



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

April, 2015 Volume 10 Issue 4

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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:

308

**1 went home in
March**



**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

"Capstone at a Glance"

"The stone the builders rejected has become the **Capstone** (emphasis mine); the Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes" Psalm 118:22, 23

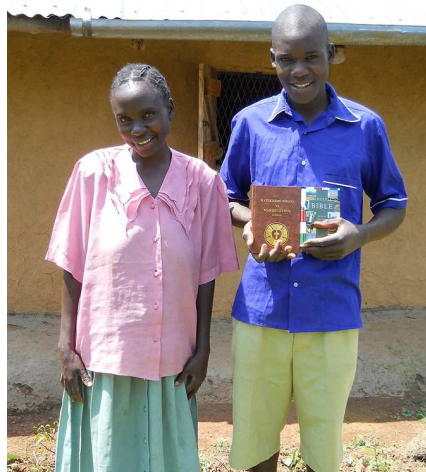
One thing I have learned from working with street kids for 13 years: It takes persistence! For this reason, Capstone is not just about reconciliation of street kids, it is the ongoing process of ministering to and making disciples of vulnerable families. While there are key elements to the work, each element is important in its own way. Here is Capstone's work at a Glance. Please understand that this work cannot be fully understood in a few pictures or paragraphs.

1. Street Outreach. Capstone staff reach out to boys on the street almost every day, meeting them where they live. The objective is to build trust and relationship so that counseling may be offered. Once a week Capstone invites boys to a gathering on the Lutheran compound. This is a place where



the boys can relax and play, wash clothes receive the Word as well as the undivided attention of Capstone staff. Capstone also visits the Juvenile Detention Center twice a week. Once just to share the Word with the boys and girls there and once to counsel with individual boys assigned to Capstone by that government facility

2. Family Reconciliation and Follow up. This is one of those critical elements of the program. After patient conversation and relationship building, some boys decide to go back home and reconcile with family. This is a joyous day but also challenging as many of the "real" truths come to light on this reconciliation visit. Ongoing follow up visits are crucial not only to the discovery of the truth but also to address the ongoing challenges with which most poor rural families live. It is



Capstone Ministries Achieves RSO Status in LCMS



Photos of the Month

This is the great “Rosis Turaco” and is normally found in the Kakamega Rainforest. Is very shy and seldom seen. He has brilliant red wings that are only visible when he flies but catching any bird in flight is very difficult. This one was captured at Kweissos House while we were on retreat with our staff a few weeks ago. It has a yellow patch around each eye and a bright red crown on his head. The pair we spotted was building a nest in a mango tree near where we stayed. You can see one of them carrying a twig for nest construction.



on these visits that God’s promise is seen: “*Man does not live on bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.*” Deut. 8:3

3. Bible Study Groups. The word of God changes lives. We believe that truth and have seen it happen time and time again. Capstone, through our two trained pastors have established 11 Bible study groups and we encourage all parents and guardians of reconciled boys to join one of these groups and participate regularly. Members minister to one another in a way few others can. Each member has the opportunity to purchase a Bible in their own language at a subsidized cost. For many this is the first Bible they have owned.



4. Capstone Camp Once a year 20-25 boys are invited to a one week camp. The objective is to enhance the stability of the boy through spiritual and emotional enrichment. Bible instruction, scout activities, team oriented games and group counseling builds up the boys, corrects areas of weakness and strengthens them for the challenges of rural home life.



5. Moringa Project Capstone strives to enhance sustainability through the sale of moringa powder. Moringa is a tree, the leaves of which are highly nutritious. Capstone has trained about 50 farmers, most of whom are part of an HIV+ support group. These (mostly women) farmers grow the moringa and Capstone processes and markets it in Kenya and abroad.



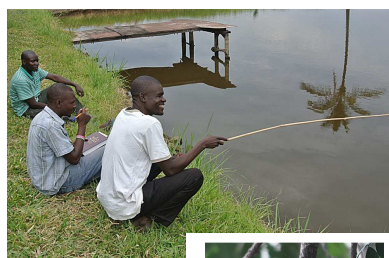
Staff Retreat - 2015

In any ministry, teamwork and cohesiveness are important elements that lead to productivity and positive motivation. This is especially true where the work is so interdependent, relationship oriented and emotionally draining. This is why we have initiated a staff retreat for all Capstone staff and strongly encourage all staff to participate. This year we spent two days at Kweissos House, a pre-colonial 3000 acre ranch just outside of Kisumu in Koru.

The two days were spent in spiritual renewal and team building exercises that allowed all staff to also relax and enjoy the many activities in and around the Brooks ranch.

The ranch has more than 1200 head of beef cattle and 1000 acres of sugar cane. It was founded in 1927 by the Brooks family from the UK. The staff even had the opportunity to meet the senior (Mzee) Brooks at his home. Norman Brooks and his wife are now retired and their sons manage the ranch.

Below are some pictures from our time at Kweissos House.



Designated Gifts

You can make a designated gift to Capstone Ministries and direct your gift to a specific aspect of the work. We praise God that the following needs have been met by generous donors:

- Christmas food bags for 31 families
- Staff Retreat
- Study Bibles for staff
- Capstone Camp
- 2015 Vocational Training
- High School Sponsorship for 3

Capstone has identified several non-budgeted needs that still need funding for 2015. Included are the following:

- Joint Bible Study Gathering. \$100
- Weekend of Prayer \$500

If you would like to make a donation for one of the above items, in whole or part, just note it either on your check or a separate paper like the one at the end of this newsletter.

Vicar JZ to visit Capstone in 2015



Vicar 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" 419 Castro, 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 April and May. Please write if you would like him to visit your church/school to present and share more about what God is doing through Capstone in Kenya. All the Sunday mornings are committed and there are a few weekdays still available. Here is the schedule. Please do visit if you are near one of the following:

April 12: Zion Lutheran LCMS, Brainerd, Minn.

April 13-15 Minnesota North Dist. Convention –LCMS

April 18: African Mission Auction. Trinity Lutheran, Freistadt, Wis.

April 19: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Freistadt, Wis

April 22: Trinity Lutheran School Chapel, Toledo, OH

April 26: St. James Lutheran, W. St. Paul, Minn

May 2,3: Timothy Lutheran LCMS, Blue Springs, MO

May 4-6: New England District Pastor’s Conf. LCMS

May 10: New England District Congregation TBA

May 13: Timothy Lutheran School, Blue Springs, MO

May 17: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Norman, OK

May 24: Zion Lutheran LCMS, Hoffman, Minn

May 27: Trinity Lutheran School Chapel, Freistadt, Wis.

May 31: Trinity Lutheran LCMS, Toledo, OH

June 7: Immanuel Lutheran LCMS, Valparaiso, Indiana

June 7,8: South Wisconsin District Convention LCMS, Milwaukee, Wis

June 9 – Return to Kenya

2. Dan and Patty will be visiting New England, Virginia, South Carolina and California from Sept-Dec.

There are a few open dates remaining on their schedule but they are going fast. Write to them at Capstoneministries@gmail.com and make your request.

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

Send to:

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

Donation: **“Designated Gift”**

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

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

Families sponsored _____

Donation Amount _____

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All donations are tax deductible.

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