



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:

451

4 went home May

(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.

"Missions are about Jesus"

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."Philippians 4:13

As I walk home from town I frequently pass St. Joseph's Catholic Church. It is a pleasant stroll as frequently one of their many choirs are rehearsing inside and their beautiful African voices sweep across the population walking past. On one occasion, as I was walking past, there was no choir singing but as I approached the front of the sanctuary, crossing my path was a man struggling with a heavy load on a push cart. These are common transport vehicles in Kenya powered by one and sometimes two people where a donkey would normally be used. It is a humble occupation but provides daily bread for many. As he approached the front of the church, I saw him pause, cross himself and then continue on his journey. I've been in Kenya long enough to know that often public displays of religious devotion are often done for attention. This was not one of those. The man never saw me and never acknowledged my presence. As I proceeded, I reflected on what I had just witnessed. Despite his heavy load, it was not too heavy to pause during his day, put down his burden and show his devotion to Jesus. It struck me that this is why I live in Kenya. This is the essence of my calling as a missionary, to follow Jesus command to "Go and make disciples of all..." Discipleship takes time. It is an investment in people. It does not happen overnight. And this man reminded me that this work of reconciliation to which Patty and I have dedicated our lives will have setbacks and hiccups as well as victories and triumphs.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago when we hosted our 25 sponsored High School boys. The theme for the event was taken from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. "Joy in the Challenge" could well be the theme of Philippians. Writing from prison, most likely in Rome, Paul writes to thank God's people for the gift they have sent for his support. There are many wise words in Philippians for our day but perhaps none wiser than why Paul says he can be content in every and any situation. The key is Jesus!



**All the boys and
Capstone staff
at Mentoring
2018 at the
Capstone
Offices**

(Cont. p. 2 right column)

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.

Medical Care

Kenya is superior in some ways to medical care in the West. Cost of drugs is one. Generic drugs are much cheaper here than in the west. Doxycycline for example that is used as a preventative for malaria for visitors here and is a common antibiotic for infections costs less than 50 cents for 40 tablets. Another advantage is the expertise of doctors in diagnosing and treating tropical diseases which your GP may have never encountered. We use two doctors here in Kisumu. One we affectionately call Dr. Dudu is very good with common stomach problems. He also can diagnose immediately in his office and treat you on the spot as he has a small pharmacy within as well. We use Dr. Alibuoy at the Aga Khan Hospital for all other more serious issues. He is the one who caught Dan's serious infection on his elbow last year which required immediate surgery and 4 nights in the hospital. However cost of quality care for the rural and even the urban poor is a huge problem. Many hospitals don't have the necessary equipment or drugs to assist even those who can afford it. In Kenya there are 1.4 doctors for every 10,000 people while the US has 24.5 for every 10,000

Game Preserves

Some of the most wondrous wild parks are in Kenya. The Masai Mara which is only about 5% of the Serengeti Plain is one of the most famous. To witness The Great Migration of Zebra and Wildebeast in excess of 2 million is an event on the planet that has no rivals. The migration begins in late July and goes through October with the peak time in late August and early September. It is truly one of the wonders of the modern world. Numerous other lesser known preserves are scattered across Kenya including the Kakamega Rain Forest with exotic birds found only in this forest. It is only a 90 minute drive from Kisumu and is our favorite retreat several times a year. Be assured however that even though we have a small animal park in Kisumu, we do not have wild animals roaming the streets or invading our home. Outside of the occasional monitor lizard, visitors that are more common are local birds which enjoy our multiple feeders and water dishes

Faith allows us to look beyond ourselves and see our value forged in Jesus instead of our present circumstance, no matter what that may be. That message is particularly important to remember for teens in High School and their parents.

The first day began with an opening devotion based on the theme verse followed by topics for group discussion, small group counseling as well as one on one counseling between Capstone staff and students. And as you might expect there were challenges and triumphs.

One of the more interesting discussions revolved around bullying in school. Having attended boarding school for 10 years myself, I remember well the hazing and the tension of living as an underclassman. The boys discussed openly their experiences with the same.

Capstone uses a unique method of open discussion taken from a concept developed for community development. Called CHE (Community Health Evangelism), this technique puts all including the leader on the same plane. It begins with a short drama by the participants. The boys chose to act out a typical hazing event in school. It usually brings a lot of laughter as the boys put every ounce of drama into the scene.



Elly addresses the boys at Mentoring 2018!

We invited one boy, Elly Owino, who had been rescued from the street in 2009 and has completed High School and is now enrolled in Rongo University to come and give an inspirational talk to the boys. He spoke honestly about his failures, time on the street, challenges at home. What grabbed everyone's attention was how he elaborated on the effects of street life that still haunt and tempt him. A keen observer could see a number of shifting eyes in the gathering. He had touched a nerve. As he closed he pointed again to the theme and reminded all the students that you cannot escape your past. But you can be delivered from it. And only Jesus can do that.

Patty and I both felt like proud parents at that moment. Real, honest ministry was taking place. A step forward in some. Honest reflection and repentance in others. Someday when these boys have families of their own, they will look back and give glory to God for how far He has brought them. May 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 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 _____

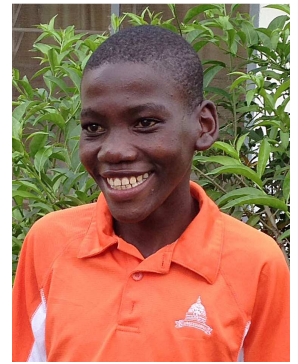
Designation? _____

New Rescues

Capstone has rescued and reconciled at home four boys in April 2018. They are pictured below. L-R beginning at the top:



Johnstone Otondo #448



Joseph Omondi #449



Malcolm Onyango #450



Frederick Odhiambo #451

Trinity Lutheran Africa Auction

Many thanks to Trinity Lutheran in Freistadt, Wis. who held their annual Africa auction on April 21. The proceeds help to support Capstone Ministries along with many other African missions. Below is a photo of the Capstone corner at the auction. Dan's mom Chrysta is seated in the foreground waiting for the event to commence. Dan's sisters Mary and Eunice helped set up the Capstone display and answered questions in Dan and Patty's absence. God bless you all.



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.

Raston Okungu with his High Flyer he will use to prepare for his Primary School exams!



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. Currently we are helping 4 boys with lunch.

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.

John Onyango in his new school uniform

