



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:

380

4 went home in Jan.



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

"...A son is given"

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace," Isaiah 9:6

I can remember reciting these words in children's Christmas Eve programs as a child, just like it was yesterday. Amid candles glowing, Christmas trees decorated with Chrismons, glowing proud faces of parents. The atmosphere was thick with Christmas sentiment! The spiritual mood could not have been more filled with love and joy! The words themselves filled hearts with Gospel joy. The very heart of God expressed his gift for the world as if the gift had already been given. A Son, God in the flesh, come to earth!

But the first time these words were written, penned and memorized could not have been more different. God's people were not gathered to worship and adore. They were angry, rebellious, selfish and scared to death! Assyria was on the doorstep, about to invade their neighbor to the east: Aram. Ahaz, king of Judah, was so petrified he took the cowards path and approached the king of Assyria for a treaty that sold out Israel. God's prophet Isaiah laid the blame for this circumstance squarely at the feet of the leaders and the people in both Judah and Israel. The hopelessness was palpable: ***"What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Nothing will remain but to cringe among the captives or fall among the slain?" 10:3,4*** Isaiah warns!

Injected within this angst is God's amazing promise of deliverance. He will send his own Son to rescue and redeem. Grace for the heartless. Mercy for the merciless! It could not have been more shocking. God loved the unlovable.

We miss the meaning of Christmas if we lose sight of just how amazing it is that we worship a Savior who gets his hands dirty as human. He lifts us out of the mud and the mire as the psalmist puts it. (Ps. 40:2)

Capstone Ministries staff see plenty of "mud and mire" in their regular follow-up visits with families of boys who have been reconciled. Some circumstances can leave them reeling because of dire situations. Often the reason for the pathetic state of affairs in many rural homes is as a result of bad choices, sinful choices made by parents and sometimes even by children. It can be very tempting to treat the symptoms instead of the disease. Our staff know very well that it is the

Gospel of Jesus Christ which is needed in these families. They do an incredible job of maintaining this focus especially when families beg for money or food.



Dominick & family show their appreciation

Once a year just before Christmas, Capstone staff meet and choose 30 families who live in some of the most desperate situations, where food is sadly lacking. A pile of Christmas presents under a tree is not even a distant dream.



Two boys, both named Collins, receive their Christmas gifts



John Onyango, mom and siblings rejoice in their gifts!

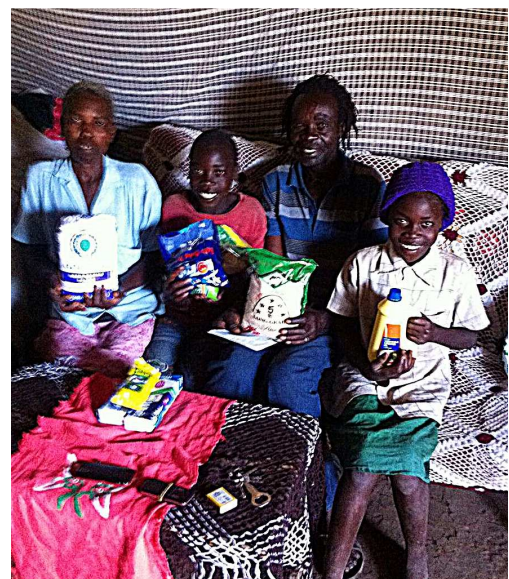
Fear and anxiety were daily challenges for the residents of Judah as Isaiah wrote of a coming Prince of Peace. He wrote those words at the instruction of the Holy Spirit who knew and saw the threat of Assyria. And he did not fail to hold out hope to God's people even though they themselves were the authors of their own circumstance.

Most of the families Capstone works with are also victims of their own sinful mistakes. But that black background only intensifies the joy when even just one repents and changes. We praise God that he gives us the privilege of being his witnesses of the grace and power of Jesus Christ. May God bless you for your partnership in this life changing work. One day, one of these boys will approach you in heaven and thank you for your generosity while on earth!

This last year in December we decided to increase the portions given to families as many families have in excess of 10 individuals. To insure that each needy family would receive enough for a Christmas meal, we gave 2 kg of rice, 2 kg of sugar, 2 kg of baking flour along with other needed accompaniments. We thank all of you who added a little extra in the Capstone Christmas stocking this year that enabled us to bless these families.

Many of the parents wept with joy and appreciation at this unexpected blessing. One mother did not know how she was going to make "chapati" for her children (a traditional Christmas treat for rural children). When her son saw the baking flour as part of the package, he smiled and said, "Mama, I guess we will have chapati now!"

The simple and expected trappings of Christmas for us in the West are seen by many poor rural families as treats that elicit joy and thanksgiving.



Patrick Sunda and family receive their gift

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? _____

Capstone Board member in Kenya

Delano and Linda Meyer have arrived in Kenya and have traveled to Lodwar where the WLCK has a mission station. will once again be ministering to God's people in Kenya and to ascertain the viability of an agricultural development project there. Lodwar has average daytime high temps of 95-97 degrees in Jan and Feb. .During their time in Kenya they will also be visiting with us for a few days in Kisumu as well along with Jacque Bremen. We will be visiting the home of Jane Iminza again who is a very industrious lady in the Maseno HIV+ women's group.

Board Member Peter Kelm battling cancer

Please keep Pastor Peter, Angie and his family in your prayers. Peter serves at First Immanuel in Cedarburg, Wis and recently joined the Capstone Board. This is his second battle with cancer and the oncologists are trying to find the right cocktail of drugs to defeat the cancer. Below: Pastor Peter, Angie and family on a recent trip to Door County, WI. Please keep them in your prayers!



Dan's Progress with Infected Arm

Dan suffered another relapse on his infected arm. Further tests were done and antibiotics to which the bacteria are susceptible were prescribed. As of this writing the infection is gone, the wound has healed and blood sugars are in the normal range. Praise the Father who heals.

Photos of the Month



The famed Great Blue Turaco from Kakamega Rain Forest

New Rescues

Capstone has rescued for boys since Jan 4 when staff reported back after the Christmas/New Year's break. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home.



Brian Otieno



Boys at Capstone Camp 2016 conduct skit on Prodigal Son



Bewazir Ali at Capstone Camp 2016 receives his award for excelling in spiritual lessons. Bewazir comes from a Muslim family and Camp was a wonderful opportunity for Bewazir to hear more about Jesus. He also was the top student in all the spiritual lessons for which he received an Oxford Dictionary.

Brian Odhiambo



Steve Otieno



Victor Odilo

