



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

March, 2020 Volume 16 Issue 3

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The number of
street boys
reconciled with
family by
Capstone
Ministries since
2005

591

***Rescued to date
2 in February***



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on Facebook.



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

"The Kingdom will be the Lord's"

"Deliverers will go up on Mount Zion to govern the mountains of Esau. And the kingdom will be the Lord's." Obadiah 21

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" Many of you remember those words used by a coach when we were young. It is an appeal to that part of us that takes pride in overcoming all obstacles when times are challenging. Perhaps you remember hearing your high-school football coach repeating these words during wind sprints.

Certainly, all of us have had our fair share of tough times during the past year. I have heard many appeals to human resilience. A sign just around the corner of our house in the US proclaims, *"Never give up!"* Several companies have used the slogan, *"We are in this together,"* to encourage unity and strength in adversity.

The Lord's prophet Obadiah, a contemporary of Jeremiah, witnessed something much worse than a pandemic. God's remaining two tribes of Judah have been repeatedly attacked by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Only the old, infirm and weak remain. Everyone else is a slave in Babylon. Times are not just tough, they are desperate. In addition, the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother, are rubbing salt in the wound, gloating over Judah's destruction by the world power. God's people had been humbled and humiliated. Good and bad alike had become slaves. The covenant God had made with Father Abraham seemed like a lost dream.

What does a prophet of God say to people living with the consequences of their own misdeeds? And what do you say to those faithful like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Do you say, *"When the going gets tough, the tough get going!"* or *"Quit yourselves like men!"*

It is much easier to be a pastor when the pews are full and the offering plate overflowing. But what do you say when your people are afraid, unemployed, or dying? Ask Obadiah. He knew just what to say: ***"The kingdom will be the Lord's!"*** I can only imagine how tough it was to speak those words and even more so, to hear them.

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

Capstone's work has never been about Dan and Patty. From the beginning, we have always emphasized that this is the Lord's kingdom work. That said, it has been a challenge to be away from Kenya since last June.

I am most pleased to report that I (Dan) have returned to Kenya. On March 3 I boarded my flight out of Sacramento for Denver, Frankfurt and Nairobi. With a negative COVID test in hand and having received the Pfizer vaccine weeks earlier, it was time to return home. Along the way, one could observe just how paralyzed the world has become. Empty planes and terminals that are normally packed with people, mask mandates observed, protocol signs everywhere. What a joy to finally land in Kisumu on March 5 and be welcomed with familiar scenes, family pets and smiling staff.



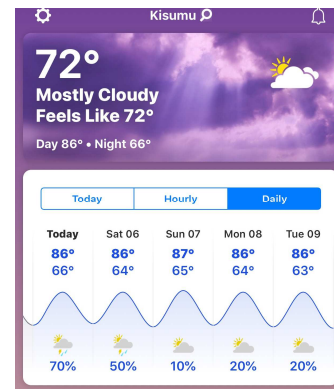
Kisumu baggage terminal



Traffic jams of Nairobi have not changed



Willie and Paka welcomed me home



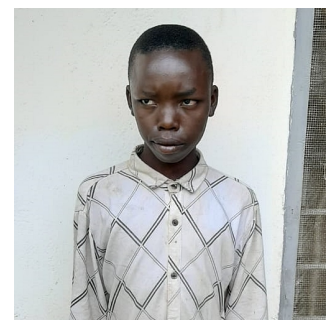
Warm temps in the forecast

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.

Rescues in February



Boniface Odhiambo



Clinton Okello