



# 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**

**March, 2017 Volume 12 Issue 3**

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

# 385

5 went home in Feb.



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

## **"Rare inspiration"**

Every once in a while you come across someone who just astounds, fascinates and inspires. That person is rare in this world and extremely rare in Kenya. All too often our selfish human nature tends to rule attitudes and behavior. That makes for a difficult atmosphere in which to minister. But in a small community near Kima in western Kenya there is a poor widow who is rich beyond measure. Her love for her Lord and family finds expression in her daily tasks and her humble spirit. Her name is Jane Iminza.

Last April we visited Jane's home with missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer as part of their agricultural training of small groups in East Africa. The Meyers spent most of their missionary life in West Africa, Ghana in particular. Since they retired they have been coming back to Africa to share their wisdom from a lifetime of farming.



**L to R: Linda Meyer, Delano Meyer, Fred – Capstone staff, Jacque Bremen, Jane Iminza**

So when the Meyers returned to Kenya this year, along with retired agricultural professor Jacque Bremen, we wanted them to see that Jane did not just put on a one time show for them last year but that she is still farming her small plot of Kenyan soil. This industrious widow rises early every morning to tend to her zero grazed cow, her many chickens and rabbits. She does not and never has begged for even one shilling. She would be ashamed to beg. She digs her own soil for planting, harvests her own bananas, arrow root, eggs and chickens.

Jane is part of the Maseno HIV+ women's group called Tumaini (Hope). She lives alone and supports her 5 grandchildren, three of whom are in secondary school. From her small farm she pays school fees in excess of 100,000 Ksh per year. This is the goal of Capstone Ministries: to raise up responsible, hard-working families who love and support their families.

(Cont. p. 2 left column)



Jane along with about 30 ladies are all HIV+ and grow moringa for Capstone as a cash crop. Most also take moringa as part of their daily diet of healthy foods. Jane freely admitted her status to us as we visited with her in her home. For 20 years Jane has been HIV+ and is in good health. As she prayed in her mother tongue of Luyha at our departure, it was obvious to all of us that her strong faith in Jesus Christ has been the foundation of her life, encouraged her in good stewardship of her small plot of ground, inspired her to be trained in rabbit keeping and farming. She proudly displayed her income and expense book for us that showed how her hard work has been supporting her grandchildren for many years.



Challenging circumstances can be overcome by faith and hard work. Jane is an example of that reality. Hand-outs and misplaced mercy stifle initiative and leads to dependency. In the end God's people are not served and helped but are robbed of the self-esteem that comes from hard work. Delano, Linda and Jacque were heartened to see just what can be done with little even among the poorest of the poor. Little can be much in the heart and hands of one who knows and loves the Lord.

## Prevention and a Pound of Cure

Capstone staff have been discussing possible preventative measures that can be taken to keep children in rural areas from running from home to the urban centers. The causes are many, some are controllable, and others take community will. This was the topic of discussion Capstone staff recently had at a joint discussion with four other programs working with street children. Some are involved on some level with community activities that work to strengthen families through education and counseling.

We are progressing in two areas that we hope will have an impact. One is in the area of community awareness. Every village area has a government official at the grass roots level. He is the chief along with an assistant chief. Every month the chief holds a meeting (Baraza in Kiswahili) with community members and the elders of the area. They discuss areas of concern in their specific assigned region. We hope to begin by asking to speak at a "baraza" where we know a chief very well, are confident that he has a good heart and wants to help children. We will address topics such as scrap metal dealers that buy from children, those who sell glue to children, movie houses that allow children to sit and watch videos instead of being in school and funeral festivities that lure hungry children away from home and school. If the meeting goes well, we hope to expand into other areas suggested by the trusted chief.

The other approach we are working on is a radio feature followed by a weekly call-in program to discuss with the public the causes of and circumstances that lead to children on the street. One of our staff, Pastor Isaiah Apiyo has already done some preaching on a local Luo dialect radio show called "Nam Lolwe." It has an audience of more than one million throughout Kisumu and southwest Kenya. The feature would be one hour followed up by a weekly 30 minute call in program that would feature Capstone staff discussing various topics related to causes and solutions to street children. There is a cost to this radio time but the impact could be very effective. Those interested in supporting this special project should write to us at [capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:capstoneministries@gmail.com). We estimate the entire project to cost @\$2000.

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

## New missionary joining Capstone in Kenya

My name is Denise Runge. I grew up Sherwood, Wisconsin. I graduated from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. During my 15 years in nursing, I had experience in emergency & trauma nursing, home health and patient advocacy. In 1998, I changed fields and worked in non-profit administration with Navajo Ministries in New Mexico. It was during this time that God planted the seeds that grew into a calling to the foreign mission field.

From 2008 until 2012, I served in Kisumu, Kenya as an HIV/AIDS



home-based care worker. I had the privilege to share the gospel with many clients, teach health education and serve as a bookkeeper and volunteer coordinator. I returned to Kenya in 2015 and for the past 18 months, I

served as an administrator with 2 ministries through New City Fellowship Church in Nairobi. Sadly, these ministries were closed by their founders in 2016.

Dan, Patty and I have been friends for over two years and I am in awe of their ministry to the street boys and their families. Patty has asked me to help her as a Sponsorship Liaison and with the Hospitality House. I look forward to serving with Capstone Ministries!

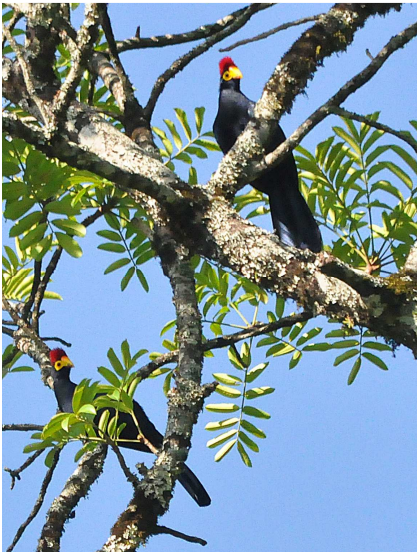
## Board Member Peter Kelm battling cancer

Please keep Pastor Peter, Angie and his family in your prayers. Peter serves as Associate Pastor 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. Please keep them in your prayers!

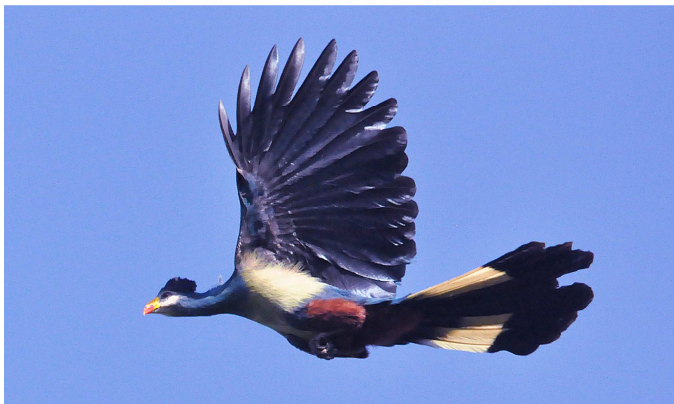


## Photos of the Month

On a recent trip to Rondo Retreat with Delano and Linda Meyer and Jacque Bremen we observed the rare sight of the Ross Turaco. It is a black turaco with a burgundy tuft on top of its head and red feathers under both wings, which are observed only while in flight. Since they are building a nest in the tall tree at Rondo and were gathering small twigs, I was able to anticipate their flight path and captured this nice photo along with a pair of them in a tree. They are a very shy bird and I have only seen them one other time in 15 years. The third photo is one of the blue turaco which is abundant now at Rondo since the crested eagle has departed.



**The  
gorgeous  
Ross and  
Blue  
Turaco!**



## New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home five boys in the month of February. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home.



**Kevin Aduda**

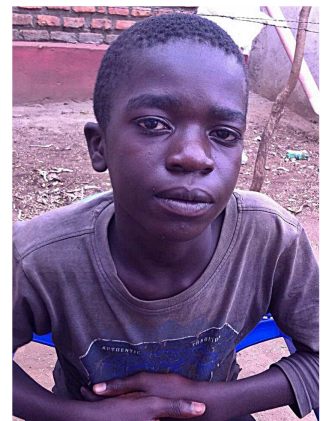
**Felix Otieno**



**Mark  
Odhiambo**



**Lamack Ouru**



**Valentine Muloli**