



# 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

# 562

*As of May, 2020*



**Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.**



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

## **"Grace in the face of disgrace"**

***"Jeremiah was put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon, where he remained a long time. Then King Zedekiah sent for him and had him brought to the palace, where he asked him privately, 'Is there any word from the Lord?'" Jeremiah 37:16, 17***

The true measure of character is one's response under pressure, pain and persecution. Psychologists and counselors are all too familiar with the concept of "acting out." Sometimes it is called "misplaced aggression." An individual suffers injustice or random misfortune. The natural man's response is to retaliate and often the recipient isn't even connected to the misfortune. Examples? A husband is fired from his job, comes home, and takes it out on his wife and kids. Or, an example very close to home right now: someone watches on TV as a police officer abuses and kills an unarmed man in custody and responds by burning down a business unrelated to the entire circumstance.

If there was ever a prophet who could relate to state sponsored injustice, it was Jeremiah. Two puppet kings of Judah, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah were relentless in their hostility toward Jeremiah and his message. But Jeremiah's faith in the Lord did not waver, despite frequent time spent in dungeons--like the instance above--and prisons. His crime? He spoke the truth.

It is interesting to note the marked difference in the challenges facing people in 1<sup>st</sup> world countries vs. those in the 3<sup>rd</sup> world. This is not intended to minimize the impact on any during these challenging times. 1<sup>st</sup> world citizens are struggling with depression, loneliness, isolation and anxiety. Yet there is a safety net of unemployment insurance, stimulus payments, PPP and more. In Kenya and many 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, the economic impact of COVID19 has created staggering poverty and this on top of vast flooding that has destroyed homes and crops, a locust plague that is consuming vast swaths of vegetation. Food and shelter are the very real need for many.

Back to Jeremiah. Take the time to read how Jeremiah responded to Zedekiah in the rest of chapter 37. He is calm, polite and almost deferential. This despite the king's willingness to allow Jeremiah's enemies to berate and abuse him. Amazing! That is spiritual maturity! It is grace in the face of disgrace.

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

At Capstone, we are weighing the great need of many of the families as a result of the economic downturn in the country. It has not hurt all the same. In fact, subsistence farmers outside of the flooded areas have experienced little hardship through all of this. Others who are employed or are small scale traders feel the impact from reduced movement in market areas and as a result, less sales. Last month we were able to assist 15 identified families in dire need. In May, we have identified an additional 10 families for food assistance.



We have also taken measures to protect our staff as they have returned to full time work on the street and in visiting homes. Staff go with bar soap and two face masks when they leave the office. So if they take time to talk to a boy on the street, they begin by talking about safe measures that they should also observe, as they are able. They do the same when they visit homes on follow up visits. Staff are also requested to maintain social distance in the office and to wear a face mask when they cannot. The same applies when they travel on public transport.

**Jeremiah, Capstone staff counsel with a street boy in the park while both are masked. A sign of the times!**



## Prayers for Patty

Patty continues to recover and receive treatment for ITP in California. She has maintained a consistent “sweet spot” platelet count now for 2 months. Dan, who is still in Kenya is scheduled to fly to California on June 18.

## Orongo Flood Relief

Two churches and several individuals sent support for churches just outside Kisumu who were impacted by recent heavy flooding. Several members had their homes destroyed and all the members were relocated to a nearby school.

