



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

595

***Rescued to date
1 in May***



Check out Capstone
on Facebook.



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

"God the Builder"

"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything" Hebrews 3:4

"East, west, home is best." This proverb isn't particularly old. It first appeared in print in a collection of international proverbs by the English writer Walter Keating Kelly in 1859. Kelly introduced it as a translation of an earlier German proverb: "Ost und West, daheim das Best." The English preacher Charles Spurgeon used a variant of it in John Ploughman's Talk in 1869: "East and west, Home is best."

Regardless of the origin, it expresses the vision of Capstone Ministries as an approach to vulnerable children. One may wander far from home, but nothing is better than the place where you belong: home.

Home is more than a place to hang your hat or shelter from the storm. It is about relationship and familial ties. It does not matter if the house is palatial and filled with marble and gold or a simple mud hut with a thatched roof. The essential ingredients are the people and the Lord who brought you together.

But what happens when a house is destroyed and a simple place to lay one's head in the evening is threatened by wind and rain? In the book of James, he asks a rhetorical question about the important role between works of mercy and faith. ***"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"*** James 2:15,16 Most experienced missionaries will tell you that whether to help or not with physical needs of others is not the important issue. What is important is HOW you help.

At Capstone, our focus is the spiritual aspects of reconciliation, for these are the truly lasting needs. We emphasize the need for honesty, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. However, we are not blind to the physical needs of many of the rural families we work with. Last year when the pandemic struck, so did the floods in western Kenya. Many were displaced from homes and forced to take shelter in schools or any building not inundated. We did what we could through the spiritual shepherds in the area. Many were assisted who were left without food, blankets or shelter.

A number of Capstone families were also assisted with food stuffs. One family in particular reported a devastating loss. The house of Michael Magondi had collapsed and injured the single mother inside. The roof and one of the mud walls had fallen down. The staff discussed how best to assist and it was decided to help with the iron sheets needed to restore the roof.

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

The family, through friends and relatives raised the funds to repair the walls and treat the mother who was injured. The family is very grateful for the assistance Capstone has offered to stabilize the living environment of the family.



Michael (far left) with his family



Inside the home with Michael's mother on the bed

Rescues in May

One boy was rescued in May. He is pictured below. His name is Julius Okc



Schedule of Visits

Dan and Patty have begun their visitation of churches and individuals who have or are interested in supporting Capstone Ministries. Due to the uncertainty of when we can return to Kenya, we are scheduled only through July at this point. Below is the schedule. Feel free to contact us if you would like us to visit you or your church.

April 24, 25.....Trinity, Freistadt, WI
 May 9.....United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
 May 12.....Chapel, St Peter School, Lodi, CA
 May 16.....St. Peter's Lutheran, Elk Grove, CA
 May 17.....St. Peter School, Classroom visits
 May 23..St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lodi, CA
 June 6.....St. John's Lutheran, Fallon, NV
 June 13..... St. John, Quincy Township, WI
Christ Lutheran, Dellwood Township, WI
 June 20,21...St.. James Lutheran, S. St. Paul, MN
 June 27.....Zion Lutheran, Morris, MN
 July 11.....Messiah Lutheran, Beloit, WI
 July 18.....Risen Savior Lutheran, Franklin, WI

Good News about Patty

A month or so ago, Patty's hematologist has declared her ITP blood disorder in remission. We are overjoyed at this good news.

New Book Published

Dan has completed his fourth book. This one is on the life of Joseph and is based on the events in Genesis 37-43. It includes a six session Bible Study at the back of the book. It is available on Amazon.

