



# 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

# 647

***Rescued to date  
1 rescued in Oct.***



**Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.**



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

## **"Ripe for Harvest"**

***"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."***

After Jesus encounter with the women at Jacob's well, he reveals to her that He is indeed the promised Messiah she has been asking about. In this knowledge she runs into town to tell the people of Sychar that she has found the Messiah. As she departs, the disciples return from the same city with food.

Jesus uses a common expression among farmers that it takes time after planting to reap a harvest. The area of Jacob's well was a fertile valley which may have been full of wheat fields at this time of year. He uses this image as a metaphor for the many souls in the area who are eagerly waiting for the good news that Messiah had come. This woman was just one of many that would follow.

For the past 17 years we and the staff of Capstone Ministries have been planting seeds, watching them grow, tilling the soil, weeding and fertilizing. This past Saturday we had planned an "Alumni event." Those boys who had passed through Capstone, many sponsored in primary and secondary school, some even in university were invited for a celebratory event at a nearby church compound. It was a day for rejoicing at the work of the Gospel in the hearts of these boys.

It began with the very early arrival of boys who had come by overnight bus from Nairobi. The event was kicked off with tea and mandazi (African donut) in the dining hall. Many of these boys have not seen each other in 10 years. They joked with each other and how some had grown fat.

The formal gathering began at 8:00 AM with introductions and welcoming of honored guests: The ELCK Lake Diocese Bishop Titus, a representative of the Kenya Capstone Board, the chairman of the US Board (Dave Hudon) with his wife (Shari) and brother-in-law (Richard), and the Director of the Children's Detention Center.

Bishop Titus opened with the Word from Luke 17, "The One Thankful Leper." After that the boys sang, recited poems they had learned at Capstone Camp. One boy even remembered the poem from 2017 and recited it perfectly. The remainder of the morning was filled with powerful testimonies from the boys.

They recalled what had brought them to the streets of Kisumu and very honestly confessed when they were the ones guilty of running away. Forces such as peer pressure, selfishness, laziness, self-hatred, and even stupidity were admitted to through tears. Each profusely thanked Capstone Ministries for the intervention in their lives. Many reflected on where their life could be without the encouragement, financial assistance with school fees, and correction in counseling.

Also invited was Livingstone Karui who is the district Boy Scout trainer for the Nyanza region. He has served as a volunteer at each Capstone Camp and was well known to every boy as 95% of the attendees had been to Capstone Camp. That statistic alone is a powerful testimony of the effectiveness of Capstone Camp.

Lunch was served about 2:00 by Moses Odipo, whom Dan and Patty have known for 20+ years. He is an excellent cook and has a catering business now in Kisumu. Tasty morsels of chicken, beef, rice, and of course mounds of ugali were enjoyed by all. Rumor has it, one boy even went back for seconds, thirds, and fourths.

As a significant side note, one boy spoke of his desire to study theology after he finishes his University Major in Mathematics. Dan, of course, did not miss the opportunity to invite him to the Reformation Service at the Lutheran Cathedral which followed the next day. The young man remained just for the service and enjoyed meeting the Lake Diocese Bishop who encouraged him to volunteer for Campus Ministry with the Lutheran pastor in Kakamega where he is attending school. We may have a pastor coming from the streets of Kisumu very soon. What a thrill! From the street to the pulpit! Imagine the powerful testimony this young man will have!

On the following pages you find photos of the event. Enjoy. We also want to encourage all to support the Fund-Raising effort going on through Patty's Facebook page. Each Tuesday, she posts a video from Kenya and asks that you respond with a donation. Please also share the post with your friends. May God richly bless all of you who have been faithful supporters of Capstone. This is a month for rejoicing in the harvest we have been privileged to see in the lives of these boys. Praise God for that!



**The attendees, staff and guests**

### **LWML Grant Application**

Capstone is applying for a national LWML grant. The application will be reviewed by the grant committee and if selected, be presented at the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee in June 2023. The grant will provide for secondary school and vocational school scholarships for 32 former street boys.

It will also assist with funding for Capstone Camp 2023 & 2024, 100 Bibles and 100 copies of Luther's Small Catechisms in Swahili. Capstone will be an exhibitor at the LWML Convention. Stop by the Capstone table if you plan to attend.

### **Prayers and News**

Keep these individuals in your prayers:

-Dan and Patty as they travel back to the USA in November

-The LWML grant process and the Facebook Digital fund-raising initiative.

-Pray for Capstone Board member, Delano Meyer who had surgery and still recovering in the hospital.

-Praise God for peace in Kenya. The Kenyan people have responded to the Supreme Court's ruling with peace.

-The following by first name: Robert, Roger, Michael, Delano

**Rescues: 1 boy was rescued in Oct.**







**Patty surrounded by her many sons!**



**Pastor Dan preaching for Reformation, Lake Diocese, ELCK**



**Simon and Fred welcome the boys at the gate**



**Bennard and Maxwell sing and play the drum for all!**

**A few selfies  
are, of  
course,  
necessary**







**The young men sing and rejoice in the good work done in them.**



**Bishop Titus of Lake Diocese of ELCK opens the celebratory event with the Word from Luke 17.**



**Pastor Dan gives a Word of Encouragement by retelling the story of the Lost Son, a parable rich with application for all the boys.**