



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

617

***Rescued to date
5 rescued in Jan.***



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



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

"Lifted from the Mud and Mire"

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire and set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."
Psalm 40:1-3

It is one of the great mysteries of life and faith. Why is God's rescue at times quick and dramatic at and other times slow, painful, and gradual? We all know people who have died in horrible pain, sometimes as the result of evil and dastardly actions of wicked people. And we also know those who were in utter peril and without hope of survival but were spared miraculously. This logical conundrum seemingly defies logic.

I do not pretend to have the answers to these mysteries. But it is the essence of faith to trust in God's good and gracious will for all for without faith, we are left without any hope. St. Paul reminds us as well, ***"Who are you, O man, to talk back to God."*** (Romans 8:20) It is good to be reminded that we are only the clay and He is the potter. We view our world through the tainted spectacles of sin and a fallen nature, limited to only part of the story. He does so from the supreme vantage point beyond time and space.

I was reminded of this when Patty and I were in Kenya in November last year. We received the good news that Austin Odhiambo had graduated from university. This was a remarkable achievement for a boy who had not only at one time been on the streets of Kisumu but had endured the unfair hazing of cruel and wicked classmates. He now could truly say with King David, ***"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire and set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stay. He put a new song in my mouth..."***

Austin lost both his parents when he was still in primary school and went to live with an aunt in Manyatta, a slum estate of Kisumu. However, the husband of the aunt was a violent alcoholic and chased the boy away. He was only on the streets of Kisumu for two days before Capstone staff rescued him on Sept. 26, 2013. He stayed at the Capstone Transition Center while attending primary school and eventually qualified for Ngere Secondary School.



Austin at Capstone Camp while in High School

However, Austin's struggles only worsened in secondary school. He complained to Capstone Staff that boys in his H.S. were trying to lure him into a cult of homosexuals. Upon investigation, it was discovered that it was true and Austin was transferred to another school, where he thrived and even qualified for a government scholarship to university.



Austin attending mentorship with Capstone staff

Austin took full advantage of all the advice Capstone staff gave him and studied hard. He attended the mentorship program held during spring break on the Lutheran Church compound in Kisumu and listened keenly to the staff who encouraged him to study hard in his new school.



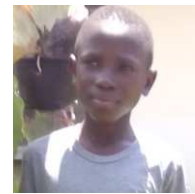
Austin, second from right with other High School boys during mentoring

Austin is just one of several other boys who had persevered through High School and gone on to university under the guidance of Capstone Ministries. We are truly proud of how far the Lord has brought Austin. To be sure, the Lord has put a new song in Austin's mouth and a hymn of praise to our God.



God bless you for your faithful support of Capstone Ministries.

Rescues: 5 boys were rescued in January



They are Alex, Brian, Gilbert, Ian, and Ibrahim.