



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 June.



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

405

8 went home in July



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

"Capstone Overview"

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalm 118:22, 23

Capstone Ministries was founded in 2005 by Dan and Patty Schmelzer after serving in institutional care for three years in Kisumu, Kenya. That time taught us that family and divine reconciliation of street boys is a better option than institutional care. Most families to whom street boys are reconciled live in poverty. However, a poor family is still superior to any institution. Fifteen years of serving full time in Kenya, working with families in abject poverty has revealed one primary Biblical truth: Reconciliation flows from the cross of Jesus Christ. Too many times mission finds expression in the provision of that which is temporary. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is eternal and nothing can replace it. And in the context of family and its natural divine authority, reconciliation is extremely practical. It crucifies the predisposition of selfishness in the human heart and empowers God's people to live for one another. This environment encourages children to flourish, parents to be loving and responsible and communities to be supportive.

Reconciliation between people, however, is seldom an event. After reconciling 405 street boys in those 12 years, we have also learned that it takes time, repeated expressions of repentance and forgiveness, persistence and the spiritual gift of faith to bring a family to a point of being reconciled.

In this article I would like to give an overview of the process of reconciliation at Capstone Ministries. Keep in mind: Every situation is different. Some rescues go smoothly and efficiently. Others take much time and effort. Generally the more serious the division at home, the longer it takes to bring reconciliation.



(Cont. p. 2 left column)

Over time we have refined our approach to children on the street. Initially we thought a transition center and counseling would be needed before a child could be taken home. We have found that not to be the case. In fact, it is often better to return a child to his home as soon as possible. This minimizes the western influence and dependency mindset from exposure to a “Center.” Generally the longer it takes to address the trauma of separation, the more complicated the process of reconciliation.

Capstone staff minister directly to boys on the street almost every day, engaging them in conversation about their home and encouraging them to consider reconciliation. Often what a child fears is not poverty or disease. What drove him to the street was a breakdown in relationship caused by his or someone’s sinful and selfish behavior. What is often needed is encouragement to repent, willingness to change and Capstone staff expressing a willingness to stand alongside the child in this conversation of reconciliation.

In this initial crucial step, we have developed relationships with other institutions in Kisumu. The government run children’s detention center is one. Here 50-100 boys and girls are housed. Arrested for various crimes from petty theft to assault, these children await their day in children’s court before being taken back to their parents. Capstone has an excellent reputation with this “Remand Center” and has the confidence of the management. Capstone staff meet children at Remand twice a week, once to counsel one on one with children and once to present a Biblical lesson for the children and minister to their spiritual needs.



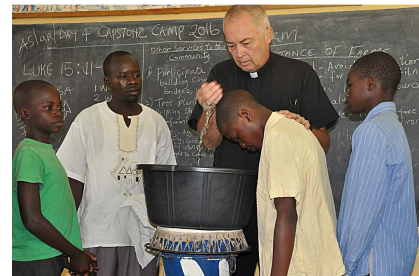
Capstone also works with a Catholic organization in Kisumu called Pandepieri or KUAP. If a Capstone staff rescues a boy late in the day, they will leave the boy overnight at this location and take the boy home the next day.

Recently Capstone staff developed a relationship with the local police and were called to counsel with a boy and take him home.

Follow-up visits with family is the strength of the Capstone program. Each child’s situation will be evaluated in the Friday staff meeting and a program of counseling will be recommended. This is where Capstone staff shine. Home visits can be tough, especially when a parent has been irresponsible. We are in process of developing a Toolkit of Bible Lessons which covers topics on repentance, grace, forgiveness and humility. All staff will be versed in the details of the lessons so that can be applied in a myriad of circumstances and needs.



Several years ago, Capstone staff initiated home Bible study groups with parents of reconciled children. Currently we have 11 small groups. These are designed primarily to encourage spiritual growth and be a mutual encouragement to the parents. They meet at least once a month.



Capstone Camp is an intensive week of spiritual lessons on the six chief parts of Luther’s Catechism leading to Baptism on Friday. 20-25 boys who have been reconciled within the past year are invited to the one week camp. The intention is to address those areas which need encouragement and development in the boys. Scouting, games competition as well as innovative, practical, and interactive learning exercises make this a fun filled week for the boys who go home with a new spirit and focus.

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 following 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? _____

Dan and Patty's Fall Travel Schedule

Below are the dates and locations where Dan and Patty will be visiting this fall. Some are still tentative which means the host has not yet confirmed.

August 1 Arrive in Boston

August 6 – St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT

August 13—Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer,
Endfield, CT

August 19,20 Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT

August 27 Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

Sept. 3 – Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH

Sept. 10 – Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA (tent)

Sept. 17 – Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT

Sept. 24 – Island Lutheran, Hilton Head, SC

Sept. 26-29 Capstone Board Retreat, Waterford, WI

Sept. 30, Oct. 1 Trinity Lutheran, Freistadt, WI

Oct. 8 – Zion Lutheran, Morris, MN

Oct. 10,11 CNH Pastor's Conference, Fairfield, CA
-Preaching for worship

Oct. 15 Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat,
Alberta, Canada

Oct. 22 Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA

Oct. 29 St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA

Nov. 5 St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA

Nov. 12 – open

Nov. 15 – St. Peter's Lutheran School Chapel, Lodi,
CA

Nov. 19 – St. Paul's Lutheran, Tracy, CA (tent)

Nov. 22 – United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
Thanksgiving Eve

Nov. 26 – St. Peter's Lutheran, Lodi, CA

Nov. 28 Return to Kenya

TIK – This is Kenya

This is a new column and will have more space next month. It will focus on our unique experiences in Kenya that just become part of living here. Every day experiences become our ongoing cultural lifestyle and often leave us wondering where we really belong. We experience every day differences such as 1. How people stand in line 2. Go to a movie 3. Present yourself as a guest in church 4. Worship length and style 5. Sense of humor 6. Types of public transport 7. Unique foods 8. Driving experiences 9. Sports obsessions 10. How baby names are given 11. Dealing with the police 12. Discussing religion in public. Watch for these interesting topics next month.

Photos of the Month

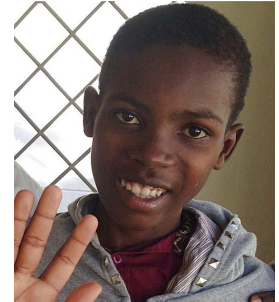
One of our favorite places to have lunch after church on Sunday is Kiboko Bay Resort and Lodge. Located right on the shores of Lake Victoria it can be a restful place to relax on a hot Sunday afternoon with cool breezes off the lake. On this occasion we were also visited by a family of hippos that included a two week old calf. A malachite Kingfisher added some beauty to the brawn.



New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home eight boys in July. They are pictured below. Pray they remain at home. Letters behind the number of the rescue indicates a rescue in cooperation with another organization. R="Remand" Children's Detention Center in Kisumu. K= "Kuap" Kuap is part of Pandipeiri, a Catholic center Capstone has been working with for a number of years. P – Police Our first rescue occurred in a cooperative effort with local police.

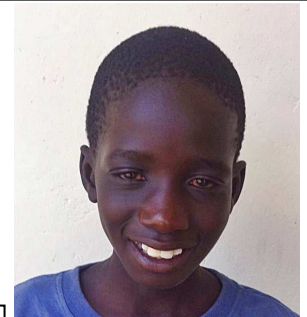
Picture not available
#398 Bramuel Masoso



#399K Stephen Muradhi



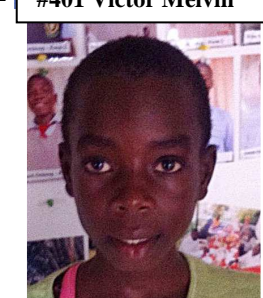
#400 Dewarren Omondi



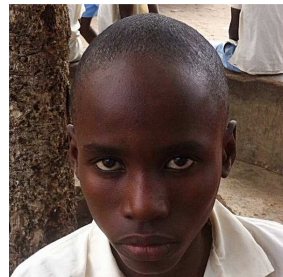
#401 Victor Melvin



#402K Edward Otieno



#403P Collins Onyango



#404R Charles Ondkho



#405 David Odhiambo