry, or auto mechanics are the vocational choices. We do not yet know which boys will pass and qualify. Capstone requires a minimum of 280 marks to qualify for sponsorship for secondary school. Most likely the boys below will qualify and pass.



## Benard Ochieng



Benard was rescued from the streets of Kisumu in February of 2014. Benard's parents are aged and poor. He had actually finished grade 8 last year and took the KCPE exam. He scored 290 after looking for his aunt in Kisumu--whom he thought could help him with high school fees--he was disappointed and ended up in the streets. Capstone staff Joseph Juma took him back home and had his parents re-enroll him in school. He has been performing near the top of his class and has even received above 400 on a mock exam. We expect Benard to easily pass and qualify for sponsorship.

## Michael Omondi



Michael was rescued from the streets in January of 2013 and reconciled with his parents in Nyakatch by Capstone staff Jael Ochola. He lives with his biological mother and a step father but is well liked by his step father. He has one sister who is in 2nd grade. The family is very poor and received a

Christmas package of food from Capstone in 2013. Michael attended and excelled at Capstone Camp. He is also doing well in school and scored 312 in the mock exams.



## Paul Oduor

Paul was rescued from the Juvenile Detention Center in Kisumu in May of 2012. Paul has always performed well in school but there have been family issues which have caused Paul to be shifted between family members. He received a "High Flyer" prep book from Capstone in order to prepare for his exam. All 8th grade students in Capstone receive this preparation study book. Paul performed very well at Capstone Camp 2014 and his mother reported a great change in him since the camp. His mom attends one of the Capstone Bible study groups and hosted the most recent study in her home. Paul scored 312 in the most recent mock exam and is expected to perform well on the KCPE.



## Durrell Eshuche

Durrell has been in the Capstone program the longest of all boys taking the KCPE. He was rescued from the streets of Luanda in October of 2010. Luanda is one of the areas from which many street boys in Kisumu come. Durrell left home after a disagreement with his mother over a radio and a flashlight. The mother and father of Durrell are still living. Durrell attended Capstone Camp in 2010 and the experience really change his life. Durrell has received assistance with a uniform, Bible and Catechism in the past. Over the past 4 years Durrell and his family have been visited and received counseling 19 times. Over the years he has worked hard in school and improved to 295 marks on his mock exams. He was position #7 in his class.

## Vicar to visit Capstone in 2015



John Zimmerman will be visiting Capstone late July, 2015 for one month to learn more about Capstone, learn more about cross cultural ministry in a third world country and to volunteer where appropriate. If you would like to assist in supporting him, you can send a check to: "Vicar Trip" c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 603 Classen, Norman, OK 73071. John is currently serving his vicar year in Norman, OK at Trinity Lutheran and is a student at Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, Indiana.

# ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS?

If so, it is easy to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars for the work of the Capstone Ministries!

Online:

Step 1 – Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.

Step 2 – Click on **“log in”** at the top right of your screen & enter your MyThrivent user ID & password.

(If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on **“register now”** to register for full access.)

Step 3 – Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.

Step 4 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars”** on the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.

Step 5 – Search the catalog of organizations to find and select the “Capstone Ministries”

Step 6 – Click on **“Direct Choice Dollars Now”** to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit the reconciliation of street children with God and family!

By phone:

Step 1 – Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say, **“Thrivent Choice.”**

Step 2 – When prompted, say, **“Choice Dollars.”**

Step 3 – Say or enter your Social Security number.

Step 4 – **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.

Step 5 – A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars for Capstone Ministries.

## Prayers, Praise and News

1. Dan is making plans to visit congregations in the Midwest this next April and May. Please write if you would like him to visit your church to preach/present and share more about what God is doing through Capstone in Kenya. Reserve your weekend, weekday or both now for your church or school. Weekends are filling fast!

2. Please consider being a sponsor of a high school student. We have an unprecedented number of boys taking the Grade 8 exam this year: 13!!

3. Pray for continued support of Capstone Ministries and for our ongoing search for missionaries to join us in the work.

4. We are looking forward to welcoming Delano and Linda Meyer again to Kenya. The Meyers plan to visit in Jan or Feb in 2015 and do some follow up agricultural training across East-Africa. We will be hosting them for a week and they will be visiting our moringa growers groups, Capstone staff and the Capstone Bible study groups. Their teaching is empowering. Their approach is the result of many years of experience in the field and has great application to actual local farmer needs. Karibu Del and Linda!

5. 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, John, Tim, Delano, Linda, Patricia, Steve, Ryan, Peggy, Tom, Kathleen, Monica, Jim.

Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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All donations are tax deductible.

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

Send to:

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

Donation: **“Christmas Gift for Needy Family”**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Families sponsored \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Send to:

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