



# 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, 2016 Volume 11 Issue 3**

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

# 342

5 went home in February



Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



**Your Thrivent Choice Dollars  
expire on March 31. Remember to  
direct your Choice Dollars to  
Capstone this month.**

Step by step procedure given on p. 4

## **Elly’s Testimonial**

*(The following is a testimonial from Elly Owino, a boy who was rescued from the streets of Kisumu in 2009 by Capstone Ministries. This is one very bright boy who had some serious challenges at home with parents who battled their own issues. But Elly has persevered. He stayed in school, qualified for one of the first scholarships offered through Capstone sponsors. We want to thank Matt and Janice Kurth for their support of Elly over his four years of High School. High School is not free in Kenya and were it not for sponsors like Matt and Janice, bright boys like Elly would not have the chance to go to High School. Now Elly has dreams of even going to the University and it is within his grasp. As I write this, he awaits the results of his KCSE –Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education—exam. Those results will determine if he qualifies for a government loan for higher education. Here is Elly’s story in his own words. Copy edited only for spelling and grammar)*

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank the living God for his greatness and love he has shown me. It has taken the very hands of God to bring me to where I am today. I am very



***Elly with Isaiah and his parents at Capstone Camp 2009***

grateful and I can sure testify that Capstone has had an impact on my life for the better.

It has been a long time since I ran away from my family to the streets. The street life was not the joy I imagined. I suffered from poor food, cold pavement for sleeping, being beaten and suffering from many diseases. All these were difficult to bear.



## Photos of the Month

Delano and Linda Meyer are with us again this year bringing their special brand of agricultural mission work to the HIV+ women's groups we work with who grow moringa. Below are two pictures from their 2015 visit. They will be with us for a week and will again be teaching the women about improving their farms to be more productive. They always weave into the teaching lessons about the glorious relationship we share with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This is the heart of mission work: sharing Jesus.



*Elly on his first day of High School*

I was branded a street boy. Street life was so difficult. It was really like living as a pig which eats whatever it comes across. Few people in those days were willing to help street boys.

I thank God He had a purpose for my life that one day I would meet staff at Capstone and that was a turning point in my life. I left the street and was reconciled with my family. Thank you Capstone Ministries for saving and assisting me and helping me to find my way out of the streets to rejoin my family.

When I was in the streets I tried to visit various centers which were offering aid to street children but this was in vain. God had a purpose already planned. In your kindness you saw what was fit for the dreams and potential which God had planned.

After I was reconciled with my family, the staff of Capstone came to visit me. This was of great importance not only for me but for my family. It has been a source of encouragement for the whole family. Your pieces of advice are



*Elly with the first four boys from Capstone to enter High School. He attended Capstone Camp as a mentor.*



(cont. from p. 2)

the headlights of my ambition.

I remember the Capstone Camp very well and it had a great input into my life. I will always remember as it made me realize my potential and capability which at the time, I could not see.

It was through your efforts and plans to join together the families in Muhoroni into a Bible study group lead by Pastor Isaiah. All the participants have benefited from this. Our faith and hope has been strengthened so much through the Word of God shared in every meeting held. May God bless you so much and give you wings to fly to even greater heights.

When we had the mentoring days, the resource people who talked to us were of great importance as they gave us tactics of how to mingle with our peers. It has not been easy and I pray their efforts do not go unrewarded. The peer influence has been a great challenge while at school but I thank God I had somewhere to seek advice and guidance whenever I needed it.

I was stuck very deep in my mind after



*Elly speaks at Mentoring Day 2014*

completing my KCPE. I entered Capstone when I was very young and I could not find it easy to concentrate on my studies. I tried to look into my future but it was difficult.

My family did not have the fees for me to proceed to high school but my Capstone sponsor

made it possible. The Almighty God planned how and by what means I would finish my secondary level. I am very grateful to be found in Capstone hands. You have reached and accomplished God's plan. May Jehovah extend his gratitude upon the ministry for your kindness and generosity so that you can do the same for others.

Though the journey is not yet over, you have played your role and established permanent marks along the journey to my destiny. The kind of hearts you have are few in this world but they make an impression that lasts forever. What you have done is very visible to me and I thank you for your generosity and open handedness.



*Elly with his Mom at their rural home*

May God bless you so much as you continue to do this for others who are in my shoes. You spent a lot on me with a purpose of changing my life from the street to at least a place of hope. It was not in vain. May the Almighty increase and enlarge your territory and give you all the support you need.

May God bless you very much,

Yours faithfully,

Owino Elly Ojuka

*Elly having completed his final year of High School and now awaiting an opportunity to enter the University!*



# 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. Please pray for friends in Kenya and the US who are experiencing challenges in relationships.

2. Praise God for missionary fellowship and dear friends.

3. Thank God for good friends Delano and Linda Meyer who are visiting with us for one week, giving an agricultural seminar to the Maseno and Emuhaya support groups and resting after two months of traveling in Africa.

4. Pray for those dealing with cancer treatments. Pray for healing and strength of faith.

5. Praise God for recent birthdays and good health.

6. We praise God we have added a much needed accounts staff to Capstone.

7. Praise God for Capstone Board members who understand missionary care.

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: **“Designated Gift”**

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

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Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

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