



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

611

***Rescued to date
3 rescued in Nov.***



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



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

"The Long Road Home"

"We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." Psalm 100:3

He pulled up next to my truck at an intersection in Kisumu. "Mr. Dan, I thought that was you! How are you," he shouted from behind the wheel of his Tuk-Tuk. (A tuk-tuk is a three wheeled taxi, common in Kenya) Traffic began to back up around us as we quickly made an appointment to meet later in the week. Robert (not his real name) arrived right on time at our house on a Monday. We talked for several minutes outside the gate and I gave him my last copy of the book, "The Long Road Home." I told him to read it and then come back on Thursday and give me his perspective on the story I had crafted into a book about a reconciled street boy.

Robert showed up this morning and we talked for about an hour. He shared how different his life was from Timo's (Timo is the main character in the book.) "You know, every boy's situation is different in the street," he said. He then went on to talk non-stop for 30 minutes, describing all the events that led to his time in the street. It was therapeutic for him, I believe, to share his life. More than 15 years have passed since we had been involved in reconciling him with his family but the story and its details seemed fresh and real to Robert. Interspersed in his reliving of the past were repeated passionate statements about "Home" and "Belonging." Robert's connection to home has been a challenge, yet his desire for that solid feeling remains.

As Patty and I make the transition to stay in the guest house on the Capstone compound, there have been painful and emotional moments as we pack our belongings, relocate our dogs, bury a beloved cat, sell off various items, and move others. No few tears have been shed as we recall all the momentous times spent in our home of 16 years. While Capstone will continue with the same objectives and vision in Kenya, our role is shifting from on-site missionaries to working more on the US side, visiting churches and enhancing support. Thankfully we have a solid team and wonderful leadership in Kenya that allows us to make this transition. But still, as Robert shared his life, it reminded me how important it is for human beings to know their home: earthly and heavenly!

Psalm 100 is known as a Thanksgiving Psalm. You may

Have heard it read this past Thanksgiving. The focus is the joy and gladness in knowing ***“we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.”*** That is the ultimate sense of security and feeling solid.

As we move into Advent and make preparations for our Christmas celebrations, take time to remember and be grateful. Rejoice and be glad for we are His!

Our hearts are bursting the joy in what God has done through Capstone Ministries over the years. 611 boys and girls have been reconciled with family. Many of those families have also been impacted as their sons and daughters were supported in school; real and lasting change has affected the entire family through Capstone Camp, countless others have been nourished with the Word in one of the 15 home Bible study groups. Patty and I have had a front-row seat for it all. There can be no other response than to say with the Psalmist ***“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.”*** Psalm 100:1,2 God bless each of you for your gifts and prayers over the years.

Enjoy some of the images and memories from our short visit here since Nov. 12.



Long time friends and Capstone Board member: Eunice and Paul Gimode



Ground cover spells out C*A*P*S*T*O*N*E as you enter



Boy on the street huffing glue: Stark reminder of how much this work is needed

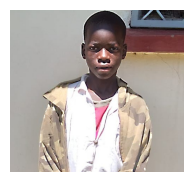


Enjoying fellowship with the Arch-Bishop of the ELCK: good friend Dr. Joseph Ochola.

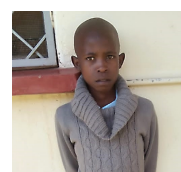


Patty shares a hug with Timo and Dan, sons of Pastor Isaiah Apiyo

Three boys rescued in November



Benson



Boston



Brian