



# 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**

**June 4, 2019 Volume 14 Issue 6**

## **In this Issue**

Page 1: "Double-edged Sword"

p. 2: "Sword cont."

p. 3 Photos of 7 rescued boys & 1 girl

p. 3 Education Fund and Travel schedule

p. 4 Mission Perspectives and POM



### **USA Address:**

Capstone Ministries  
P.O. Box 2080  
Oakdale, CA 95361

### **Kenya Address:**

Dan and Patty Schmelzer  
P.O. Box 3962  
Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)



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

# 516

***8 went home in  
April & May***

 **Thrivent Financial**  
for Lutherans

Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



## **"Double-edged Sword"**

***"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*** Hebrews 4:12

Every Jewish reader of Hebrews was very familiar with the image described above. Roman foot soldiers carried a double-edged sword called a gladius. It was an efficient weapon used in hand to hand combat. The soldier used it to both stab and slash. It could find its way in small openings between armor or to get around a shield. The image is a metaphor here used by the author to illustrate the effectiveness of the word of God. He calls it ***"living and active."*** Just as the gladius would often be used to penetrate and even divide joints while in combat, the Word of God—His spoken and written Word—does the same within the human soul.

Human beings have developed defense mechanisms against the Word, much like the armor of a soldier. We rationalize, deny, and deflect. This is a common trait of people all over the world. But the Word remains powerful and effective in addressing man's greatest need: reconciliation with God! Like a skilled surgeon wielding a scalpel; his cuts both wound and bring healing by exposing and removing the hidden cancer within, the Word does the same by exposing the sin beneath the surface, restoring life and bringing hope.



**Joint Bible Study Gathering at ELCK Cathedral in Kisumu, April 17**

This is the true nature of mission work. It is the use of the Word to reconcile and restore fallen men, women and children with their Creator and Redeemer. It is part and parcel of the work of Capstone Ministries and happens every single day in all aspects of the work.



**A member registers upon arrival**

Most pointedly, this swordsmanship takes place in the 13 small group Bible Studies, supervised by Pastors Isaiah and Zadok as Capstone staff. Every month, many of the parents/guardians of reconciled children gather in small groups around Western Kenya to study the Word and allow the best Physician to use His sword on their inner being.



**Pastor Abuor addresses the gathering and shares the Word**

Every other year, the groups gather together for a morning of reflection on the Word and how it has changed their lives. On April 17, many of the members of these 13 groups came together at the ELCK Lake Diocese Cathedral in Kisumu. It is a time of learning, testimonies, prayer and fellowship that enhances and strengthens the faith of all.



**A parent shares her dramatic testimony of reconciliation with her son, giving praise to God**

Pastor Joseph Abuor, the provost of the Lutheran Cathedral Parish opened the session with the Word. All Capstone staff introduced themselves. Each attendee introduced himself/herself and described the son or daughter who had been reconciled at home. Pastor Isaiah outlined the objectives of the gathering for new participants who had not previously attended. Numerous testimonies were given by participants. Several gave moving testimonies of reconciliation and profoundly thanked Capstone Ministries for the good work in uplifting their family.



**Lunch is served**

Each member attended the gathering at their own expense with Capstone paying for their fare to return home.

The day concluded with a lunch provided by Capstone Ministries. Joy and thankfulness filled the hearts of Capstone staff and Bible Study participants.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of Capstone Ministries. Because of your partnership in the Gospel, these families are now living a life of reconciliation, faith and hope in Jesus. God bless you!



## **“Shares” Savemart card**

### **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 and Patty will be traveling in the US from early September to early December. Their schedule will be posted here next month. Watch for their appearance near you.

Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

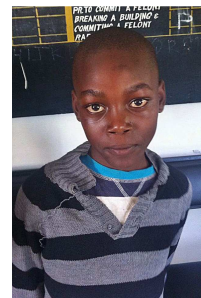
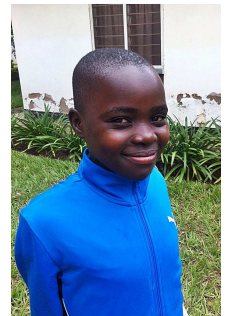
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **New Rescues**

Capstone has rescued 7 boys and 1 girl and reconciled them at home during April and May. They are from L to R below: Suliemon Saidi, Caroline Anyango, Kevin Nykyundi, Dalmas Mongaka, John Okoth, Simeon Odhiambo, Branol Odhiambo, Austin Owondo.



## 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.

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