



Capstone Ministries

Child and Family Restoration Outreach

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" Psalm 118:22

A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya

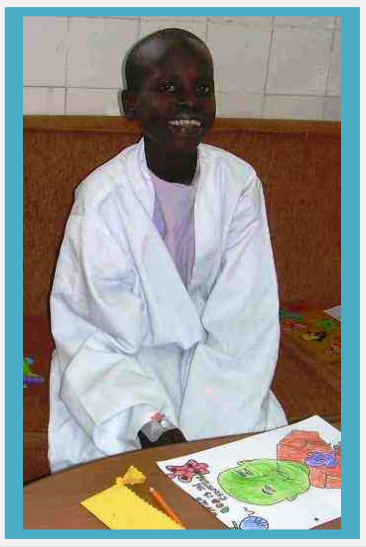
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An Inspirational Story!

"My times are in your hands"

Psalm 31:15

Most days it is a challenge being a missionary to street children! The issues are complex, challenging, heart-rending and exhausting. And then there are days like Wednesday, Sept. 17. It is the day a very special boy named Norman Alex was wheeled into the operating theatre for open heart surgery. He needed two valves replaced in his greatly enlarged heart, most like due to rheumatic fever he suffered as a child.



Norman waits patiently on day of his open heart surgery!

The journey to this day had been tedious yet rewarding. Tests, x-rays, echo-cardiograms, blood work, exams, transport and family issues....and fund raising for Norman. But the latter was also the source of joy. A good friend in the Boston area wrote one day to tell us his elderly father wanted to pay for Norman's surgery. At the same time, friends in the Denver area made connections with St. Jude's Children's Hospital to donate the needed biological valves. Because of cost, the Mater Hospital surgeon Dr. Munene normally uses mechanical valves for these procedures which necessitates a life time of blood thinners for his patients.

A missionary's joy is in observing God's timing in all things. The valves arrived via Fed Ex the day before the surgery and after some high level pressure from the Mayor of Kisumu to the Finance Minister of Kenya, the needed valves were released the morning of the surgery and Patty literally walked them from the Fed Ex office and customs to the Mater Hospital operating room, moments before Norman's surgery began. Lord, you ask us not to worry about tomorrow because today has enough trouble of its own. You teach us this "daily" principle of faith even when lives are at stake. Joy in this work comes after much struggle, humility, endurance and apparent defeat. Such was the case with Norman also. The joy was so sweet because the struggle was so difficult.



Norman waiting to come out of ICU after surgery!

Norman did not settle well at home the first time we reintegrated him with his father and step mother. In fact he remained at home only a few weeks before running back to the street. At it was this "defeat" that ended up alerting us to his health concerns. For after being on the street again, we discovered his reoccurring chest infection. This led to an x-ray and the discovery of his heart problem.



10 days after surgery

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Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Peter, Rogers, Francis, Mark, Kevin, and Amos.
2. **Pray** for Norman as he recovers from open heart surgery. His surgery was very successful and he only needed one valve replaced. He will remain at our home during this delicate recovery time. This enables Patty to closely monitor his many medications and remove him from any chance of infection from the other boys. He loves playing with our dogs and is gaining weight.
3. **Praise** God for two special people who were instrumental in Norman's successful surgery. Mark Bean, a Rotarian from Amesbury, MA and a good friend responded early on when he heard about Norman's situation and said his father wanted to make a sizable donation to assist with Norman's surgery. Finn Knudsen another Rotarian and good friend from Evergreen, CO who organized for St. Jude's Children's Hospital to donate two biological valves for Norman's surgery. This not only reduced the cost but enabled the surgeon to use a much better alternative to mechanical valves and thus keeping Norman from having to take medication for the rest of his life.
4. **Pray** for Dan as he travels throughout the US, preaching in supportive churches and meeting Rotarians. Pray also for Patty as she handles the administrative load alone for the first time.
5. **Praise** God for our interim manager, Paul Gimode from Mbale. Paul agreed to take the post to help us organize ourselves better and make us more effective particularly at the CTC.
6. **Pray** for our world economy that all may see this as an opportunity to trust in the Lord for our daily needs.
7. **Pray** for our political leaders during this last month before Nov. 4. .
8. **Praise** God that the shilling is now over 72 to the dollar. This allows us to do more in ministry!

Contact Information

Key Ministries Inc. Kenya Mission
c/o Pastor Paul Johnson
680 West Las Palmas Avenue
Patterson, CA 95363
Phone: (209) 892-1565
E-mail KeyMinistries1@comcast.net
Website: WWW.CapstoneMinistries.com
Dan and Patty Schmelzer
P.O. Box 3962
Kisumu, Kenya 40100
Capstoneministries@gmail.com

Norman cont.

Sometimes also the Lord uses physical challenges to give us opportunities to heal our emotional hurts. It was through Norman's heart problem that Norman's father found healing for his heart. A new found sympathy and reconciliation took place within Alex as he went through the challenges of watching his son go through life threatening circumstances.

Certainly God's ways are above our ways and often they are beyond human understanding. When we do get a glimpse of the beauty of his timing, it reinforces our faith and reminds us that "our time is in His hands."

Patty's Post It

I thought that with Dan away maybe our busy lifestyle would slow down a little. Not a chance! I've been running crazy while at the same time taking on a new role as the mother and caregiver to our little heart patient. I must say having Norman here has been a blessing. He is great company and since he doesn't speak English he has really challenged me to speak Kiswahili. He's proved to be the best teacher I've had so far. Whenever I get stuck he runs and gets my dictionary to help.

The events taking place with Norman have not slowed the daily work of Capstone. We now have two new boys at the center, Kevin and Amos. Several have gone home recently including one boy that we've been working with on the street and through our Capstone Youth Outreach Center. Chacha has been telling us he wanted to find his father in Nairobi but he didn't know where to look or how to contact him. He finally told us where his grandparents live so David took him for a visit. The grandparents were welcoming, but said they would not accept for Chacha to stay with them. Through this visit David was able to get the father's number and establish contact. David and Chacha ventured off to Nairobi and were warmly welcomed by the father. David said it was a wonderful reunion. Chacha promised he will never run to the street again and is eager to start school. These are the kinds of events that keep us going in this work!

Donations are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: Key Ministries, Kenya Mission

As our partners we encourage you to spread the word about this ministry. Feel free to share this newsletter or write to Dan and Patty to add a friend to this mailing.