



# 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:

# 477

7 went home July  
(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.

## "The Obstacle to Reconciliation is I"

*"I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." John 6:26,27*

I am a seeker of comfort when I fly, particularly on long transatlantic flights to and from Africa. I like to get a lounge pass for a lengthy layover, try to board as soon as possible so as to make sure I have access to the overhead locker for my carry-on, covet the arm rest between my seat and the person next to me and list goes on. I am not particularly patient when a child is seated behind me and incessantly kicks my seat. On a recent flight to Nairobi from Abu Dhabi, I sat next to a man with bad body odor. I muttered to myself about the crying child two rows behind me, the lady playing videos on her laptop without ear buds. I have repeatedly broken the second table of God's Law on flights. I can love my neighbor. The Spirit does live within me. However, my selfish sinful flesh rears its ugly head in the shared space at 35,000 feet with 250 other sinners.

The men and women who enjoyed the miraculous meal of bread and fish that Jesus provided on a hillside in Galilee had the same problem. They chased Jesus from Tiberias to Capernaum not because they saw the miracle as a sign that the Son of God was with them. They gave into their selfish nature and ran after him for baser reasons. They ate without cost. As Jesus said, *"Because you ate the loaves and had your fill."* How quickly and easily we allow our own personal desires for creature comforts to push the real Jesus away, even as we pursue him!

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. But human beings don't like thinking about "lostness" much less the spiritual solution, even when it is standing right in front of them. Children are particularly vulnerable to the temptations that come wrapped in bright and shiny wrapping. They need the guidance of parents to help them see that what is good and lasting may require looking beyond the immediate.

Capstone staff work on the streets to encourage children who have been victims of misplaced selfish priorities. Sometimes the children themselves have been the perpetrators and made bad choices. In any event, sin has put them in a place that needs a spiritual solution.

There are also enemies of reconciliation at work on the streets of Kisumu. Some are there with good intentions, offering food and other goodies. Very often those hand-outs create a very real temptation for

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

the child to remain on the street and avoid facing the real spiritual and emotional need he has for God and family. They make it even more difficult for our staff to counsel a child about home. “Why should I go home when I can get more and better food here?” a child will often tell our staff. The good intention of the enabler has actually encouraged the child to adopt the same attitude as those who chased Jesus around the lake. And so, the child remains vulnerable, waiting for the next hand-out.

There are also predators on the street with impure, even hostile motivation. Trafficking of children for evil purposes is the dirty little secret on the street. We have been involved several times in the rescue of children caught in that sinful and selfish web.

And then there are those who actually think they are helping but have no real long term plan for the child. Several individuals have recently been reported to the County Children’s Department who are working with street children without any permission to do so. Some use children to beg for money in exchange for a place to sleep. Others address needs with no real solutions.

Jesus addressed the misplaced selfish motivations of man by offering himself *as “the bread of life.”* If you read the rest of John 6 you will hear Jesus repeatedly refer to himself as the bread come down from heaven. Yet the listeners resist, argue and even attack Jesus verbally. Such is the nature of the selfish nature of man. A self-oriented heart does not surrender easily. It kicks and screams against the very thing it needs.

Capstone staff have heard every rationalization for sin and selfishness. It comes from the child, parents, relatives and sometimes even others working on the street. It would be enough for most to throw up their hands and give up....except for one thing, one person: Jesus. He is more powerful than the most corrupt selfish heart. He changes minds and blesses beyond belief. He sends his Spirit to encourage and build up.

Each child’s picture on the next page represents a very real spiritual battleground where forces of evil fight and resist the Father. Jesus told his disciples privately in the latter verses of ch. 6, ***“No one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”*** Jn. 6:65 Pray for our staff who are on the front lines and caught in the crossfire between selfishness and the Spirit.

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.

### Ego, Culture and Mission.

You have the opportunity to choose between two roles in a ministry or a company. In role #1 you are put in the limelight. You receive all the kudos from others as you are the image of all that is successful in the work. However there is a degree of self-deception. You believe you are effective but in reality, nothing positive is actually taking place. In fact, your efforts are doing more harm than good. In Role #2, you serve others who are involved in very effective work. But it is for you to do the less glamorous work. Few recognize you for the impact the work is having. Sometimes you feel like you aren’t really helping. But in reality, the work and/or ministry is extremely effective. Goals are met and lives are changed.

May I ask, which role would you choose? One of the unspoken truths of missiology is that real effective mission work is about service, humility before God and others. It is not glamorous. Those who thrust themselves into the spotlight very often are accomplishing very little. Ego has no effective place in mission work. It turns the objectives on its head. It turns the Gospel into a “me” centered activity.

This is particularly true in a cross cultural context. Empowering and supporting same culture ministry is extremely more effective than attempting to cross the cultural lines. In fact, we have found that the less contact we have with the street children we strive to rescue, reconcile and restore the more effective the work is. But I will also admit that realization did not come easily or naturally. We learned the hard way. We made mistakes. We loved being very involved, meeting kids and their families. But it wasn’t effective. Accepting that fact was not easy and took time. Eventually we recognized how much better it was for children and their families to be ministered to by our staff.

All missionaries struggle with the choice between Role #1 and #2. But in the end, only #2 makes a difference.

Next month: **“Accountability and Stewardship”**

## 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:



Felix Onyango #471



Felix Otieno #472



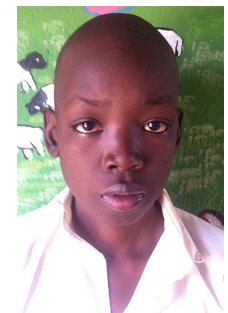
George Okello #473



Joshua Onyango #474R



Brian Odhiambo #475



Emmanuel Kastina #476R



George Otieno #477



# 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**

