



# 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 July, 2018 Volume 13 Issue 7

## In this Issue

- Page 1: "Running toward the chaos"
- p. 2: "Running toward the chaos... cont."
- p. 2 "Mission Insights"
- p. 3 Donor slip
- p. 3 Rescued boys
- p. 4 Face of Reconciliation



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

# 470

***10 went home June***  
*(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.

## **"Running toward the chaos"**

***"When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" Mark 2:5***

Rye Barcott in his book "It happened on the way to war," describes how his training as a Marine helped him to form a life path based on the military concept of "running toward gunfire." Instinctively we tend to avoid the hard and in the process we often choose comfort over the real meaningful answers to life's problems. Running toward the chaos in a military engagement means recognizing the enemy in front of you, confronting the enemy and bringing change by directly assaulting the problem. The alternatives: Running sideways while you duck for cover or running in the opposite direction allows the conflict to escalate, increases the time of your exposure to danger and sends the signal to the enemy that you are afraid. The life lesson that Rye applied to his own life after the military was to address challenges head on. He founded an NGO in Kenya called "From Carolina to Kibera." It addresses the issues of poverty in the largest slum in Africa. He is also a sought after motivational speaker and founder of an organization in the US seeking to elect former military servicemen and women to Congress and bring to politics what he has learned from being a Marine: personal sacrifice for the sake of others will help to break the entrenchment of self-serving politicians.

The man who was brought to Jesus on a mat by his four friends had a serious problem. While he was paralyzed and that was certainly an obvious physical problem, there lay a deeper issue and Jesus saw it. It was a heart issue not a leg issue. We are not told what this man's spiritual problem was but it was serious enough that Jesus addresses it first before solving the visible one. Jesus does not get side tracked by the obvious and he does not retreat. He doesn't duck for cover knowing that there are rabbis present who will certainly take issue with him if He addresses this paralytic's sins head on. He knows He is running toward fire and he willingly endures it as the cost of healing this man's spiritual problem. Jesus does not waver because of the opinion of others. He knows who He is.

Jesus runs toward the chaos. Reconciliation is needed and only He can provide it. The physical healing that followed was treated by Jesus only as a testimony about the greater healing within. And as they man walked out of the crowded house, the people begin to praise God saying "We have never seen anything like this." But Jesus saw a deeper healing. He saw a heart freed from bitterness and resentment, public humiliation. I notice that it was four friends who brought this man. Where was his family? Are they embarrassed by this man? Has family

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

conflict been a lifestyle for this man? Perhaps the sins forgiven became his empowerment to seek reconciliation and peace at home.

Thirteen years ago, Capstone Ministries was founded on the same principle of running toward the chaos. It is so easy to be side-tracked or even retreat from the chaos in Africa. The needs are very visible, like a man lying on a cot carried by four friends. Visiting trained men and women from abroad observe and conclude they have the answer. Well intentioned mercy often leads to addressing the physical as #1 priority. We have seen it. It is about as attractive as a dollop of whipped cream on a bowl of rotten fruit. It is a sideways maneuver in the battle for souls and it often leaves the victims in a worse state than before. We have known missionaries who give into self-orientation and bitterness and run away. It is sad. Sadder still is that Satan delights in this. He loves it when the church retreats and believes the illusions he creates. Only by running toward the chaos, seeing the unseen, believing that the Gospel is a life altering power, addressing family issues head on, standing our ground for the godly principles of repentance, forgiveness, family and faith causes Satan to retreat and reduce his opportunities for returning fire.

No one believed that street children could be rescued and reconciled when we started. *"You can't do that,"* we heard time and time again, *"The obstacles are too powerful: poverty, abuse, witchcraft and abandonment; besides the parents don't even want these children."* Thirteen years later the Lord through the dedicated staff of Capstone has reconciled child #470. ***"The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes"*** Psalm 118:22 God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries.

## **Missionary insights**

We thought it might prove useful to describe some of the invaluable lessons we have learned about cross cultural mission work in a third world country. We write this column not suggesting we know everything; in fact one of the lessons we have learned is that once you have assumed you know everything, it is a sure sign that you know little. Cross cultural mission work is a process of learning. There is always more to learn. So here are a few items we are suggesting as food for thought for those considering supporting or becoming involved personally in mission work. Watch for this column each month as we will focus only on one or two each month. (Cont. on next column)

(Continued from previous column)

## **Go slow.... Start small.**

Like the story of the hare and the tortoise, going too fast almost always spells doom. This is particularly important for mission boards that set policy and objectives for missionaries to understand. Moving quickly seldom sets relationships at a premium and the proclamation of the Gospel is always about relationship. Speed also communicates foreign ideal not local priorities. Most people living in the equatorial regions of the world have a culture that values people over time. If a missionary arrives and starts pushing too quickly, there will not only be push back but ears will close. Speed also communicates money: the great temptation and the root of evil in many missionary endeavors.

A slower pace also allows for a missionary to adjust personally to a different way of life, gain valuable respect by listening, and reduce stress.

When I started raising chickens, I began with a joko (rooster) and a few hens. I learned valuable lessons by not buying many initially. I learned how being a chicken farmer was so daily, the importance of cleaning the coop, vaccination timetables and the like.

Small steps initially in mission work send a message to the community. You win more respect by listening than by talking. And listening takes time, time you will not have if you have big ideals and objectives. Ownership and partnership in mission work are critical to long term stability. If one brings in lots of money from the outside to get things moving quickly, it sends a message and undermines local ownership. (Continued on column opposite)

The benefits of going slow and starting small:

- a. It allows for adjustment without sacrifice of large investment
- b. It follows the Biblical principle of increase from faithfulness
- c. It enhances ownership. An owned problem leads to an owned solution.
- d. It is culturally sensitive and focuses on listening
- e. Accountability is observable
- f. It does not attract those with selfish motives
- g. It is culturally sensitive
- h. It allows for proper training and hiring of indigenous staff
- i. It avoids the natural egotistical temptation for the outsider
- j. It enhances relationship

Next month: "Ego, Culture and Mission"

## 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 10 boys and girls in June 2018. They are pictured below. L-R beginning at the top:



George Chacha #461



Khalid Auga #462K



Michael Ochieng #463R



Rebecca Akoth #464



Joseph Omondi #465



Felix Oyoo #466K



Javan Oseno #467



Michael Mgodu #468



Victor Omondi #469R



Mitchele Akinyi #470K

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a long process and already in 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade pupils and ten 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

