



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

441

8 went home February
(See page 3 photos)



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.

"Sin, Shame and Community"

"The Lord said to Joshua, 'Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things;'"

Throw a stone into a still pond and a series of concentric ripples will spread from the spot the stone entered the water. The peace and stillness of the surface of the pond eventually is impacted in every quarter, sometimes multiple times as the waves bounce off objects and send waves of disturbance back to the source.

When Israel took Jericho, they were told specifically that all the plunder was to be placed into the Lord's treasury. Nothing was to be kept personally. But a man named Achan did not listen. Instead, when tempted he took a Babylonian robe, 5 pounds of silver and a wedge of gold that weighed 20 oz. However, something much more valuable had been compromised. As the Lord speaks to Joshua from the Ark inside the Tabernacle, he says, "Israel has violated my covenant..." In his selfishness and greed, Achan had thrown a stone into the peaceful waters and now the whole nation feels the impact!

Sin is like that. Disobedience is not done in a spiritual vacuum. Stub your toe and your mouth screams. A toothache makes the whole body miserable. It is the same in the body of Christ.

Almost all of the families Capstone works with have felt the ripples of sin. A boy steals money from his mother's purse and now the whole family is without food. A father spends his few shillings on alcohol and children suffer. Many end up on the street because the "body of Christ" at home has been compromised.

As powerful and impactful as sin is on families, the love of Jesus is stronger. How does one stop those ripples in the family pond? It is humanly impossible. But what man cannot do, God can do. Capstone Ministries takes the powerful Gospel of peace to families. Families are encouraged to join a small group Bible study. Pastor Isaiah is currently organizing two more small groups, to add to the 10 who already meet once a month. Each staff is equipped to bring the powerful Word of God to families; to bring reconciliation, peace and unity in Jesus.

Sin can be a big stone!
Only Jesus turns stones into bread for the soul. God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries!



TIK – This is Kenya

This is a new column and I hope you enjoy it. It will focus on our unique experiences in Kenya that just become part of living here.

Differences in Worship

Kenyan worship tends to be a bit longer than American worship. Having experienced both I would say that Americans are a little hyper sensitive to a sermon beyond 20 minutes or a worship service that exceeds one hour. The typical Kiswahili service in Kenya is about 2&1/2 hours with the sermon taking 45 minutes. But length is not the only difference. Kenya worship tends to be more animated and visual both in construction of the sermon which uses story-telling and longer illustrations to make a point, and the singing of multiple choirs and soloists.

Dan preaching with the help of two ELCK pastors. You may recognize Pastor Isaiah on the right.



Sports Crazy Cultures

Americans, who are used to US style football and baseball may be shocked to learn that in Africa only “real” futbol is known—otherwise known in the west as soccer. Kenya has its own professional futbol league and most Kenyan men also have a favorite foreign European team. English Premier League futbol is certainly favored but Spanish, Italian and German teams are also well recognized. Can you name the 19 year old American playing for Dortmund in the Bundesliga? Ask a Kenyan! He’ll know. Even in the slums of Kisumu, small shops will have a flat screen TV connected to DSTV from So. Africa advertising the weekend’s big matches. For 20 shillings you can have a seat and watch.



Unique Language Qualities

The national language in Kenya is Swahili or Kiswahili to the purist linguist. But English is commonly spoken by most adults and many children. After Grade 4 almost all schools teach in English. But the “mother-tongue” or tribal language is the language of home. In western Kenya that is either Luo or Luhya. Those are only two of the 53 tribal languages of Kenya with many additional dialects of each mother-tongue.

One unique linguistic aspect of Swahili is the use of repetitive or duplicated words. A bicycle in Swahili is called “boda-boda”, the word for road is “bara-bara.” Sometimes a hyphen is used and sometimes just a space divides the words. Sometimes the repetition has no function other than emphasis like the phrase in Swahili “Haraka Haraka, haina Baraka,” translated “Hurry, Hurry brings no blessing.” Other expressions add in a word in between like the phrase “Haba na haba hujaza kibaba” which means “little and little fills the measure.”

Sometimes a verb form will drop the final vowel and repeat, like the word for “to speed up” – “Chapua” becomes “chapu chapu” meaning “Hurry up.” Some verbs even change a vowel and make a new part of speech. The adjective “zulu” meaning “dizzy,” changes to “zuli zuli” becomes a noun meaning “dizziness or confusion.”

Most common are words that become superlatives by repetition. “Dogo” meaning ‘small’ becomes “Dogo dogo” meaning very small or “juu” meaning high becomes “juu juu” which means ‘very high.’ Some even change meanings completely like “pole” meaning “sorry” to “pole pole” meaning “Very slowly.” OK, class dismissed!

Capstone Goes Fiber!

Recently a fiber optic cable was laid in Kisumu and the local mobile phone company Safaricom has begun putting in poles in communities and making fiber optic connections available. It will be a big improvement in terms of connectivity as often internet connections are intermittent because of too many people on one mobile booster. Just a few days ago, the fiber cable was connected to the Capstone Ministries office and we are now online.



Safaricom workers connect the fiber optic cable at the Capstone Ministries office.

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? _____

New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home eight boys in February 2018. They are pictured below. L-R beginning at the top: Isaac, Boniface, Collins, Thomas, Josiah, David, Biron, Edgar



The Face of Reconciliation

Reconciliation between us and God is an event. It took place once and for all time on Calvary. However reconciliation between people is a process and takes patience, persistence and faith.

I am sure if you have listened to us present Capstone at your church or function, you have heard us say those three sentences. The lead article dealt with the complicated nature of reconciliation and its spiritual components. Reconciliation also has what one might call sociological components.

Capstone is involved in enhancing stability for boys reconciled with their families with specific projects. In this article I wanted to highlight some of those supplementary projects.

High Flyer Project

A child who is in school is automatically removed from temptations that can lure him into the street. Succeeding in school enhances self-esteem and brings hope for a brighter future. Once a child reaches Grade 7, Capstone provides a study aid called a “High Flyer.” It is a book that gives overview lessons on the subjects tested in school. Preparation for the KCPE exam in 8th grade is a long process and already in 7th grade, serious pupils are preparing for this 3 day exam. The High Flyer prepares pupils for this exam. Currently Capstone provides the “High Flyer” for eight 7th grade pupils and ten 8th grade pupils. We have seen a significant improvement in exam results since we have started this project.

D’Warren receives his High Flyer as he begins Grade 7. Pray he prepares well.



Lunch Project

Food insecurity can be a push factor for some boys who come from poor rural homes. Tales of white people handing out food in Kisumu can fill a child’s mind with all sorts of ideas when his stomach is empty. It is a reality that in some rural families, daily bread is not always automatic. For this reason Capstone does assist in exceptional situations where self-reliance may take time to develop. Currently 10 families are helped by this project. Food is always given in kind directly to the school to remove any temptation by the family to spend the cash on something else. The idea is: if a child knows he will get food every day in school, he will be less tempted to run away from home for lack of food.

School Uniform Project

The sooner a child can be enrolled in school, the more stable he will be at home. The phrase: “*Idle hands are the devil’s workshop*,” is really true when it comes to a child in a rural home, especially when there are tempting distractions. Normally we encourage parents to provide a school uniform for their child in order to enroll him in school. In some circumstances where financial issue will delay a child’s enrollment, Capstone will provide the basic uniform and ask the parents to buy the extras like a “sport kit” as they are able. Currently 23 children have received a uniform this year.



Lameck dressed in his school uniform.