



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone” Psalm 118:22

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

488

3 boys went home in
October

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“The Power of We”

On October 25, I was invited to speak at a “Q Commons” Conference at Fairfax Community Church in Fairfax, VA. The Conference which featured 3 national professional speakers and 3 local speakers focused on the great challenge in our society: creating community in an increasing polarized society. Below is the text of my presentation.

“Ubuntu” is an old Bantu term that has been translated “I am because we are!” I first heard the term about ten years ago in speech given by Prof. PLO Patrick Lumumba, former head of Anti-Corruption Commission in Kenya. He used the term “Ubuntu” to describe the ancient African cultural context of community. It is just one of the ways that American and African cultures differ. Our roots, in the west, are firmly entrenched in the concept of individualism whereas African society is based on a collective or community concept.

You may have heard the word “Ubuntu”. It has been co-opted by politicians and business people, sometimes adjusted and to express their own agendas.

Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of S. Africa named his Foundation, the Ubuntu Foundation and focuses on peace and justice.

Even the Boston Celtics in 2008 under Coach Doc Rivers adopted the term to focus on “Collective Success.” The team would break the huddle before play by shouting “Ubuntu” together!

The common thread and attraction of many to the concept of “Ubuntu”, I believe, is based on our natural desire for community. God made us social creatures that thrive in relationship. The Lord expressed this in Genesis 2:18 with the observation of Adam, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” That I believe is a reference to the innate need in each of us for community. Community had been perfect. There was no selfishness, no corruption, no brokenness, no co-dependent relationship, and no heartache. Reconciliation and forgiveness were unknown concepts. There was never a need to reconcile because sin had never divided them. It was the last and only perfect relationship.

Needless to say, we do not live in a Genesis 2 world. We live in the fallen world of Genesis 3. It is a sad world where selfishness and blaming is an all too common response to one’s own failings. Adam reacts with guilt and shame to the probing question from the Lord, “Did you eat of the tree?”

(cont. on p. 2 left side)

And so he attempts to shift blame and responsibility. The phrase he uses: "The woman you gave me," reflects his own brokenness. This tendency is not only common in our world today; it is often our first reaction when there are hot issues to be discussed. We point away from ourselves and at others. "They are the problem. They need to change," we shout! And this tendency creates cracks in community.

The greatest truth we have discovered in sixteen years of serving in the mission field is the truth expressed in Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Relationship and reconciliation can and does happen. However, reconciliation is a divine endeavor. Human beings are merely the facilitators of the divine. In nearly 100% of the 485 children Capstone Ministries has reconciled in the last 13 years, the problem was relational, lack of community. Someone at home had done exactly what Adam and Eve did in the Garden: someone prioritized his own selfish desires and violated the bond of family: of community! The Power of Me usurped the Power of We. There are several ways the power of me expresses itself in Africa and puts family at risk. It is the father who uses his small wage on alcohol instead of food for his family. It is the step-mother who shows preferential treatment to her own biological children over the children of her new husband. It is the pressure of peer influence that tempts a child to skip school, collect scrap metal for a few shillings and spend the day watching football in a makeshift theater instead of studying in school. Jesus said it well to Nicodemus in John 3. "Light has come into the world but men loved darkness instead of light." (John 3:19)

However the Lord has entrusted to us the Keys to the Kingdom, the keys to restoration and relationship. Forgiveness is the key that opens the door to restored relationship and to community.

On a recent counseling visit, one of our staff,

Jeremiah was to visit a family where the son had stolen the father's money and the father was still struggling with forgiveness. Jeremiah decided to employ one of the lessons from the recently implemented spiritual toolkit. He proceeded to tell the story of Genesis 50. Joseph reassures his brothers, who are filled with fear and guilt. He tells them again that they are forgiven and responds to their suspicion with kindness and grace. The father, to whom Jeremiah told that story, knew he needed to remind his son that he was forgiven. That is how reconciliation happens. We show grace as we respond to grace received. The Power of We between us and the Lord is restored at the cross. The vertical community with God is restored so that the horizontal might also be reconciled.

That is "Ubuntu"! If I might offer my own translation. "We are because He is!"

(Abbreviated for space)

Travel Schedule

Nov. 11 River of Life Lutheran, Saukeville, WI
Nov. 14 Messiah Lutheran LWML, Beloit, WI
Nov. 17,18 First Immanuel Lutheran, Cedarburg, WI
Dec. 1,2 Our Savior Lutheran, Sparks, NV
Dec. 9 St. Peter's Lutheran, Lodi, CA

Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support

Name _____ Address _____
State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____
Special Designation if any _____ Donation Amount _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries. All donations are tax deductible.

Email: CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org

Send to: Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080, Oakdale, CA 95361

October Rescues

During the month of October, three boys were rescued by Capstone staff and taken home. Their photos are below. They are Vincent Ouma, Haston Acholla, Kennedy Onyango.



Capstone Ministries Education Program (revised)

The value of education in Kenya is priceless. Experience has shown us not every child has the ability to cope up in a secondary boarding environment. We have restructured our program to give more kids the opportunity to be assisted in high school at various levels according to the child's abilities, gifts and interests. This also opens up greater opportunities for donors to assist at a level suited for individual budgets. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE EDUCATION TEAM!

High School Boarding

A student who qualifies for boarding school sponsorship will score a slightly above average mark in his/her grade 8 exam. The average cost in this category is \$650. Per year.

High School – Day School

A child in Day School will be attending a school nearest his / her home. These students are usually below average and have experienced many gaps in their learning career. By the third year in High School if a student has shown great progress and is able to keep up at a grade A or B level Capstone will consider a transfer into a Boarding School in the last two years. The cost of Day Schools is generally half the cost of Boarding. A student sponsored in Day School is \$325.00 per year.

Vocational Training

A child who is greatly delayed or just not gifted in academics and who has not passed the grade 8 exam will be given the option of sponsorship in a vocational training school. Capstone does not make these decisions. The family is required to set this path in motion and get the child started in the school. Capstone will step alongside a student with sponsorship once one term has passed and grades reflect a serious commitment on the part of the student. Vocational training is a two-year programs and on average are \$300.00 per year.

University Assistance

If a child has qualified for university Capstone will mentor and guide the student in applying for the government student loan. All of our current university students are attending under this program. Occasionally there may be delays in the funding of the loans or other problems that can cause a student financial stress. Capstone has found it necessary to assist one of our students on a one-time basis. We would like to build a university assistance fund for these situations.

Join the Capstone Education Sponsorship Team

- 1) Join the team and sponsor a student in Boarding, Day School or Vocational Training.
- 2) Donate toward the program with a one-time donation or monthly contribution
- 3) Either way, we will put your name and email on the "Team" list and keep you updated on the Education Program and the students.