



Capstone Ministries



Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!

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

Christmas Newsletter of Capstone Ministries, Kisumu, Kenya, December, 2018 Volume 13 Special Issue

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Capstone Ministries is an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) of LC-MS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.)



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The number of street boys reconciled with family by Capstone Ministries to date:	490
	1 boy went home in November

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 Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org



“Merry Christmas”



“She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available to them.” Luke 2:7

The Christmas season has become incredibly commercial in recent years with many retailers starting Christmas promotions and decorations as early as September. In light of this, it is wise to remember the real reason for the season stated in Luke 2 above. Patty and I are spending Christmas in the US for the first time in many years. Usually we spend Christmas in the Kakamega Rain Forest at the Rondo Retreat Center where Christmas Eve is celebrated with a simple carol service in the candle-lit chapel. The entire center returns to a simpler time with a focus on the birth of Jesus.

A few years ago, Patty and I enjoyed a few weeks before Christmas in Bavaria, Germany. We thoroughly enjoyed some of the German traditions surrounding Christmas: namely Christmas markets, (Weihnachtsmarkte) gluhwein, grilled sausages, Kris Kringle and a special children’s song about the Christmas Bakery (Weihnachts Bakerei).

We were there for a very unique day called St. Nicholas Day (Sankt Nikolaus Tag). On Dec. 5 children place a freshly polished pair of boots in front of their bedroom doors. They do this in the hope that St. Nicholas and his assistant Knecht Ruprecht will visit their house. While there, perhaps he will leave a little gift in the boots, such as chocolate, nuts or fruits, or a bag of gummy bears. On the morning of December 6th, parents have no trouble getting their children out of bed! They will already have snuck out of the bedroom to peak at what St. Nicholas has brought them. Children who have been well behaved in the past year will find a treat. But according to tradition, those who have not, will receive a lump of coal in their boots courtesy of Knecht Ruprecht who carries a sack of coal on his shoulders.

(cont. on p. 2 left side)

Unfortunately, not all children enjoy abundant material blessings that surround Christmas. For many families in Kenya, the struggle for their daily bread makes Christmas just another day.

Each year our staff designates a Christmas gift package of food supplies for the most needy families. A photo of a family receiving their gift is below.



During December, we encourage you to support a family or two from the plenty with which the Lord has blessed you! \$25 will provide a food package for one family. Why not start a new tradition this Christmas. Send your Christmas gift to the address below.

If you would like to consider a larger gift, please consider a gift toward our new Education Fund which will assist families enrolling their children in secondary school or vocational training. The details of this program were outlined in the December newsletter in detail. You can read it online at www.capstoneministries.org

A long-time friend of Capstone Ministries has committed to matching all gifts given in 2019 to the Education Fund up to \$5000. Donate today and have your gift matched! Double your impact! God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries!!

Street Children Prevention

There is an oft quoted statement from Benjamin Franklin that says: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!” Mr. Franklin was addressing fire prevention originally but the emphasis can be applied to many aspects of life including social and family problems. It is always better to address family and community issues before they explode and create the need for serious counseling and reconciliation.

Recently Capstone staff were invited by the chief in the Luanda area to address the community regarding the work of Capstone Ministries. A chief is a government employee who oversees local communities.



Capstone staff addresses the gathering at the chief’s meeting in Luanda.

This came about as the result of a referral from the chief in Kima who had attended Capstone Camp in August of 2018. The chief was so impressed with the work of Capstone that he invited the staff to visit his office and discuss how Capstone might be able to enhance his efforts at counseling families in dysfunction.



Christmas Donation: Capstone Ministries & Dan and Patty support

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

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