



# 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

October, 2011 Volume 6 Issue 10

### Lee Kucker, Capstone Board Chairman visits Capstone Ministries

#### Taking Luxuries for Granted

As I sit here in my favorite easy chair, just having played a round of golf this afternoon with a local pastor, and finished an excellent evening meal prepared by my wonderful wife, it is hard to realize that at this time a week ago I was half way around the world, in a developing country, seeing boys on the street that had to struggle to survive another day. The comforts of our land often get in the way of the compassion we need to show for those less fortunate. The simple things we take for granted are often luxuries to others.

But let me start at the beginning. As we closed the month of August and opened the month of September I found myself boarding a KLM flight which would take me eventually to Kenya. I say eventually because after 34 hours enroute to Nairobi it was a real joy to see Dan's smiling face waiting for me as I arrived. Patty was waiting for both of us a short while later as we landed in Kisumu.

No matter how many times I travel internationally there is always a bit of culture shock to adjust to as I arrive. Last time I drove through Oakdale I didn't have to dodge cows in the street, or goats in the intersection, and cars driving on the wrong side of the road! But such is the life in Kisumu!

Sunday morning church—all three hours—was in a language that I didn't understand. But it didn't make any difference because the Spirit of God was alive and well in the music—especially the children's choir! What a joy to be engulfed by their enthusiasm and love for our Lord.

Monday morning found us fully engaged in street ministry. After meeting the staff I was very humbled by seeing their sacrifice and dedication to the ministry. (Check out the August Newsletter online if you want to meet them personally.) That afternoon I saw how the CYC operated. (Capstone Youth Center) The street boys know they can come to the CYC on Monday and take a shower, wash their clothes, hear the Word of God taught in their language, and have a meal.

I thought I was just an observer, until Isaiah introduced me to the 20 boys in attendance and asked me to speak to them. What can I say? That's when the Lord gives you words that you don't know you have. Seeing those 20 faces looking at me brought tears to my eyes as I tried to express to them that they were each a unique child of God.



Lee helps with giving bread to the boys at the Capstone Youth Center.

The reward came as we closed our time together and a young boy came to Patty and said he wanted to go home. At the same time, George, another member of the Capstone staff was meeting with two brothers that just arrived on the street. They had been there just a short time, but were ready for George to take them home too.

*(cont. on p. 2)*

## Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Pray for the 7 boys at the Transition Center: Dennis, Titus, Moses, Daniel, Kevin, Sylvester and Ronnie. They visited family during the August school break and return to the CTC for their last quarter before final reconciliation in December.

### Changing to E-Newsletter only

In an effort to be good stewards of your donated funds, this newsletter will only be available through email, on the [www.Capstoneministries.org](http://www.Capstoneministries.org) website or the Capstone Facebook page. This will begin with the January 2012 newsletter. If you are receiving this copy and want to have it sent to your email address, please send us your email address on the enclosed note before Jan. 1, 2012. If you are a regular donor you will receive a hard copy of the newsletter to along with your donor receipt as well. Please share the newsletter. Your support is appreciated.



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By adding them to the tracking grid Patty has developed for those in the program, I was told that Capstone has 199 boys returned home since its origin in 2006. Unfortunately, not all have stayed home, but the majority are not only home but back in school.

From the CYC we found ourselves driving on one of the worst roads in Kisumu to the Remand Center. (We would call it Reform School here in the States) The director told us they had over 100 children (boys and girls) in the center. While it seemed very clean and nice, make no mistake it is a prison!

The only difference between the boys at the CYC and those in the Remand Center is that these are the ones who have been caught! Those still on the street have found a way to dodge the police and keep their freedom.

Dan and Isaiah did an excellent "tag team" match as they presented the parable of the Prodigal Son to the assembly. One can only pray that their words touched the hearts of those that heard the message.

The rest of the week was spent in various collateral parts of the mission. From meeting with various groups that are part of the ministry, to seeing Rotary projects that my local club has been part of, to spending time with Dan and Patty in strategic planning, it was a full week.

Meeting the members of the Kenyan board was very special. We are fortunate to have men that have a real heart for the ministry available to Dan & Patty if needed. They respect the work that is being done and offer support and necessary connections when things need to happen.

Friday morning was the highlight of the week. I was able to sit in on the weekly staff meeting where each staff member discussed his case load. The ability to draw comments from the group and share successes and failures can only strengthen the ministry in the future. To see the dedication and commitment each person had for the ministry was something to appreciate.

Returning to California in some ways was a shock too—just to see the abundance that we take for granted. One luxury I used to celebrate my return was a warm shower—with a bit of pressure to go with it. Thanks Lord!

Make checks payable to: Capstone Ministries. Donations are tax deductible.

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.