



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22

Monthly Newsletter of Capstone Ministries, Kisumu, Kenya

November, 2017 Volume 12 Issue 11

In this Issue

- Page 1: “Songs of Joy”
- P. 2: “Songs of Joy” cont.
- P. 2 Travel Schedule, Thrivent Instructions
- P. 2: Prayers and Praise
- P. 2: Donor slip



USA Address:
 Capstone Ministries
 P.O. Box 2080
 Oakdale, CA 95361



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

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

419

1 boy went home in Oct.

Select Capstone Ministries for your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Go to:
<https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html>



Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com
 Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

“Songs of Joy”

“When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.” Psalm 126:1,2

John was a boy a way long from home. He had trouble communicating in the bus stage in Kisumu, the heart of luo-land. John’s mother tongue was Kikuyu from Muranga, a village outside Nairobi.

John did his best to talk with the staff of Capstone and expressed a willingness to go home. But Muranga is a bus ride with several transfers—at least 8 hours and it was already late in the day. So a few nights stay was arranged with Pandipieri, a local Catholic charity Capstone works with to keep boys for a night or two when a boy is rescued late in the day.



John, when discovered on the street.

In the meantime, Capstone staff discussed John’s case at the Friday staff meeting the next day. John had told the staff that his mom had abandoned him, remarried and moved to far away Siaya and that he wanted to go back to his grandmother in Muranga. However, none of our staff was familiar with Muranga. Pastor Zadok mentioned that he knew someone from that area. A man called Chege who might be able to help. So he called Chege. Chege said, “Yes, I know Muranga, in fact I know the local chief. Come and I’ll arrange to meet the chief. Certainly she will also know the family of John.”



John with Chege in Nairobi

We called the chief and described the boy, where he had gone to school and the chief said she (yes, some chiefs are female) did know the family and would arrange a reconciliation with the grandmother (Hannah) and an uncle.

Pastor Isaiah set off the next day (July 10) with John to meet Chege, the chief and eventually John’s grandmother. The chief was not only

Cont. on p. 2

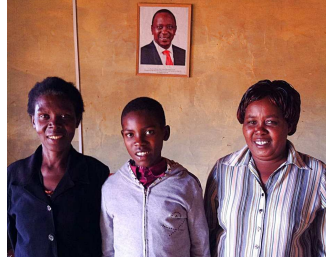
Prayers, Praises

1. Dan and Patty are traveling west in October and November. November 5 St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA. Nov. 12 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA. Nov. 19 St. Paul's Lutheran, Tracy, CA. Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve, United Lutheran, Manteca, CA. Nov. 26 St. Peter's Lutheran, Lodi, CA
2. Praise God for recent visits at Zion Lutheran, Morris, MN. CNH Pastor's Conference, Fairfield, CA. Victory Lutheran, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA. St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA
3. Pray for our Capstone Board as they serve selflessly in support of Capstone Ministries in the USA. They are
Dave Hudon – Chairman – Canton, CT
Pastor Bob Schipul – Hingham, MA
Pastor Randall Pekari – S. Windsor, CT
Pastor Philip Reimers – Evergreen, CO
Judie Brown – Manteca, CA
Ann Jedele – Winfield, KA
Delano Meyer – Chokio, Minnesota
Jeff Long – Plymouth, MI
Jan Fehr – Lakewood, CO
4. Pray for peace in Kenya.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Instructions:

It is easy to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars for the work of the Capstone Ministries! Online: Step 1 – Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Step 2 – Click on “log in” at the top right of your screen & enter your MyThrivent user ID & password. (If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on “register now” to register for full access.) Step 3 – Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen. Step 4 – Click on “Direct Choice Dollars” on the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page. Step 5 – Search the catalog of organizations to find and select the “Capstone Ministries” Step 6 – Click on “Direct Choice Dollars Now” to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit the reconciliation of street children with God and family! By phone: Step 1 – Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say, “Thrivent Choice.” Step 2 – When prompted, say, “Choice Dollars.” Step 3 – Say or enter your Social Security number. Step 4 – **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions. Step 5 – A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars for Capstone Ministries.

willing to assist, she did so with great enthusiasm. She sat and talked with John about the family situation. It turned out John's name was actually Stephen. The actual reason he had run away was not because his mother had abandoned him. In fact, John and his 3 siblings had gone with his mom and step father to Siaya and Stephen ran away because his step father had been beating him.



Stephen with his grandmother, Hannah on the left and the chief of Muranga on the right.

He had lied out of fear of being returned to an abusive step father.

When grandmother Hannah arrived at the chief's office, she broke into tears and songs of joy at the sight of her grandson. She only knew her grandson was missing

and feared the worst.

More counseling work needs to be done with this family. Plans are being made to visit the mother and step father. In the meantime Stephen has a safe, loving and secure place to live and go to school.

A few important lessons from this story:



Hannah rejoices to see her lost son returned home safely!

Street boys will often fabricate stories to protect themselves, even change their real names.

Reconciliation takes a team. We praise God when people come alongside to assist in the process.

Home is always best. Extended family are most willing to take in and support family members. It is a cultural normative.

Capstone works cooperatively as a staff. It is in the open meetings on Friday that all cases but especially tough situations are discussed and solutions sought.

Look deeply at Hannah in the photo above. Do you see her joy, her humility before God, her thankfulness for a son come home? God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries that makes all this possible!!

Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support

Name _____ Address _____
State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Special Designation if any _____ Donation Amount _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

Send to: Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080, Oakdale, CA 95361