



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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In this Issue

Page 1: "The Three Stones"
p. 2: "Three Stones cont."
p. 3 "Staff Retreat"
p. 3 Savemart changes.
p. 3 Donor slip, Prayers needed
p. 4 Photos of Month, 5 reconciled boys
in Feb.



USA Address:

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

Kenya Address:

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

Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

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

387

2 went home in Mar.



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 Three Stones: God, Family, School"

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' – which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:1-4



The woman above is a common scene in rural Kenya. She is using three large stones between which she has built a fire and placed her cooking pot on top. Each stone plays a role in establishing a firm foundation for her pot. They serve both to balance her cooking pot and provide insulation to keep the fire contained and focused on the pot.

In the process of reconciling and restoring street children, Capstone too has three foundational stones which help to provide stability and focused energy. They are God, family and school.

Without the Lord, we can do nothing. He is the author of human change. His Spirit is the great Counselor and especially so in situations where reconciliation is necessary. Almost all 387 children whom Capstone has reconciled with family to date needed reconciliation both with God and with someone at home.

Reconciliation is life changing. The apostle Paul links the redeeming power of Jesus with behavioral change when he writes: ***"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."*** The power to "die to self" and consider the needs of others in a relationship comes from Christ's love who died for each of us. II Corinthians 5:14,15

Capstone staff recognizes that it is the redeeming love of Jesus that compels a boy to confess to his mother that he stole food money from her purse; it moves a drunkard father to repent of his abuse of alcohol and use his money to support his family. God's power is necessary and effective in bringing a change of attitude and behavior.

All activities of Capstone Ministries are filled with the Spirit's influence and the power of God's love in Jesus. Some are intentional like the 11 Bible Study groups attended by parents of reconciled children and lead by Capstone's two pastors on staff: Isaiah and Zadok.



All Capstone staff has had experiences of leading individuals in a family to repent of sinful habits that have undermined the family structure. One such family is pictured above. Patrick Sunda was reconciled with his family after intense personal conflict between his mother and father. How sweet it is to experience God's reconciling power and to see just how practical it is when people forgive because God has forgiven them.

Family is the second stone. Capstone believes that no institution or alternative structure is superior to or even a faint replacement for a family. It is under emphasized today just how critical family bonds are to a growing and healthy child. Fortunately rural Kenya still prioritizes family above all other alternatives. Long before the white man appeared on the scene, Kenyan families cared for relatives whose parents died. In fact the very definition of family is exceedingly broader and deeper than the Western view. Much like Jewish families of Jesus day, homes of extended family and grown children sit side by side. One

often does not need to travel far to find a living and willing relative of an "orphaned" child. I would add that in the 15 years we have lived in Kenya, we have only come across one child whose family home could not be traced. To Kenyans, family is a sacred bond. There are of course challenges to the family today, even in rural Kenya. But the first and best option is family!



School is the third stone. Just like the three literal stones of a cooking fire, school enhances stability for a Kenyan child. The old adage that idleness is the devil's workshop is proven true among idle youth in Kenya. Many bad habits develop when a child leaves school. It doesn't take long before those bad habits grease the skids into the street.

Capstone strives to make sure parents enroll their reconciled child in school as soon as possible. This helps keep the child engaged in productive activity. This year we have started a school lunch support for very poor families. Capstone pays the school directly, often in food stuffs, to make sure a needy child gets at least one meal a day. This provides motivation for a poor child to stay in school as he knows he will get a meal there.

Capstone now has 22 High School boys receiving assistance with school fees through sponsorship by US individuals/churches. The cost on average is \$650/year—well beyond most poor rural families. School provides an opportunity for a better life and we are very proud of all our students.

Three stones create stability—in a cooking fire and for a redeeming, reconciliation ministry!

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 Staff Retreat at Kweissos

March 21-23 marked two days of retreat for Capstone staff this year. We returned to a 100 year old farmhouse built by the Brooks family in the middle of a 3000 acre sugar cane plantation for our retreat again this year.



It was a welcome break in routine and a chance to recharge and bond in a relaxed setting for a few days. Meals were prepared by the staff of the Kweissos House and I think we all gained a few pounds.



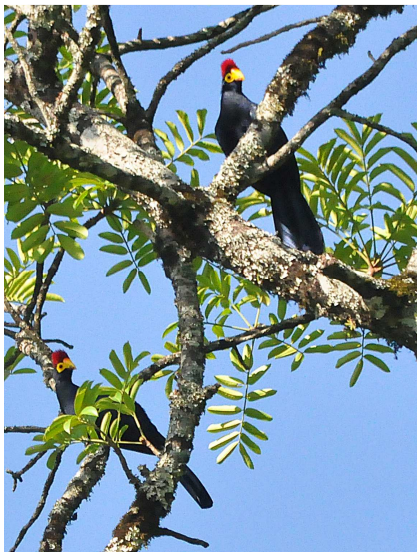
A trip to the farm's fish pond did not prove entirely successful but was still enjoyed by all. Above Daniel shows off his “monster” tilapia. I think he will need a very small pan to fry that one.

Board Member Peter Kelm battling cancer

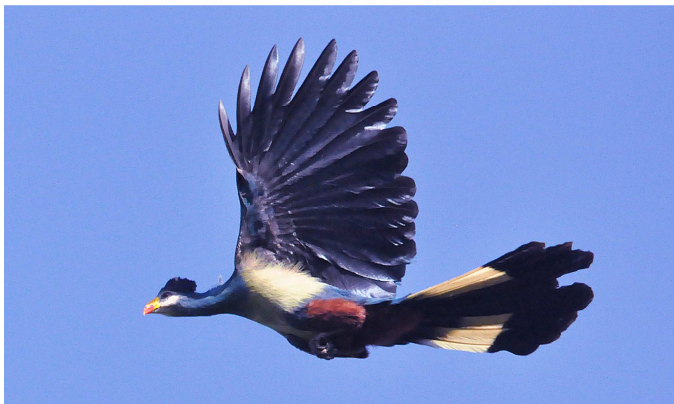
Please keep Pastor Peter, Angie and his family in your prayers. Peter serves as Associate Pastor at First Immanuel in Cedarburg, Wis and recently joined the Capstone Board. This is his second battle with cancer and the oncologists are trying to find the right cocktail of drugs to defeat the cancer. Please 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 two boys in the month of March. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home. You will notice that both of them have already been enrolled in school by their families.



Nester Rachel



**Malachi
(left)
Malachi
with his
father and
siblings
(below)**

