



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

July, 2019 Volume 14 Issue 7

In this Issue

Page 1: "Prevention and a Pound of Cure"

p. 2: "Prevention ... cont."

p. 2 Vocational Training Sponsorship begins

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

Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org



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

522

***6 went home in
June***

Check out Capstone
on Facebook.

 **Thrivent Financial
for Lutherans**



"Prevention and a Pound of Cure"

"A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel" Proverbs 15:18

It was 1736 in Philadelphia when Benjamin Franklin advised a fire threatened city that *"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."* It is an axiom that has been applied to many different aspects of life since then, most often in the medical arena. Take your vitamins, stop smoking, lose weight, go for an annual physical, brush your teeth, change the car oil! These are all aspects of human behavior where this axiom has been used to encourage people to do things now in order to prevent more serious situations later. There is wisdom in the axiom.

Capstone Ministries has embarked on a similar approach to the issue of street children. It is based on the idea that there are some things we can do to prevent children from running to the street. We have already started meeting with two chiefs in the Luanda area where most street kids in Kisumu are from. Both of these chiefs already have positive perceptions of Capstone and one visited Capstone Camp last year. We will continue with this community based initiative to sensitize specific rural areas on things they can do to keep children at home and in the community



(Cont. on 2 left column)

Some of these things are:

1. Stop the sellers of glue to children who huff it to get high
2. Regulate scrap metal dealers who buy metal from children
3. Public vehicle conductors to be on the look-out for children traveling alone
4. Market dealers prevented from employing children
5. Video kiosk owners not to allow children inside during school hours

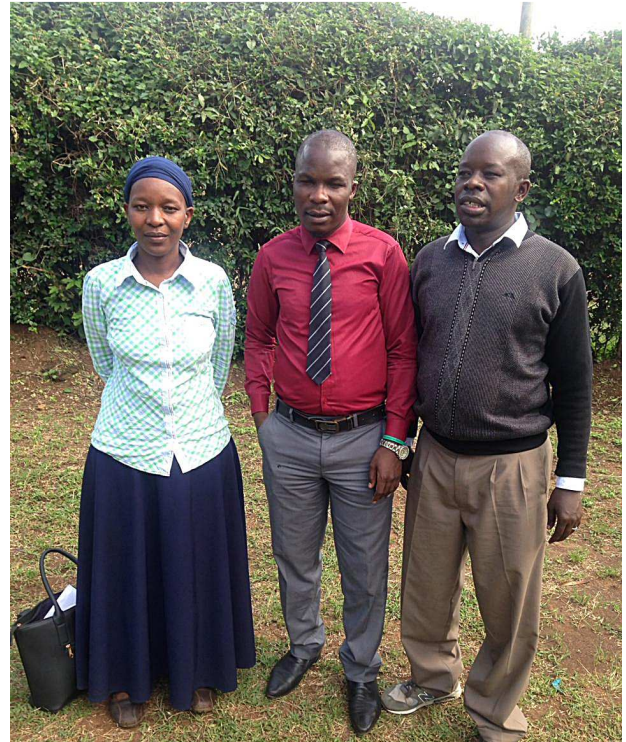
On Sept 22, Capstone staff also held a one hour discussion with the Radio Talk show host John Otieno. The presentation continued on Sept. 29 and the next two successive Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM



Capstone staff in the studio of Radio Nam Lolwe 97.3 FM
L-R: Benard Ochieng, former street boy, Milkah Ochieng,
Johannes Abuso, Pastor Isaiah Apiyo

The local Luo speaking Radio station called “Nam Lolwe” at 97.3 FM welcomed Capstone Ministries to present topics such as

1. Why do children run away from home and to the street
2. What can parents and the community do to prevent this
3. How does Capstone reconcile street kids with families?
4. How important is follow-up counseling to enhance reconciliation between parents and children
5. The testimony of a boy who was reconciled and is now enrolled in the University
6. What are some family enrichment programs of Capstone that encourage children to remain at home
7. What are the spiritual aspects of reconciliation and why are they important.
8. How does Capstone Camp enhance the emotional and spiritual stability of vulnerable children?
9. Encouraging youth to consider educational opportunities and vocational training to gain skills that can be employed.



Week #1 presenters with host John Otieno in the middle. L-R: Jael Ochola, John Otieno, Pastor Isaiah Apiyo.

On the first Saturday staff of Capstone included Jael Ochola, Isaiah Apiyo and Daniel Siombi who discussed the phenomenon of street kids in Kisumu, along with where they come from and how Capstone staff interact regularly with kids on the street. The unique approach of “direct reintegration” practiced by Capstone that eliminates the temptation of dependency and prevents further attachment disorders was discussed.

On the second week Milkah Ochieng, Johannes Abuso, Isaiah Apiyo and former street boy Benard Ochieng presented a lively discussion the process of reconciliation that takes place on follow-up visits by Capstone staff. Benard gave a moving testimony of his time on the street, how Capstone helped him to reconcile at home and overcome challenges so that he succeeded in school and is now enrolled in University.

The final 15 minutes of the hour addressed listeners who called in to the station to ask questions. The presentations will continue over the next two Saturdays. Our thanks to Trinity Lutheran of Freistadt, Wisconsin and the Africa Mission Auction for supporting this initiative. May God bless all of you who support this work.

“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.

Travel Schedule

Dan and Patty will be traveling in the US in late 2019.
Here is the schedule so far

East Coast

September 1st – Wollston, MA

8th – Open

11th –RC Scituate

15th –Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT

17-19 Capstone Board Retreat

22nd – Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH

29th—Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA

October 6 – Open

October 13 – Open

October 20 – Open

October 27 – Open

October 27-29 New England District Pastor’s Conference
California

November 3 – Open

Nov. 10 – Open

Nov. 17 – Open

Nov. 24 -- Open

Midwest

Dec. 1 – Open

Dec. 8 – Open Return to Kenya – Dec. 11

Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

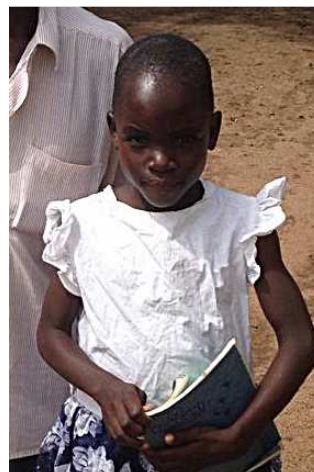
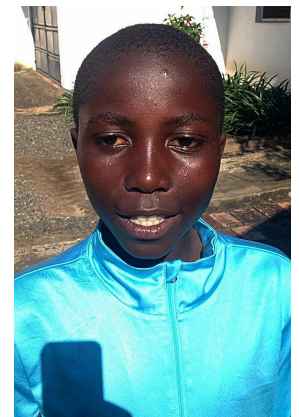
Email _____

Donation Amount _____

Designation? _____

New Rescues

Capstone has rescued 5 boys and 1 girl and reconciled them at home during June. They are from L to R below: Evans Odhiambo, Mourice Ochieng, Kennedy Oumo, Kepher Obwa, Abigail Atieno, Peter Owido.



Vocational Training Option

Around the world, economies are in short supply of skills in the trades. Even in Kenya there is a demand for mechanics, masons, carpenters and welders. With the restructuring of Capstone's Educational Assistance Program, one of the major advancements has been the addition of assistance for those boys who are not gifted academically and want to pursue vocational training.

Capstone now has four students supported in vocational training. Capstone staff visits with those pupils who are performing poorly as they finish primary school; they counsel the child and parents to consider vocational training as an option to High School. This enables a boy to begin to assist the family with a skill that makes him much for employable or even self-employed. Here are the boys currently training. L-R, they are Bradley Ishmael, Chris Odhiambo, Dennis Lachinga, Emmanuel Muguhya.

Many boys who spend time on the street have compromised academic ability for a number of reasons. Also a failing High School grade is not attractive on a resume when you search for a job. Some of these boys are much older than their classmates in primary school. An alternative route to employment blesses their future and their families. It also gives them a "transportable" skill. They can always pursue a High School certificate by taking adult classes once they are employed.

You may support this program by simply marking Education Fund on your check when you contribute.

