



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

589

Rescued to date

35 rescued in 2020

3 in January



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



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

"2020 in Review"

"Remember Him--before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:6,7

Wise words from Solomon as we embark on another year. **"Remember,"** Solomon encourages. It is certainly not something you hear much about 2020. Most of us would prefer to forget the past year. COVID has taken more lives than we care to contemplate, political and social strife has filled our country during the heated election. So much to forget! Move on, some might say. Solomon, however encourages us to **"Remember."** But he speaks not of events or catastrophes in the past but rather, Solomon reminds us to **"Remember Him!"** He does so because unlike so many shifting sands in our life, the Lord changes not. His love and Word endure forever. He is the anchor in the storm, the guiding compass in a sea of turmoil, a rock that is unmoved in a torrent of raging around us.

As we look back on the ministry of Capstone in the past year, we do so grateful that the Lord has not changed but continues to bless the work of reconciling street children in western Kenya.

In the past, I have used the January newsletter to recount the events of the previous year. However, I used the January newsletter to highlight a milestone in the life of a boy who was rescued in 2006. Gabriel married in Nairobi and we included his story along with several pictures from the wedding. So, I am using the February newsletter to remember the blessings God has bestowed on Capstone in 2020.

The year began with medical challenges for Patty. After a brief return to Kenya, she went through a relapse of her ITP condition, was hospitalized in Kisumu for five days before flying home in February with an extremely low platelet count. Much of the first half of the year was spent enduring the high dosages of Prednisone to help her body recover. She is now out of danger but still taking Promacta which **"encourages"** platelet production.

Dan returned to the US in June after Kenya had shut down all international flights. He was able to secure a seat on a

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Japanese repatriation flight to Addis Ababa where he made a connection with United Airlines through Frankfurt, Germany, Washington DC and finally San Francisco.

The operations of Capstone were briefly shut down in March for three weeks and then opened slowly with significant protocols to protect the staff. Isaiah Apiyo, the most capable Operations Supervisor and Pastor at Capstone worked tirelessly to manage the staff and ministry in trying times. Despite the circumstances of the pandemic, the staff still managed to rescue 35 boys and girls from the street and reconcile them with their families. They also set up a system for tutoring and monitoring the children while schools were closed. Only recently schools have reopened in Kenya with a three-year plan to get all students back on track.

Capstone continues to offer scholarships to High School to needy and achieving students. 32 boys and girls are receiving financial assistance with High School fees. Five boys have chosen to pursue vocational training and are currently enrolled.

Several aspects of the work were postponed in 2020 due to social distancing issues. In normal years we would have held Capstone Camp in August and High School mentoring in April as well as welcoming members of the 13 small group Bible studies to a joint meeting. We look forward to renewing those projects in the coming year.

In mid-year several income generating projects were initiated with the intent of supplying food and income for our rural families. A kitchen garden project kept the boys busy digging, weeding and harvesting through the year as well as a chicken project provided eggs and chicks to a number of families in need. Capstone also did some emergency food assistance and a Christmas gift package of food and supplies to about 40 families to help sustain them.

Dan has received the Pfizer vaccination and will return to Kenya on March 3 for six weeks. Upon his return Dan and Patty intend to begin visiting supporting churches. Watch for a schedule of visits in the coming months.

We are most grateful to those who have stood by us during the past year with prayer and financial support. May the Lord richly bless you.

News and Notes

-School in Kenya is opening and we encourage those who sponsor individual students in High School to submit gift for those going back to school.

-COVID infections in Kenya are rising but not nearly as fast as in the US.

-Dan received the Pfizer vaccine just a few days ago and will receive his second dose on Feb. 18 before returning to Kenya on March 3. We hope Patty will receive the vaccine in April/May before we embark on our visit to various churches.

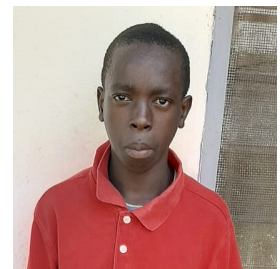
-Plans tentatively are planned for both a post-Easter visit to churches on the West Coast and in the Midwest. A fall visit to the East Coast, Carolinas, and Florida is also in the planning stage. Watch for these announcements in the coming months.

-When you make a donation to Capstone, a letter noting the accumulated donation to date is listed for your taxes. In case you have misplaced your letter after your most recent donation, please send us an email and we will send you one for 2020. Thanks as always for your generosity.

Rescues in January



Frederick Otieno



Hillary Agenya



Michael Anyando