



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

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

350

3 went home in April



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



"SHARES" CARD HOLDERS

For those in California who use the "Shares Card" with Savemart supermarket, the program has changed to an E-Scrip Program. Easy instructions on p. 3

"Act justly! Love Mercy! Walk humbly!"

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? ... He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:6,8

Looking for some personal goals in your walk with God? You could do worse than to follow these three objectives for life as described to God's people through the prophet Micah. They are words that Patty and I try to live out each day in Kenya.

Act justly! Too often our lives are controlled by our own selfish ambition and desires. Doing the right thing may seem easy until it means giving up your own "right" for the good of someone else. Do it anyway.

Love Mercy! Mercy is not giving someone what they deserve. Mercy resists vengeful actions of retribution. Loving mercy first appreciates the debt our sins of accumulated before the throne of God and is thankful that God is merciful. He does not deal with us as our sins deserve. Loving mercy then emulates that same virtue in our relationships.

Walk humbly! If you have mastered the first two actions of life, humility will follow you. True humility walks with God and always remembers who is leading whom. Love following God and you will be humble.



Crispin shares in a group discussion.



Johannes leads a focus group.

I mention these three "Life Principles" because they also make for effective mission and ministry. They are also objectives of Capstone Ministries. We do not just repatriate boys from the street; we strive to instill spiritual life and Godly principles in them. Like a farmer, that means most of your activity is about planting, watering, fertilizing. Said another way: reconciling, counseling, encouraging. But every once in a while the Lord allows us to see the fruit. And what a bumper crop!

(cont from. p. 1)

We had such a time a few weeks ago at our mentoring day for our 13 H.S. students. You would have a hard time imagining any of them on the streets of Kisumu. As the Kenyans say, “They looked smart” in their school uniforms. But the “smartness” went deeper than the uniform. There was a change in demeanor, attitude and perspective.

The day was spent in larger groups where topics were discussed such as good study habits, peer pressure, temptations and others that are pertinent to all H.S. students. After that smaller focus groups met that allowed more in depth sharing by the boys on personal challenges. If you remember what High School was like then you also won’t be surprised to hear that hazing of underclassmen still goes on. It was interesting to listen to the 6 freshmen talk about how to handle an upper classman who verbally berates and taunts them. “Loving mercy” over seeking revenge seemed to be the consensus in dealing with such situations. For the upper classmen in attendance, “walking humbly with your God” becomes very practical advice when your classmates engage in harassment of younger students.

A performance analysis and encouragement was done by the Capstone staff with each boy as well

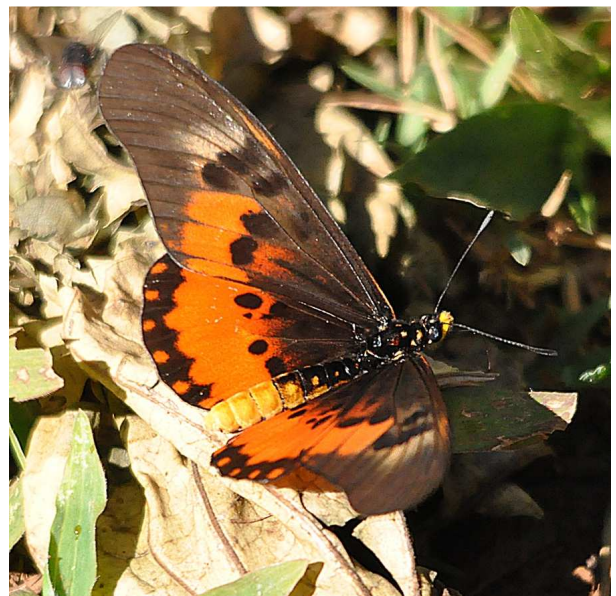
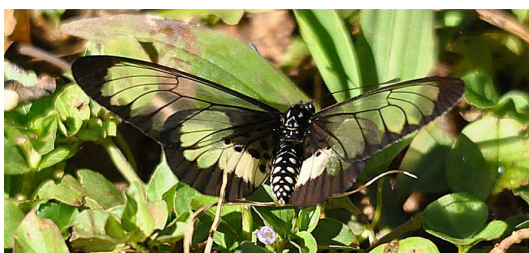
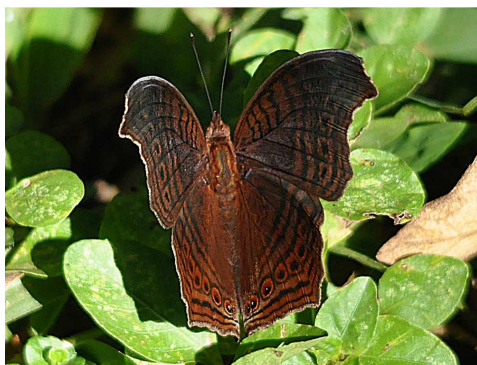


All 13 High School boys + Elly on the far left who will enter University in September! Below Elly encourages the 13 and talks about how he qualified for University!



Many thanks to those who are sponsoring a boy in H.S. And God bless all our supporters who enable us to serve God by rescuing, reconciling and redeeming these—now former—street boys. May we all live our faith as Micah encourages us:
Act justly!
Love mercy!
Walk humbly!

Photos of the month: Some butterflies from the Rainforest. We see these on the trails in March!



Do you use the “Shares” Savemart card when shopping?

Attention: Program Change

The Shares card is being changed to an e-scrip program. Savemart has made it easy for you to make this change from scanning your card. Here are the easy steps the next time you are shopping in Savemart in California or Nevada:

It's as simple as providing your phone number at checkout:

1. Sign up for the NEW* Shares program by registering your phone number or Save Smart Rewards Card with eScrip.
2. *You will no longer use your S.H.A.R.E.S. card (effective April 1, 2016). Register your phone or your Save Smart Rewards card number (this will not be your S.H.A.R.E.S. card)
3. Shop at Save Mart Supermarkets and provide your registered phone number or card at checkout.

You can also go to the follow web address to make the switch:

<http://www.escrip.com/merchants/identity/savemart/index.jsp>

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

Prayers, Praise and News

1. Extra reading: An excellent article by Courtney Martin of “The Guardian”. She makes some valid points worth noting. Cut and paste below:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/apr/23/western-do-gooders-need-to-resist-the-allure-of-exotic-problems>

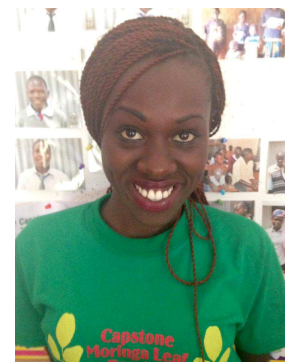
2. Capstone is moving! We are relocating our office in Kisumu to a nearby compound that will allow us to spread out a bit more. We thank our board for the assistance and support in this decision.

New faces at Capstone



Allan is serving as an intern at Capstone from Kisumu Polytechnic where he is studying social work. He will be with Capstone for three months.

Beryl is serving at Capstone as a marketing intern. She promotes the sale of moringa at local shops in Kisumu



Diana was recently hired as an accountant for Capstone, relieving Patty of some of her administrative accounting duties.

Staff Retreat: Rondo Retreat Center

Each year for the past three years we have taken our staff on a spiritual and physical retreat. This year was extra special as we were enabled through a generous donor (Thanks Mom!) to take the staff to the Kakamega Rain Forest where we like to take breaks once in a while ourselves. Rondo Retreat Center was our host for 3 days/2 nights as our staff enjoyed spiritual renewal, prayer, Bible study, team building, games and relaxing in one of the most beautiful spots in Kenya.

The rain forest in Kenya is under pressure by development as chain saws could be heard in the distance during our stay. But this did not hinder us in achieving our objectives on this retreat.

One of the more fun activities we engaged in one evening was a “True/False story time.” Each of us told two stories from our life but only one of them was actually factual. The other was to be complete fiction. After the telling, it was for the group to determine which story was true and which was false. The image of 10 year old Johannes beheading a heron who was choking on a very large frog is forever emblazoned in my mind.

On our final day as we were packing the truck for the return to Kisumu, we spotted the 4 month old eagle in the very tall tree in the middle of the compound. Then the father arrived with a recently killed young colobus monkey in his talons. He was perched in a nearby tree not 10 yards away. As he rested for his ascent into the tall tree, he called to the young eagle and the chick shrieked back. We knew from the past few days that the young eagle had been alone for at least a day as he struggled with flight and more than a few amateur photographers in tow. It was a fitting concluding show of a memorable retreat with Capstone staff. May God bless each of them for the challenging work to which they are committed.

