



# 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**

**April, 2019 Volume 14 Issue 4**

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The number of  
street boys  
reconciled with  
family by  
Capstone  
Ministries this  
year!

# 508

***11 went home in  
March***



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.  
Easy instructions on p. 3

# "500"

***"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."***

Hebrews 12:1



Benson Osuka, shown above marks the 500 child rescued from the streets of Kisumu and reconciled at home by Capstone. This is truly a milestone in the history of Capstone Ministries and beyond our wildest imagination or dream when Capstone began in 2005. Each year Capstone staff have become more and more proficient in working with children on the street and doing everything possible to make sure they (mostly boys) do remain at home and are enrolled in school.

This past month the 500<sup>th</sup> child was rescued from the streets of Kisumu. Pictured above, Benson Osuka was taken home to Luanda (a rural town about 15 miles northwest of Kisumu). He is staying with his grandparents for now. His parents and his siblings are living in Nairobi. His repeating class 7 and performed poorly last year in class 7. There are a number of issues yet to

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

address from his living arrangement to his academics. As we have often mentioned in presentations, reconciliation is a process that is best addressed at home and not isolated in an institution. Close follow up with the family will continue with Benson's case as with all rescues. This is the key to enhancing stability at home. Almost always reconciliation is an internal dynamic of the heart, not a change in physical circumstance.

We rejoice with you at this milestone in the history of Capstone Ministries. Benson finds himself on the cover of this newsletter only because he is #500 in the ongoing work of the ministry. Every other boy and girl reconciled is just as precious and receives ongoing counseling and assistance when and where appropriate.

God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries.

## Capstone Staff Retreat 2019

Each year in March Capstone Staff go on retreat at a local mission or guest house. We started this in 2014 from a designated gift from Chrysta Schmelzer (Dan's Mom). The retreat is for rest, relaxation and recharge. The idea is based on Jesus invitation to his disciples in Mark 6:31 *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* It is specifically noted in the earlier verses that there was so much to do and so many people coming to Jesus for assistance that he saw the need for the disciples and him to take a little while to rest.



**Jumping on top of the granite mountain.**

This is an aspect of mission and ministry that is often overlooked for the sake of the work that needs to be done and the pressing serious nature of the work. Many a missionary and mission agency has the misguided perspective that "it is better to burn out than to rust out!" I can't tell you how many times I have heard that under the banner of faithful missions. I don't believe Jesus called us to either. Long term effective service means taking care of oneself physically and emotionally.



**Climbing down**



**Zip lining**

On retreat Capstone staff have a comfortable place to stay, good food and plenty of recreational opportunities. This year we stayed for two nights at Diguna Mission Station in the Nandi Hills northeast of Kisumu. We were hosted by the resident missionaries who come from an area just outside Stuttgart, Germany. Victor and Lena have served at Diguna for six years. "Diguna" in German means "The Good News." They were founded in the early 90's and have two nice guest houses which they offer to missionaries and ministries on a referral basis.

Capstone Staff spent the two full days reading, relaxing, sharing the Word together, zip lining, hiking the granite hills, team building and resting.



**Swings!**



**Sharing stories!**



## Do you use the “Shares” Savemart card when shopping?

### Attention: Program Change

The Shares program no longer allows support to individual charities outside of the few designated by SaveMart. Our thanks to SaveMart for their support in the past and to those who have faithfully shopped at SaveMart on the west coast and designated Capstone as their charity of choice.

### Education Fund

We are seeking donors for the Education Fund. One of our long-time donors offered to match all gifts to the Education Fund in 2019 up to \$5000. To date we have received \$3000 toward that matching goal. If you would like to designate your gift toward the education or vocational training of one of our reconciled boys or girls, just indicate this on the “memo line” on your check.

### Travel Schedule

Dan will be traveling in the US from late April to late May. His schedule is below.

April 27 LWML Zone Rally Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA

April 29-May 1 NED Pastor’s Conference

May 4 Trinity Lutheran Africa Mission Fair, Freistadt, WI

May 5 Messiah Lutheran, Beloit, WI

May 12 & 13 St. James Lutheran, S. St. Paul, MN

May 15 Trinity Lutheran School, Toledo, OH

May 19 Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH

May 25,26 Risen Savior, Franklin, WI

Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

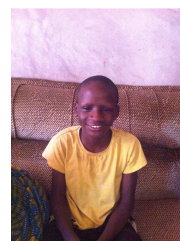
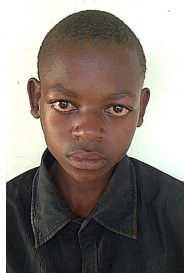
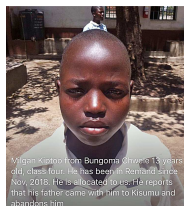
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Designation? \_\_\_\_\_

## New Rescues

Capstone has rescued 10 boys and 1 girl and reconciled them at home during March. They are from L to R below: Milgan Kiptoo, Lewis Mwabaka, Benson Osuka, Dennis Mchesi, Granton Otieno, Duncan Omondi, Samuel Ochieng, Dominic Ochieng, Peter Ngugi, Junior Otieno, Josephine Omuronji



## Mission Perspectives: “Money and Mission Matters”

Satan’s first temptation listed in the Gospels is the temptation of the material. He offered a hungry Jesus the temptation to use his power to turn a stone into bread and take care of his obvious physical needs.

Benjamin Franklin once said of money, *“Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one.”*

And for you Simpsons fans:

Homer: *“Mr. Burns, you’re the richest man in the world! You own everything!”*

Mr. Burns: *“Ah, yes, but I’d give it all away to have just a little bit more.”*

Solomon wrote **“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.”** Eccl. 5:10

And one last one from Buzzie Bavasi: *“We live by the Golden Rule. Those who have the gold make the rules.”*

That last one introduces this month’s topic on money and missions. It is probably one of the most critical topics for a missionary and a mission board. And I believe it is given the least amount of time in forming an approach and a priority in mission.

I have seen entire indigenous churches completely destroyed by fights over money. Usually the fight is not about their own money. It is almost always foreign mission money. But the most damage done by money is in human hearts. It shifts priorities, divides friends, tempts pastors and some even have lost their lives because of greed. Be not mistaken, greed kills. And it matters not whether you are rich or living in abject poverty.

A missionary would be wise to study thoroughly how his resources are perceived in mission and ministry. 90% of the temptation of money is not the actual cash but the perception of its availability and how it is distributed. A missionary who has not rightly divided the temptation and allure of money for himself or herself is a disaster waiting to happen on the mission field. It can be so tempting for the one who has the unconscious belief that money solves problems to act and talk in a way that the expenditure of money among the poor will effect change. IT WILL NOT! In fact, the uncalculated expenditure of resources can ruin the very person you believe you

are helping. And I am not just talking about the danger of creating dependency. God often uses “need” to get our attention and to teach us valuable lessons. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3 if you need convincing! God admits that he was the author of poverty among the Israelites as a way of teaching them that man does not find life in the material but in the Word. That divine appointment within the heart that craves the material over the Word is a sacred time between God’s child and his creator. An impulsive and insensitive missionary can quite quickly interrupt that appointment and spoil what God has been doing.

There is nothing quite so alluring and seductive as an appreciative person you have helped solve a material problem with your hand out. In their book “When Helping Hurts” the authors refer to this condition as the “God-complex.” In some rural areas of Africa, this sinful and prideful man may be referred to as “Makubwa!” (The Big Man) He is the one from whose pockets, rivers of cash flow! In the process, he dares to sit on the throne designed only for the Almighty himself.

This human condition is not limited to the one looking to curry favor or manipulate opinion. It can also be the well intentioned and sincere believer who has never been shown the titanium-like chain between the pocketbook and the human heart. He sees a need and wants to meet it, relieve suffering as it is perceived by his virgin mission eyes.

It certainly may not need saying for this limited readership but let me say it anyway. There is only one force in the universe that changes hearts and it is not the greenback! It is the sweet news of Jesus Christ, a Savior who restores our precious souls into a right relationship with him. If I may offer a conundrum: How do well schooled theologians, those who can detect the slightest wrong motivation in their home church, come to a third world country like Kenya and suddenly set their mature spiritual instincts on a shelf?

Money! It can be an instrument for good in a fallen world but be not deceived; it has another face that means to kill and destroy.