



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:

365

9 went home in July



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



"SHARES" CARD HOLDERS

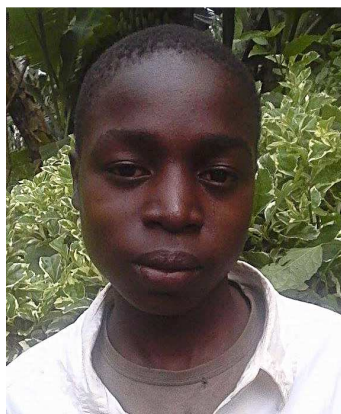
For those in California who use the "Shares Card" with Savemart supermarket, the program has changed to an E-Scrip Program. Easy instructions on p. 3

"His Mighty Power"

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Eph. 6:10

As we move into the election and campaign cycle in Kenya, we begin to hear about ways unethical people attempt to gain political power over opponents. In the last staff meeting, one of our pastors noted that in his area there have been reports of several people who have been attacked and had blood removed from them. The blood is then used in rituals to curse political opponents. Such is man's desire for power!

In Ephesus (In modern day Turkey) power over nature and life was sought through the goddess Diana (Gk Artemis) whose temple towered over the ancient capital of Asia. The Temple of Artemis was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. Ritualized prostitution was practiced at the temple with priestesses called Mellissai or bees, all in an attempt to coax Diana into blessing a family with children, animals and crops. (A bee was the symbol of Ephesus and is found on early coins minted here) It is in this setting that Paul established his missionary training school at the Ephesian Christian Church. Paul himself spent three years here working to train and build up pastors and evangelists in the bullseye of pagan power.



William Moti today. He is enrolled in school and motivated to do his best. Change is possible, even after a life of truancy and running away from home.

The great temptation of our age in the church is to rely on something other than the Lord himself and His mighty power. The source of this temptation is in our own desire to see things change too quickly. An old Swahili expression states: "Haraka, Haraka, haina Baraka!" Loosely translated: "Moving very fast brings no blessings!"

Cont. on p. 2, left column

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God's mighty power does not always move quickly. In fact, most often the Spirit of God brings change gradually over time. We have found it most effective in our work as missionaries to exercise patience and persistence. Below is just one of many stories that illustrates this.

A few weeks ago in one of our staff meetings it was reported that three boys with whom we have been working for a number of years with limited "success" were now at home and in school. William, Erick, and Brian had run away from home repeatedly. Capstone staff had ministered to them repeatedly, encouraged them to remain and home and taken them home several times. Our last report had been that they were back on the street. Then while following up on other cases it was discovered that all three were back at home. Further follow up revealed that they had gone home on their own and been taken to school by their parents and guardians.

William was the 71st boy out of 365 who was rescued by Capstone. He was taken home in September of 2009 by Pastor Isaiah. William had a habit of truancy as a result of little supervision by his parents. He liked to sell scrap metal to have a little money in his pocket. His father joined the St. John's Bible Study organized by Capstone. In late 2009 William ran away and stayed in Nairobi for some time. After spending time in an institution there, he ran away and found his way back home. Then in 2012 he was found on the streets of Kisumu again.

(cont. from opposite)

By May of 2012 William was back home again after spending time on the streets of the Kenya/Uganda border town of Busia. In October he ran again to Nairobi, was brought back home, spent two days and left again. His father shared his struggles with his son with the St. John's Bible study group and they prayed for him. In Jan of 2013 William was still on the streets. At this point, Capstone declared him "inactive". Then just a few months ago, it was reported to Capstone by the father that William was home, back in school and seemed to have changed. He had scored 266 on his last exam--something remarkable since the boy had spent so little time in school. The most recent visit was done on June 7 where welfare officer Daniel gave the father an invitation letter to Capstone Camp for William.

Several experiences along the way taught William that the best place for him was at home. God used the tough and traumatic experiences William passed through to teach him that disobedience and disrespect to his family may seem alluring, but it leads to emptiness and a sense of being disconnected from those called to love and protect you.

When ministering to God's people, whether it is a street boy in Kenya or someone you know in your church or circle of friends, the most important thing to remember is from where your strength and power comes: The Lord! ***"Be strong in the Lord and his mighty power."*** There are no short cuts. He is the one who effects change. Real power rests with Him. Trust him. Be patient. And never give up!

Photos of the month: Baby eagle!



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 and support for Dan & Patty

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Donation Amount _____

Designation? _____

Prayers, Praise and News

We praise God that five new members have joined the Capstone Board and were introduced last week in a conference call. Each month we will introduce you to one of our new board members. This month we present Delano Meyer:



I have been married to Linda for 46 years and we have two grown children and five grandchildren. I received an associate degree

in civil engineering from State School of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota and graduated from Officer Candidate School as a second lieutenant in US Army Corps of Engineers in 1969.

I am now retired but still working part time for a farmer. I have served as a volunteer agricultural missionary for about two months each year in East Africa. In 2016 Linda and I served for two months in Kenya and Malawi at the invitation of Rev. Trump, the Area Director for Eastern and Southern Africa of LCMS International Mission.

In 2010 I retired from 16 ½ years of full time LCMS mission work. We had served as agricultural consultants in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. I served as Area Director for English-speaking West and Southern Africa for 3 years. Beginning in 1972 we farmed for 22 years near Donnelly, MN.

I have served 4 years with the U.S. Army in Germany and Viet Nam and retired with the rank of Captain in 1972.

Presently I am a lay member on the MNN Dist. of LCMS, Board of Directors and Mission and Congregational Outreach Committee (MACO) also of the MNN District.

Presently I am an elder at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Herman, MN. In the past I have held various offices in our congregation and in the zone and district Lutheran Laymen’s League.

When farming I was on the Rendsville Town Board in Stevens County, MN as a supervisor for about 18 years.

A glimpse into a Capstone Staff Meeting

Every Friday, all Capstone staff meet to discuss, strategize, seek the Lord direction, and encourage one another. The meeting begins with a devotion led by one of the staff. We then enjoy some tea and mandazi (African donut) and proceed with the meeting. The agenda features the work done on the street, in the children's Remand (Juvenile Detention Center), follow up visits on boys and families, an educational report on boys in secondary and those preparing for their exams in 8th grade, Bible study groups, and special projects like Capstone Camp. Below are a few notes from the meetings over the past one month. Names may have been changed to protect privacy of families. Staff names have not been changed. These notes demonstrate the unique challenges of working with street boys, the importance of trusting in God's leading and the value of each individual soul as a gift from God. This is but a sample of and is representative of typical issues addressed.

STREET WORK

*Staff met a boy who had a catheter tube and was living on the street. He had been hit by a vehicle and sustained this injury. He sits and begs at the bus stage.

*Joannes, on returning from a follow up visit in Kakamega met 2 boys who had snuck into the matatu and were hiding under the seats. Counseled with them on the way and took them to KUAP+ for the night and plans to return in the morning to take them home

*As Jael was on her way for a follow up visit she met John whom she had been counseling. He is HIV+. Since she had already paid for her transport, she called Daniel to come and take the boy home. An uncle attached him to a motor bike mechanic who is training him. School was not the best option acc. to the family since his health status caused him to miss a lot of school.

*Fred and Jael rescued one boy late in the day so they took him to KUAP for the evening. Jael took him home the next day. As she arrived the grandmother came running, singing, crying and praying all at the same time. A counseling session with the family ensued and it became apparent that the boy is the problem.

*Isaiah and Daniel did a "night out" on the street. Met one boy from Ugunja who had an injury. Arranged to meet him the next day to talk but unfortunately the boy never showed up.

REMAND DETENTION CENTER

*Joannes and Joseph used the Sunday School (LCMS) lesson on Jonah. Our assigned case of Richard has not yet been heard in children's court. He is scheduled for Tuesday. Some counseling with him is needed because he does not like to work at home. In the interim, Fred did a previsit at the home of Richard to communicate the boy's situation in court and to determine some of the issues regarding the boy. A complicated case since the mother has remarried and the father still lives nearby. On the next Friday it was reported that the mother came for the court case of Richard and took him home.

FOLLOW-UP VISITS

*A follow up visit on Robert revealed that the boy has not been in school and instead has been harvesting sand in the river. He wants school but the father is irresponsible. Reported the issue to the chief in the area. The chief plans to visit the family. For now the boy is staying with the grandmother. Identified an aunt who is willing to take the boy if things are not resolved with the father. On the next visited it was discovered that the father had remarried in another area and this had affected the boy.

EDUCATION

*Daniel accompanied Elly Owino to Nairobi to sort out his government assignment to University. The good news is that Elly (Capstone's first University student) has been assigned to Rongo University College and is to report in Aug. 29th.

*All High School boy's families except one had been contacted during the month to get an update on progress.

CAMP

*All boys who are coming to Capstone Camp have been contacted, transport issues addressed and permission received from parents for the boys to attend.

*Curriculum is set for Camp and training in CHE lessons will be held on Wed. Aug. 3

*All non-perishable food stuffs have been purchased, CHE lesson materials obtained and final arrangements with KIST have been made

+KUAP is an institution with whom Capstone partners. They agree to keep a boy overnight who has been rescued late in the day. The boy is usually taken home the next day.