



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 April and May.



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

394

7 went home in April
and May.



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

"CHE: A community based Approach to Missions"

"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."
Nehemiah 6:15,16

"While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly." **Ezra 10:1**

There was once a village on the top of a mountain. It was a beautiful mountain; unfortunately there was a steep cliff near the path that led to the village. Often as visitors or villagers moved along the path, they would slip and fall over the cliff. Some were injured and some even died.

One day a missionary visited the village and noting the many injuries to villagers from falling, decided to raise funds for an ambulance to transport the injured who fell along the path. Eventually the missionary left. When he returned the next year he discovered that the ambulance had fallen into disrepair. **"Your** ambulance is broken." the villagers told the missionary, "in addition, sometimes people die on the way to the hospital."

So the missionary decided to raise more funds and built a hospital at the base of the mountain so villagers could be treated more quickly. Again the missionary left and when he returned the next year, he discovered that no one was being treated at the hospital. **"Your** hospital doesn't have any drugs and **your** doctors were not paid so they left."

The missionary decided a new approach was needed. He spoke to the chief before he left and the chief called a meeting of all the elders of the village. They developed a list of their greatest needs. On the top of the list was the danger of walking along the path. The community constructed a reinforced hand rail along the path. From that day no one fell along the path again. When the missionary returned the villagers proudly showed him how they had solved the problem of injuries through their well-constructed hand rail. "Look at **our** path now," the villagers all said to the missionary, "no one is injured on our path anymore."

That story is adapted from Stan Rowland's book: "Multiplying Truth and Light. It illustrates the principles of CHE (Community Health Evangelism).
(Cont. p. 2 left column)

The Scriptures on page one from Nehemiah and Ezra describe the completion of a spiritual and physical objective in Jerusalem. When Nehemiah left Persia for Jerusalem, his objective was to mobilize the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The walls in disrepair were also result and symptom of a spiritual problem among the people. Through Ezra the priest, God's people were lead to repent, turn to the Lord for strength in overcoming the opposition of Sanballat and Tobiah. Fellowship and community were fostered! Faith was rebuilt! And the walls were repaired in 52 days. By God's grace and strength, the people themselves solved a problem they had heretofore been unwilling and unable to address.

The story of Ezra and Nehemiah is also an illustration and description of CHE.

Capstone Ministries has utilized the concepts of CHE for many years and we continue to train our staff in this most unique and Biblical approach to evangelism and personal development. This past week three of our staff attended a Children's CHE Conference lead by Dr. Jody Collinge.

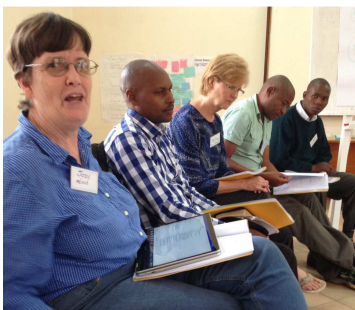


Jody Collinge

The conference is unlike most conferences where a speaker stands at a podium and the attendees sit in theater style facing the speaker. Instead CHE conferences are arranged sitting in a circle with everyone facing each other and the leader is more of a facilitator.

Capstone staff along with others participated in short skits to introduce topics. Ideas are shared and discovered together.

Capstone has been using this approach to instruction most specifically at Capstone Camp with great effectiveness. The approach produces a level playing field for all in attendance. The skits or dramas that introduce the lessons at camp are often hilariously funny but address very serious topics such as parental abuse, alcoholism, cheating in school. The humor at the outset creates an open atmosphere where sensitive issues can be discussed freely. The approach is also highly engaging and enjoyable for teenage boys.



Facilitator Jody Collinge conducts a CHE lesson

Before leaving the five day conference, the team of 3 staff along with Denise Runge, Patty and me met to discuss where the CHE approach could be applied to the ministry. We discussed how our follow up visits on families could be enhanced by addressing specific issues that are a challenge in individual families. We identified specifically how poverty lessons could be developed that focus on teaching about the use of small kitchen gardens, growing vegetables in a gunny sack during a drought, and implementing composting as a low cost alternative to expensive chemical fertilizers. We intend to target specifically those families that are in our school lunch program currently as a long term solution to food security for these families. Spiritual lessons would be linked to the agricultural lessons that would point to the Lord Jesus as the giver of all good things.

We also discussed the idea of adding CHE lessons to our 11 small group Bible studies.

The opening story highlights one of the chief concepts of the CHE approach: community ownership. It also demonstrates the weakness of solutions that come from outside a community. Often problems that seem complex to outside observers actually have solutions that are easily addressed and are known to the community but take initiative and work. In this particular story the problem was even preventable.

Ownership has a number of advantages. It is often more cost effective. It builds community through shared activity. It produces esteem and pride. And because it is owned, any adjustments, repairs or upgrading that are needed along the way are implemented by the community immediately. Ownership also teaches good stewardship of the gifts, talents and possessions God has given to the community.

Ownership also teaches the missionary or agency working in the community some valuable lessons. This approach takes patience and persistence. One learns humility and a reliance on God's leading. These are all areas that are positive for missionary relationships with indigenous people as well. No one likes a "know-it-all" missionary whose ideas are imposed.

We have loved our time growing and understanding the concepts of CHE and applying them to the work of Capstone Ministries. We hope and trust that this small sampling of CHE concepts has given you some food for thought as well. God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries.

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. At this point the chemo drugs have been ineffectual but at least the cancer has been slow growing. Please keep them in your prayers!

Photos of the Month

During our time in Nairobi for the Children's CHE Conference II, we stayed at the Resurrection Gardens Retreat Center. This is part of a larger Catholic center that included some gorgeous walking paths the focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. Stunning mosaic life size murals adorned the path way along with stone framed images of the passion of Jesus in bronze relief. It was a beautiful place to pray and meditate during down time. Here are a few photos of the Garden art.



New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home seven boys in the months of April and May. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home.



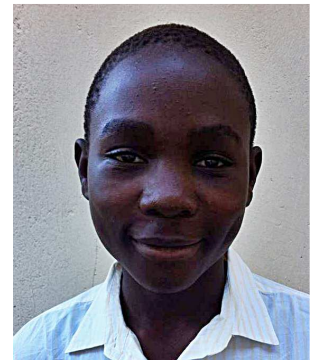
Elvis & Eugene



Jackson



Sylvanus



Bradley



Frank



Steve