



# Capstone Ministries



*Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!*

***“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22***

Monthly Newsletter of Capstone Ministries, Kisumu, Kenya

November, 2016 Volume 13 Issue 11

### In this Issue

Page 1: “Poverty, Challenges and Faith”

- p. 2 “Poverty, Challenges and Faith” cont.
- p. 2 IRA Donations
- p. 2 High School Sponsorship
- p. 2 Your donation report for tax purposes
- p. 2: Donor slip



#### USA Address:

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



#### Kenya Address:

Dan and Patty Schmelzer  
P.O. Box 3962  
Kismu, Kenya 40100

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

# 376

5 boys went home in Oct.

Select Capstone Ministries for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Go to:  
<https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html>



Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)  
Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

## “Poverty, Challenges and Faith”

*“He humbled you causing you to hunger,... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” Deuteronomy 8:3,4*

Many believe that Mother Theresa was one of the strongest advocates of the poor this world has seen. It may surprise you to read that she actually called poverty a gift from God. Her views on poverty transcended the typical TV ad showing an emaciated child with a bloated stomach from malnutrition. *“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty,”* she wrote. In her book *“A Simple Path”* she wrote again, *“The greatest disease is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for.... The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty – it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There is a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”*

As God’s children finish their journey of 40 years in the Sinai desert and stand on the threshold of a land of plenty, Moses reminds them what the Lord had done in their hearts over those 40 years. All but 2 were children of the desert. Born in the sands of Sinai, not the plenty of Egypt. They learned to trust God for their daily bread, literally. No family had a store of food. Not one. Everyone gathered their bread in the morning and meat in the evening. All came from the hand of a loving and caring God. Today we call that kind of existence *“living hand to mouth.”* Somehow we think it is preferable to have a pantry full of food without worries about where tomorrow’s meal will come from. And we take pity on the poor African family that does not know where the next meal will come from.

After nearly fifteen years living in Africa, we have seen families transformed; not from little to plenty but rather from selfishness and sin to faith and trust in God’s promises. Along the way, we have learned to redefine poverty. It is not the lack of *“something”* but the lack of *“someone”*. Mother Theresa called it a *“poverty of loneliness and spirituality.”*

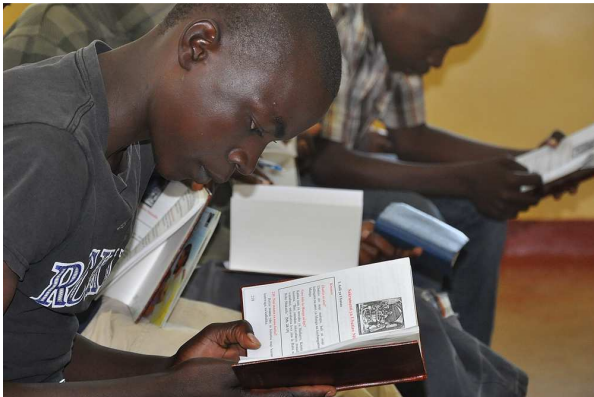


Cont. on p. 2 left column

(cont. from p. 1)

I don't pretend to know what it is like to live the poor rural life of the families to whom we minister. But I do know what it is like to have little. I also understand the sadness of being alone or feeling alone. Nothing seems worse than the image of a child on the street who is in that predicament as a result of his bad choices or parental irresponsibility. Now he is stuck in a life of compromise: manipulating others for his daily bread, accepting handouts from strangers who know neither the loneliness in his heart nor the lack of ongoing parental love in his life. Imagine if you will sleeping each night on a cold sidewalk in front of a shop, under a tree or underground in a drainage ditch. You know your father is sleeping off a bender somewhere and your mother's love is a distant memory. Yet you crave love and dare to ask God to show you the way. Now, that is poverty!

Capstone Ministries looks to address the deepest and long term solution to such situations. The immediate and short term solution may seem best if you don't want to invest yourself in the solution. A few shillings, a loaf of bread, a cup of porridge. This is what many do. Some may even take the child to the market and buy him some clothes. And they feel good about what they have done. Capstone asks: What about tomorrow? What about the heart of that boy? What about home? What about loneliness, family and love? What about Jesus?



Five boys left the streets during October, assisted, guided, and encouraged by Capstone staff. Five children have begun the long and challenging road of reconciliation. It will mean repentance, forgiveness and

(cont. column 2)

trust in God during some challenging times ahead. But it will also mean a light of hope has been lit. Capstone staff will be returning to assist in the reconciling with Mom and Dad, going to school and learning more about Jesus. The real poverty of the heart will begin to fade. Family love, divine love and love from the Capstone family will chase away the loneliness. Hope not only springs eternal, it springs today!

### **Donate to Capstone and save on taxes when you withdraw from your IRA**

Jeff Long from Thrivent Financial and a Capstone Board member can give you more info. Write to him at [jeff.long@thrivent.com](mailto:jeff.long@thrivent.com) or call him at 734-455-9272

### **Attention High School Sponsors**

Our sponsored students are nearing the end of the 2016 school year! We will be sending updates within the next month. Please remember your annual sponsorship by the end of the year in order to cover the 2017 school fees in January. (I can't believe it's almost 2017)!! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your student.

#### **New high school students:**

As always we sit on pins and needles at the end of the year waiting to see who among our grade 8 students will score high enough to qualify for the sponsorship program. We will get the results between Christmas and New Year. If you are interesting in being a sponsor for one of the freshmen, please let us know if you would like more information about the high school sponsorship program!!

### **Attention Capstone Ministries Supporters**

Whenever you make a donation to Capstone Ministries you will receive a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes from the ministry. If you are an ongoing donor each letter will show the yearly accumulated total donations.

If you have misplaced that letter, or for any reason you didn't receive it, please let us know, we can send out another letter for your tax calculations.

Thank you for your support!

#### **Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Designation if any \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com) Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)

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