



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

November, 2010 Volume 5 Issue 11

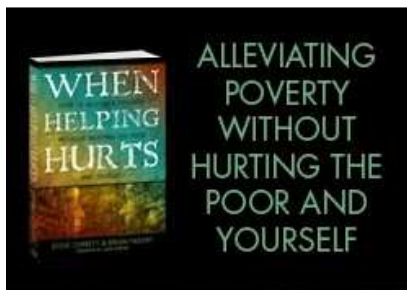
"Bottom up Poverty Reduction"

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Proverbs 13:12

"Hope is the anticipation of harvest." Family farmers know the truth of this saying. Having tilled a field, fertilized and planted; a farmer awaits with faith and anticipation. But hope is not idle in anticipation. It weeds and waters. Long before the days of harvest, a farmer will be busy enhancing the growth cycle knowing it will pay dividends come harvest day.

There is great joy during this time of hope. The joy comes from the sweat one invests in the growth. And you could apply this principle to any activity. There is a saying in Kenya regarding education: "The roots are bitter but the fruits are sweet!" One could apply the same concept to sales, skilled labor, investments, etc. The reason we enjoy the fruits of our labor is because we did the sweating before we enjoyed the harvesting.

For some reason, we tend to forget this important principle when working at poverty reduction. We tend to get caught up in being merciful, sharing and giving. In the end we rob the recipients of the joy that comes from eating the fruit of their own labor. This is what Solomon calls "deferred hope" in Proverbs 13. Hope that is set aside by a well intentioned benefactor who, with good intentions, did **everything** for the one in need. The result: "a sick heart."



Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert expose the pitfalls of working with the poor with a Western mindset in their book "When Helping Hurts—How to alleviate

poverty without hurting the poor and yourself" But this book is not just another diatribe of mistaken approaches. It gives wonderful ideas on how to approach the poor and make a difference. There are several key components, so valuable we felt compelled to share them in this month's newsletter.

#1 Not all poverty is created equal. In this section, the authors outline the importance of understanding the three basic areas of assistance for the needy: 1. Relief. 2. Restoration. 3. Development. Relief is emergency aid that addresses a disaster. Restoration seeks to restore people to pre-crisis conditions. Development is the process of ongoing change. It is critical that one develop a strategy based on the category of need. One can do more harm than good by assessing incorrectly. To give relief aid to a development situation only ingrains an attitude of dependency and "defers hope." So, assess, assess, assess!!

#2 Relationship is a key to development. It is critical to understand that development is not done *to* people or *for* people but *with* people. Relationship takes time, personal investment and a willingness to get your hands dirty. We apply this principle daily to Capstone Ministries approach to street children. Relationships are built from the street, the youth outreach, the transition center and finally at home. Follow up calls by our staff are then anticipated, not dreaded by the family. They are welcoming a friend! Approaches to poverty alleviation must include and be built on this dynamic of building a relationship.

#3 Do not do things for people that they can do for themselves. In aid circles this is called relief paternalism. Knowledge paternalism assumes we have all the best ideas about how to do things. Labor paternalism is when we do work for people that they can do. This is what Solomon was talking about when he said "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Part of the longing comes because of personal effort. Let's not deprive people of that joy in their tree of life.

Consider ordering this book if you have not read it. It will convict and confirm. Be willing to learn and grow as you read.

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Praise God for the numerous congregations who understand our vision and approach to helping street children reconcile with their family.
2. Pray for safe travels as we transition from Colorado to California during November. See the schedule opposite for a church near you.
3. Thanks to Rotary for their continued support of various capital projects we have completed and plan for the future.
4. Pray for Paul Gimode who will serve as interim director of Capstone on the ground while we are in the states.



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Patty's Post It

One of the wonderful things about coming to the states and meeting new friends and visiting with our supporters is that we have an opportunity to hear your questions. Please remember that anytime you may have a question about Capstone you are most welcome to write to us about ANYTHING! I'd like to share some general and "behind the scenes" questions that people have asked so that there is a greater understanding of who we are and how we depend on God's leading to maintain the ministry.

1) What percentage of your support is from churches and what percentage is from personal donations? Are you funded through any mission organization?

A: We are 20% funded by churches and 80% by individual donations. We hope that our time in the states this year has increased the number of churches who will consider us in their monthly or annual budget. We do not receive funds through any mission organization. We pray that will also change in the future.

2) What percentage of your budget goes to administrative costs in the US and what percentage goes directly to Kenya?

A: The funds used in the US are only for stationary and postage for the monthly newsletter mailings. All the work that is done is volunteer. We have a lovely group of ladies from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Patterson, CA who look forward to a "social time" each month to put the newsletters together and ready to mail. Thank you ladies for your dedicated service to Capstone!! Thanks also to Pastor Paul Johnson for time spent in printing as well as doing the Capstone banking. Thanks to Lee Kucker for sending out the acknowledgement letters and keeping track of donations. We have a great team in the states.

If you have a question about Capstone Ministries please feel free to email us. We will answer your questions directly and from time to time we'll post them in the newsletter.

SCHEDULE IN THE USA

Below is our schedule of churches and Rotary clubs we will be visiting for presentations. If you would like to visit and hear more about Capstone, you are most welcome.

Nov. 7	Bethlehem Lutheran, Lakewood, CO
Nov. 14	St. John's Lutheran, Valley Home, CA
	(evening) Grass Valley Lutheran, Grass Valley, CA
Nov. 21	Good Shepherd Lutheran, Turlock, CA
Nov. 28	St. Peter's Lutheran, Lodi, CA
	(evening) Messiah Lutheran, Citrus Heights, CA
Dec. 1 (Advent 1)	United Lutheran, Manteca, CA
Dec. 5	St. Andrew's Lutheran, Stockton, CA
Dec. 12	Our Saviour's Lutheran, Patterson, CA

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.