



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:

447

6 went home March
(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.

"Swimming Upstream"

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him... Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. He was accompanied by Nicodemus. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy five pounds. Taking Jesus body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices in strips of linen." John 3:1,2 & John 19:38-40

Salmon are remarkable fish. Hatched in streams of fresh water, they venture downstream into the ocean as small fry where they spend their entire life in salt water. At maturity they return to the very spot where they were fingerlings and spawn. To reach the proper place for the laying of her eggs, the female will overcome countless obstacles: Rushing water, rocks, waterfalls, bears, fishermen all lay between them and their destination. Upon spawning, they die.

Swimming upstream like a salmon determined to reach a final destination is a good picture of the Christian life. We too face obstacles that tempt and distract. Culture, peers, family, tragedy, ambition and even our own misguided spiritual perspectives all are major obstacles along the way.

As I write these words, it is the Saturday before Easter Sunday. A few weeks ago, I preached on Jesus conversation with Nicodemus in John 3. The opening words are above. I encourage you to read the entire conversation. That conversation took place very early in Jesus ministry, some scholars say three years prior to the events of Jesus death. Nicodemus approached Jesus timidly, fearfully and alone. As a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, he kept company with those who despised, envied and even hated Jesus. I guess you could say, he was swimming upstream among his peers. Nicodemus was not the typical Pharisee whom Jesus often castigated for hypocrisy, arrogance, and greed.

When we meet Nicodemus three years later he is willing to be seen and heard for his faith in Jesus. In full view of the chief priests and his fellow Pharisees who mocked Jesus as he was dying on the cross, Nicodemus helps Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus body down from the cross and lay him in the tomb. From timid and fearful to bold and daring! What a transformation! He stands where Peter would not. He shows faith in the face of torturous emotional upheaval! If I may pose a challenging question: How does that happen? How does someone go from mere spiritual curiosity to bold confession in the face of death?

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.

Humor While Americans enjoy a good play on words and puns as the basic element of humor; if you visit and engage in this type of humor, they will just smile and look at you with an unknowing quizzical look. It simply does not compute. However, Kenyans love to laugh. A comical story based in role reversal or slapstick is more to a Kenyan's taste. Tension can also make Kenyan's laugh. The image below is of two Kenyan politicians from opposite sides of the aisle. The laughter may just be nervous laughter.



Weather Most of Africa does not have seasonal weather as most of Europe and America. Winter is an unknown experience. So when you come, dispense with stories of shoveling snow. In Kenya we have either a dry season or a wet season. It rains in March-April and October-November. The rest of the year is mostly dry. Rain can come with fierce thunderstorms and can shake the house.



Rainstorms on the Masai Mara, like the one below can be an awesome sight to behold.

Many of us have heard our pastor say repeatedly that God uses the “means of grace” to effect spiritual change. Forgiveness of sins, relationship with God and the promise of life eternal comes by God’s powerful Word. The Psalmist says it this way *“Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.”* Psalm 119:105 The book of Hebrews puts it like this: *“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow.”* Heb. 4:12

It is the Word that changed Nicodemus, guided him on his dangerous and treacherous path of faith in the Sanhedrin. As he pulled the nails from Jesus hands and feet, he trusted the Word. As he wrestled with his emotions wrapping the body of Jesus for burial, he believed. The words Jesus spoke in private: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes him shall not perish but have eternal life,”* (Jn. 3:16) were not just his solace but the power within.

Nicodemus had come to Jesus in the darkness. Jesus challenged him to come into the light. *“Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light...”* Jn. 3:21

This is the joy of mission work: Seeing God’s powerful and effective Word touch the heart, empower people spiritually and see them change as Nicodemus does.

As you celebrate Easter tomorrow, reflect on how far God has brought you. Perhaps at one time you were merely curious about Jesus. Maybe you are fighting the current of life right now. Remember this: circumstances, emotion and majority opinion do not equal truth. The Word is truth.



God bless you for your continued support of Capstone Ministries. We stand by the truth of God’s Word. It is the one tool above all others which effects change in the human heart.

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.

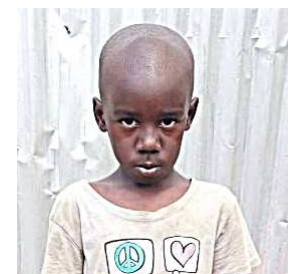
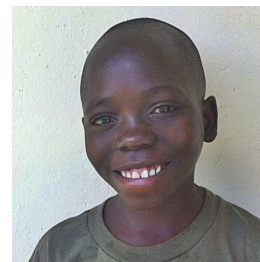
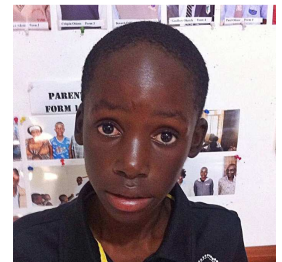
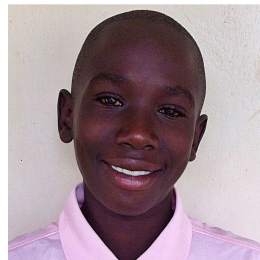
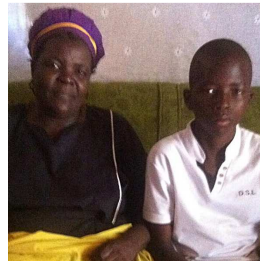
You can also go to the following web address to make the switch:

<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 six boys in March 2018. They are pictured below. L-R beginning at the top: Steve Omondi, Vincent Ochieng, Paul Otieno, Geoffrey Muitsumi, Austin Agyo, Brighton Omondi.



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.

