



# 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**

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The number of  
street boys  
reconciled with  
family by  
Capstone  
Ministries since  
2005

# 527

***5 went home in  
July***



Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



Capstone Ministries is an RSO of the LC-  
MS (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

## **"A Harvest of Righteousness"**

***"Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness"*** James 3:18

It may be August in the USA but it is harvest season in Kenya. Maize planted in early April, is now ready for harvesting. Every Kenyan considers himself a farmer. Even urban dwellers will travel back home at the time of planting and harvesting. It is a long standing cultural tradition that dates back centuries. You will only harvest if you plant.

In 2005, Dan and Patty had a vision for the reconciliation of boys living on the streets of Kisumu. Many of you reading this, stood with us then, despite the challenges and obstacles. It was a time of planting. Few missionaries then, were willing to consider even the possibility of a street boy being reconciled with family. Some may remember that we moved on from another organization and founded Capstone because we believed so strongly in the idea that children belonged at home. Those were times of planting to be sure. Back then, we were the only ones focused solely on the idea that children should be at home.

In 2008, we rescued a boy by the name of Maxwell Abwamba. He was taken back home to Luanda. The challenges at the time were significant. There were relational issues between Maxwell and his father that continue to be a challenge.



(Maxwell today)

But Maxwell persevered. He entered Kaimosi Secondary School in 2011 and graduated in 2014. Eventually he found employment

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

with an NGO(Non-governmental Organization) called Vibrant Village Foundation which helps rural farmers to produce better crops. All along Maxwell had a love for and a gift for drawing. In fact, Pastor Isaiah Apiyo, who was then (2008) a vicar at the Kisumu ELCK Cathedral recalls visiting the Capstone street outreach and sitting with Maxwell who was engaged in drawing while the other boys talked and played.

(Book cover  
By Maxwell)



Recently I (Dan) began writing a book about rural African life, the challenges that are specific to rural life and the rich Christian faith of many who live in the rural areas. I wanted to demonstrate in story-form the role that the Gospel plays in the reconciliation and restoration of family who have passed through significant challenges. **The Long Road Home** was born.

Patty and I discussed the idea of asking Maxwell to draw a few images that would complement the story. I met with him and he began to work on a few. Over the next few months we met four or five times, reviewing sketches, and discussing ideas for the next images. I suggested he try to do a color drawing for the cover of the book. I wanted a picture of reconciliation that was still in process, perhaps a father with his son—fresh from the street in tattered clothes—on their way home. In an image I wanted the expression of the time it takes to walk the road of faith and challenge. I could not have been happier with what he produced in watercolor.

Several chapters in the book detail the twists and turns families encounter. The opening chapter sets the stage of a warm and delightful family life as

Alphonse and Timo spend a Saturday fishing along the Awach in a small town in western Kenya called Katito.



Father and son love to discuss football (soccer), each has his own favorite English Premier League team and the father treats his son by taking him to a small video kiosk in Katito where they watch their two teams clash.

Katito  
village with  
video kiosk



Significant challenges then are faced by Timo and his family. (Sorry, you will have to read the book to discover for yourself) In the end Timo is reconciled with his family again through the intervention of Capstone Ministries staff. The book chronicles in a very realistic way the process of reconciliation. The story honors the culture and Christian faith of Kenyans. It strives to avoid any sense of pity or condescension that is all too prevalent in American stories of African life. The book elevates the concepts of forgiveness and

(cont. on p. 3)

## “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:

#### East Coast

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Wollaston Lutheran, Quincy MA  
 Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – Open  
 Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Rotary Club of Scituate  
 Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT  
 Sept. 17-19 Capstone Board Retreat, Eden Ridge, TN  
 Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH  
 Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> – Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA  
 October 6 – Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT  
 October 13 – Island Lutheran, Hilton Head Island, SC  
 October 20 – Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT  
 October 27 – Redeemer Lutheran, Smithfield, RI  
 October 27-29 – New England District Pastor’s Conference

#### California

November 3 – St. John’s Lutheran, Fallon, NV  
 Nov. 10 – (tent.) St. Peter’s Lutheran, Lodi, CA  
 Nov. 17 – (tent.) St. Peter’s Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA  
 Nov. 24 – United Lutheran, Manteca, CA

#### Midwest

Dec. 1 – Messiah Lutheran, Mounds View, MN  
 Dec. 8 – Village Lutheran, Ladue, MO  
 Return to Kenya – Dec. 11

Donation: For Capstone and support for Dan & Patty

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

spiritual values while addressing the very real temptations of evil and self-indulgence. Many of the incidents are based on actual events which Capstone Ministries staff have encountered.

Maxwell has persevered at home. He is patient with a father who has struggled with alcohol over the years. He also lives with and is the caretaker for his elderly grandmother. He was one of the motivational speakers for the H.S. sponsored boys of Capstone at the mentoring meeting in April. He addressed the temptations of H.S. life and encouraged the boys to pursue the areas of their life where God has gifted them. It was an inspiring talk based on the life of someone who has walked in their shoes and succeeded.

Maxwell is currently working on images for my (Dan) new book on the experiences of Cleopas. (Luke 24:18)

Sometimes the Lord allows the one who plants to also experience the harvest. When it happens, it gives the heart joy, especially when it also produces humility and unselfishness. God bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries and especially for supporting the Education Fund of Capstone that allows these boys to attend High School.

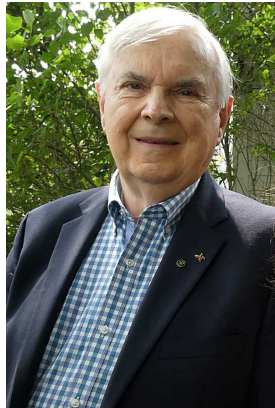
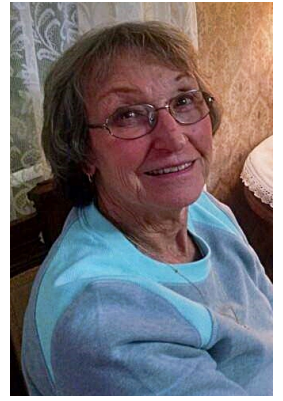
The Long Road Home is available on Amazon.com. Just search for Daniel Schmelzer.



Timo shows off his marks to  
Capstone staff Daniel.

## Capstone Ministries Board of Directors

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Capstone Ministries Board of Directors. From L-R: Chairman David Hudon from CT and FL; Pastor Robert Schipul from MA; Delano Meyer from MN; Pastor Randall Pekari from CT; Jeff Long from MI and TN; Judie Brown from CA; Theresa Russell from CA; Ann Jedele from KS and CO; Pastor Philip Reimers from CO, Robert Wellnitz from CA



## New Rescues

Capstone has rescued 5 boys and reconciled them at home during June. They are from L to R below: Nelson Ochieng, Elvis Nyandara, Arnold Wilson, Armstrong Beti, Wilson Okonjo.

