



# 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, 2022 Volume 17 Issue 3**

## **In this Issue**

- Page 1: "Faith Overcomes"  
2: "Faith" cont.  
2: Rescues in February  
2: Saints who are in heaven



### **USA Address:**

Capstone Ministries  
P.O. Box 2080  
Oakdale, CA 95361

### **Kenya Address:**

Dan and Patty Schmelzer  
P.O. Box 3962  
Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Email: [CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Website: [WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://WWW.CapstoneMinistries.org)



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

# 619

***Rescued to date  
2 rescued in Feb..***



**Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.**



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

## **"Faith Overcomes"**

*"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, 'Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.'*

*Elisha replied to her, 'How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?'*

*'Your servant has nothing there at all,' she said, 'except a small jar of olive oil.'*

*Elisha said, 'Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.'*

*She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another one.'*

*But he replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing. She went and told the man of God, and he said, 'Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.'"*

"When it rains, it pours." This oft quoted saying describes tragic events that seem to multiply to an almost overwhelming level. It can leave one feeling alone and abandoned. During the last few months, we have grieved for the family of Rev. Tim Yeadon and Pastor Ingo Dutzman, two dear friends in the New England District of LCMS who loved and supported Capstone Ministries. Then we received the tragic news that the grandfather of one of our boys--Kepha Manoa--had passed away and another boy--Victor Otieno--who was rescued in 2018 had been murdered. Then last Saturday our dear dog of 10 years--Willie--succumbed to an internal infection and died.

I confessed to a friend last week that "Death really stinks." It felt really good to say that. It was never God's intention that people die. It is a result of sin's intrusion into God's perfect world. This violation of life even brought our Savior to tears as he mourned the death of Lazarus.

But there is victory, purpose, and faith even in the midst of death. The family of the Ingo and Tim, know there is hope in the resurrection of Jesus. Kepha and Victor's family know the same joy and hope in Jesus. Death is merely the door, albeit a painful one, to the presence of our victorious King. For our staff in Kenya, I pray that these events will serve to redouble our efforts to bring this victorious message to even more children living on the streets of Kisumu.

I chose the text above to illustrate just how devastating a death

(Cont. p. 2 left column)

can be on those left behind. A prophet died and left behind a widow. Evidently the prophet had not planned his finances well and the widow was left with debts. Creditors were even threatening her two sons with prison over their father's debts. Elisha encourages her and her sons to look to her community for assistance. ***"Ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few."*** (Vs. 3)

Grief often leads us to retreat into our own thoughts. Elisha sends the widow to her neighbors. The key to renewed hope and stability? Community! "No man is an island," English poet John Donne wrote. We need each other and especially in the fellowship of God's people.

The gathering of jars by the sons was not just about the containers. A clay jar was a valuable commodity in Elisha's day. In our throw-away culture that may seem strange. Asking for a jar, meant some conversation needed to take place. Imagine the conversation turning to the real need in the hearts of these two sons. Think of the encouraging words spoken. Elisha knew this. The asking for jars was just the excuse to get the boys back into the community to hear from neighbors and friends.

Ultimately, the miracle of the "never-ending" oil filled the exact number of jars the sons asked for. Was that a coincidence or do you think Elisha (and the Lord) was teaching the family something about fellowship, community, and hope after a tragedy?

I don't imagine it was easy for the sons to interact with their community having just lost their father. It took fortitude and faith.

Boys who run to the streets are seeking isolation from the very people they need. It is the natural instinct of fallen people to run away from the consequences of our sin. It is not natural to seek counsel when we are hurting from self-inflicted wounds. But like Elisha, Capstone staff encourage boys struggling with the pain of life to return to the point of pain, repent, and seek solutions in God and community.

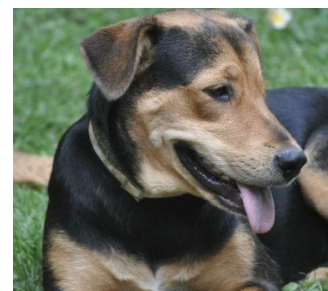
As we begin another season of Lent in the church, we reflect and repent. We do so not because it is easy but because we have a Father in heaven who welcomes us with open arms when we return. As he wraps his loving arms around us, we know we are home and we wonder why we wandered in the first place.

God bless you for your gifts to Capstone Ministries. May you feel the warmth of the Gospel proclaimed in your fellowship of believers.



Victor Otieno was reconciled with his family on June 26, 2018. He was tragically murdered.

Willie was not only a dear sweet pet of Dan and Patty, she was beloved by many missionaries in Kisumu. Many raised her pups. She had a unique personality and will be fondly remembered.



## Rescues: 2 boys were rescued in February

They are Collins and Kennedy:



Pastors Ingo Dutzman and Tim Yeadon. Rest in Peace, my friends!

