



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

587

***Rescued to date
2 went home in
December***



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



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

"Fields for Harvest"

"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." John 4:35

When Jesus and the disciples left Jerusalem for Galilee, John makes the comment in his Gospel: ***"Now he had to go through Samaria."*** Most see those words from Jesus as expressing His will to go through Samaria. Most Judeans would not step foot in the land of their hated rivals, the Samaritans. The Jewish conflict with Samaria went back centuries. Most Judeans would make a point to travel to Galilee from Judea after taking a major detour. Instead of taking the road through Shechem straight north from Jerusalem, they would travel east, cross the Jordan so as not to even step foot in Samaria. Yet Jesus makes a special point of crossing directly through Samaria on his way north to Galilee. John 4 records the dramatic meeting between a woman with a questionable reputation and Jesus at Jacob's ancient well. After the conversation between the two, the woman is convinced that Jesus is the Messiah. When the disciples return from obtaining food in the nearby town of Sychar, Jesus describes the spiritual opportunity for the good news to be spread among the Samaritans. He uses the analogy of a harvest field.

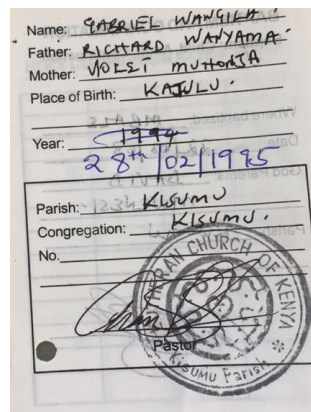
This story has provided many a missionary with insight into the Lord's will and desire to reach all with the good news, particularly in the most unexpected places.

Fifteen years ago, Dan and Patty felt God's call on their heart and life to rescue and redeem the street children of Western Kenya. To some this must have seemed like the most inhospitable and unlikely of places to do mission work. The challenges were overwhelming and seemingly implausible. Even the indigenous residents of Kisumu in Western Kenya viewed street kids as unredeemable. Repeatedly we were told that street kids would not change and could not be reconciled with family. Fast forward to 2021 and Capstone Ministries has reconciled 587 street children with God and family. Truly it could be said of this mission field that the fields were ripe for harvest. It could be said that the Lord looks at opportunities much differently than people do.

Those early steps in 2005 and 2006 were taken by faith and not by sight. Successful rescues came with great struggle. With the eyes of faith, we persevered and now in hindsight we

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

are we able to see the Lord's hand at work. This newsletter offers a peak into the affirmation of God's vision for the fields of Kisumu and environs. This is the story of Gabriel Wangila who faced tremendous challenges at home. Both his parents were alcoholic and violent. As a result, Gabriel ran to the streets of Kisumu and after 3 weeks was rescued by a Capstone staff member on Nov. 13, 2007. He spent a year at a transition center in Mbale in the rural area north of Kisumu. He attended one of the first Capstone Camps and was baptized by Dan on August 22, 2008.



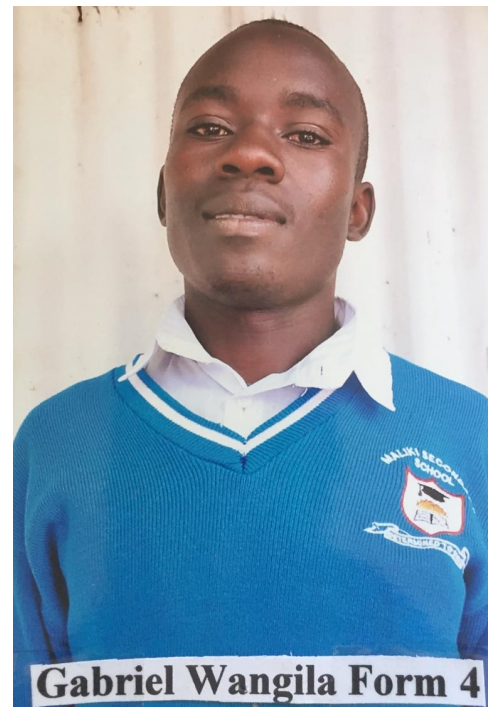
He returned to his home after Camp and was finally accepted by his parents after a number of counseling sessions with Capstone staff.



Gabriel with his parents at home

His spiritual development at the Transition Center and by Capstone staff visits began to bear fruit as Gabriel volunteered to teach Sunday School at his home church. He was enrolled at Kamusinde Primary School and graduated with average marks. He was among the first to receive a sponsorship to High School through Capstone and graduated with a C-.

. He attended Maliki Secondary School and his photo below was posted with pride on the Capstone bulletin board.



Gabriel showed patience and perseverance at home over the next four years while remaining at home. He helped with the family farm and did other volunteer work. He had not finished with high enough grades to qualify for a college scholarship from the government. He finally enrolled at the National Industrial Training Authority and studied Mechanical Engineering Production.

Seeking employment in Kenya can be fraught with many challenges as often HR departments seek bribes from applicants. Gabriel persevered again and sought employment over the next several years without any results. Finally, in 2018 he was employed by East African Foundation that produces rings and gears. He has been employed at EAF for the last two years and has been a faithful employee.

Having secured stable employment, Gabriel was ready for the next stage of his development: becoming a husband.

Early in December he sent us a message via "WhatsApp" announcing his engagement

and plans to wed on Dec. 12th in Nairobi. We were not able to attend the wedding but let him know we were very proud of him and wanted to feature his story in this newsletter. He is and his wife, Elizabeth Nafula, are pictured below along with the wedding party.



Not always does the Lord allow the one who plants be the one who harvests as well. We rejoice with Gabriel and Elizabeth. They have started their marriage well, asking God's blessing and asking Him to be the third strand, and as Solomon said very appropriately: "A cord of three strands is not easily broken!" Ecclesiastes 4:12

God bless you for standing with Capstone in prayer and support. A family cycle of substance abuse and violence has been changed with Gabriel. It was a challenge but the "Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalm 118:22

News and Notes

-Prayers are requested for Dan and Patty who currently are staying in California, which is experiencing a surge in COVID infections.

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

-Dan continues to wait for a vaccine to be administered before returning to Kenya. As a diabetic, we felt it best to hold off for a few more months before returning to Kenya.

-Capstone staff are taking precautions, traveling only short distances and focusing on street work, as well as updating files during this past month.

-Plans are being made for a post-Easter visit to churches. 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.

-We rejoice that Pastor Isaiah and Sophie have been blessed with a third child: Neema Abigail. Here is her baptismal photo.

