



# 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 July, 2016 Volume 11 Issue 7

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

# 356

3 went home in June



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

## “The Day of the African Child”

***“The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, and has them inherit a throne of honor.” I Samuel 2:7, 8***

June 16 was recognized across the continent of Africa as “The Day of the African Child.” Here in Kisumu, Kenya various organizations that work with vulnerable children as well as government officials attended the gathering at a local primary school. Capstone was represented by two of our staff. The day was filled with songs and dramas by children from various places depicting the plight of the African child.



The words above from I Samuel are part of Hannah’s prayer on the day she dedicates Samuel to the Lord sometime around the age of 3. It is interesting that these words are also in Psalm 113 and the verse immediately following these words there are these: ***“He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children.”*** That verse—well known as part of a hymn of ancient Jewish worship—deeply expresses Hannah’s joy.

This hymn of worship and praise expresses God’s sovereignty. Of particular note is the opening sentence: ***“The Lord sends poverty and wealth.”*** We tend to believe that poverty is bad and is something to be avoided and something from which people need to be delivered.

(Cont. p. 2 left)

(cont from. p. 1)

However, the longer I live in Africa the more convinced I am that efforts to eradicate poverty are a misguided effort. The higher ideal is to bring people to a realization that ***“life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”*** Earlier in Hannah’s prayer she says, ***“There is no Rock like our God.”*** Vs. 2. Therein is the higher ideal and the objective of all mission work. When hearts rejoice in the Lord and build their life on the Rock, poverty takes care of itself as his saints trust in the Lord and pray, ***“Give us this day our daily bread.”***

What does all this have to do with the Day of the African Child? Simply this. Samuel was shaped by the faith of his mother Hannah and his father Elkanah. Samuel became the most influential prophet of his time. He not only sat with princes, he anointed them to be Kings of Israel. He was exalted by the Lord because of his God-fearing parents.

That focus and connection is what shapes the vision and mission of Capstone Ministries as well. Few things are as powerful and influential in this world as a mother and father who love the Lord. It is our objective to encourage parents to love and nurture their children. We want them to say with Hannah: ***“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord.”*** I Sam. 1:27, 28

## New Offices for Capstone

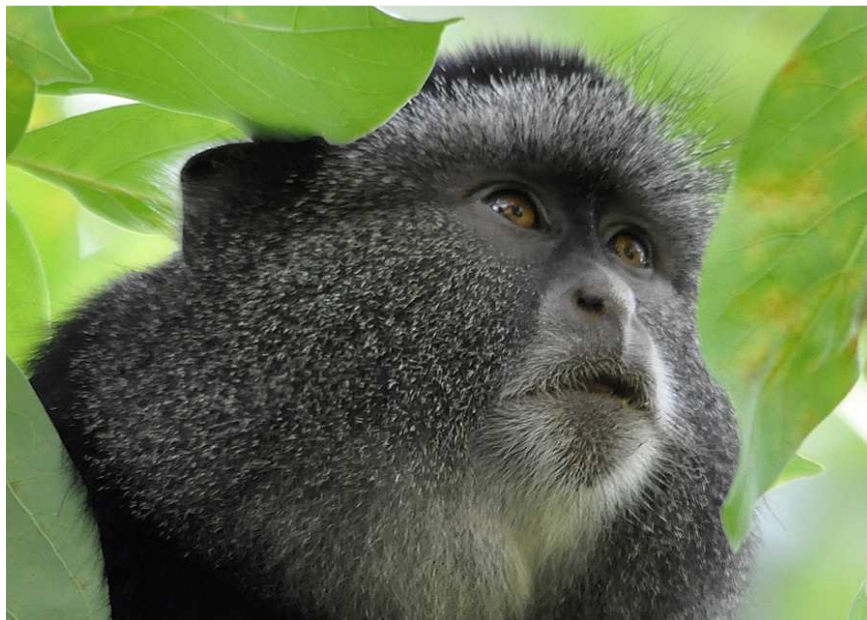
For the past 5 years, Capstone has had an office in the Kenya Assemblies of God compound along the Nyalenda slum of Kisumu. It served us well but for the past year or so it has become increasingly challenging to hold meetings next door to a pre-school.

After approval by our Capstone Board and much prayer, we have moved to our own private compound that includes a small cottage which we will use for the Capstone office. It also includes a 3 bedroom home which we are in process of equipping as a mission house which could be used as accommodation for mission teams and local missionaries who come to



Kisumu from the rural areas. The place also has two exterior rooms that can be used as overflow for the mission house. The house will be able to easily accommodate 8 people with the annex housing another 2-4.

**Photos of the month:** This blue monkey sat still just long enough for me to catch him on film.



## 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>

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Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Cont from p. 2



Patty has been busy picking out flowers and greenery for landscaping and things are really shaping up even though we have only occupied the compound for just less than one month.

So if you have thought of coming to Kisumu for a visit, we can suggest a furnished 3 bedroom house for you to stay in.

## Prayers, Praise and News

1. **DONOR NOTICE** Capstone Ministries is a registered 501(c)(3) and all your donations are tax deductible. When you make a donation to Capstone Ministries, you will receive an acknowledgement of your donation from our office in California. This will also serve as your “to date” donations for the year for tax purposes. If you make multiple gifts, the last gift of the year serves as your annual statement. You will not receive an annual statement so keep your last statement for the year. If you need a copy of your year-end statement, you may request one in writing or by email.

2. Capstone is moving! We are relocating our office in Kisumu to a nearby compound. Praise God for this expanded and much more convenient office as well as the opportunity with a Mission House.



# Vocational Training provides a future

Education is crucial in escaping the cycle of poverty. Without education, a child is destined to live out a life as a subsistence farmer in Kenya. That is, if he escapes the lure of robbery and violence. But there is an alternative for those who do not excel academically. Vocational training!

Briton is just such a boy. He is 18 and because of his time on the street, fell behind in his studies and never caught up. His parents grow rice for their subsistence. They love their children and once when Briton ran away, his mom went to search for him and brought him back home herself. Capstone rescued him again from the street in 2011 after he had spent a year and a half on the street. Those 18 months doomed his academic progress so his family decided to pursue vocational training for the boy but because of his poor academic ability he did not even qualify for a government sponsored trade school.

In these kind of situations, Capstone counsels and encourages the family to make their own decision about the boy. It is crucial not to overstep familial boundaries. As tempting as it might be to tell the family what to do next, it is their decision and they need to make it as a family. Too much intrusion undermines authority and responsibility that rightly belongs to the parents.

The family connected the boy to a man who runs a welding shop in their community and asked if he could take on the boy as an apprentice. The boy would help in the shop and gain the skills of welding without the classwork which he could not pass. Briton has been learning welding and loves what he does. The family is rightly proud of their son. It has been seven years since Briton ran to the streets. Capstone has stood by the family, visiting and counseling with the family through some tough times. There are many other boys just like Briton who can find a future through this type of non-formal training. Ask Dan and Patty how you can help!



**Above: Briton with a finished metal security window he fabricated. Right: Briton welds a metal door.**