



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, 2011 Volume 6 Issue 11

“An interview with Bennard, a former street boy, about home”

“He determined the exact places where they should live...for in Him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:26,28

Bennard is a boy of 21 whom I have known since 1999 when I visited Kenya for the first time. He has been trained in automobile mechanics and finished all his exams for Grades 1,2 and 3. He now stays at home in Mbale with his brother. Both his mother and father are deceased. Recently he related to Patty how he had been connected with his aunt whom he had never met before. His story is an illustration of the power and importance of family in a child’s life. It is a testimony I believe you will find moving and compelling. I sat with Bennard several days ago and asked him several questions to help him retell this incident for this month’s newsletter.

Dan: Bennard, you had an interesting experience connecting with a long lost aunt. How did you find out about her?

Bennard: It was on a Friday. I was returning home to Mbale by public transport and had just arrived at the bus stop. As I left the vehicle an older woman approached me and greeted me with words I had never heard before. She said, “Son of Jane”. Jane is my mom’s name but normally people around home just call me “Maleya”. After asking the woman why she called me that, she said, “You might not know me but I knew your mom and you look just like her.”



Patty with Bennard

This was very interesting to me because I never knew my mom. She died when I was just a baby. So I was curious to learn more from this woman about my

mom. The woman shared that she came from the same village as my mom. Then she shared, “If you want to know what your mom looks like, you should meet your mom’s sister, Jessica. She looks just like your mom.”

Dan: Did you get a chance to go and visit with your aunt?



Bennard with Aunt Jessica on the left and Maria her mother-in-law (seated)

Bennard: Well, I shared this with Mama (Patty) and she encouraged me to visit Jessica, my mom’s sister. She gave me the fare to visit her too. When I arrived at their at home in Nandi, I was met by her son Patrick. He told me she was ill and would be returning home soon. So I waited. When she finally arrived she was very emotional and could not hold back her tears. It was more than an hour before she could bring herself to talk. She told me, “I really thought you were dead because you were so little when your mom died.” Then she shared pictures with me of my mother and when she held me as a baby. I stayed there overnight and we talked through the evening and into the next day. (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.
2. Pray for Capstone Camp 2011 which will be held this year in December. A total of 20 boys will attend the camp. Next month will feature the camp which aims to strengthen family ties and provide spiritual and emotional support.

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 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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Dan: How did you feel after visiting with Jessica and seeing your aunt for the first time?

Bennard: It was amazing. I was able to see part of my family that I have never met for more than 20 years. It was just the hand of God. In Kenya, it is every person's wish to know his family members. At first I felt a little bit strange seeing how emotional Aunt Jessica was because I had never met her but by the end of the day I was just happy to be with her especially because now I feel like I have seen my mom.

Dan: Has this experience affected how you feel about family?

Bennard: It has affected me a lot. It has changed how I feel about being at home. At one time while I was young I stayed in a children's home and only visited home once in awhile. I never knew how many family members I had. During that time, I felt like a stranger visiting a place called home. Now since I have been staying at home I have met more family members than I can imagine. I now feel that love and security inside of knowing who I am. It is my wish that every child knows their family. I almost missed that chance but now am very grateful that I have been reunited with my family. I now know where I belong.

Patty's Post It – Christmas in Kenya

Capstone was founded on the principal of building up families through the restoration of relationships. I'm often reminded that God sent his only son to this world to restore our relationship with our heavenly Father but when we look at the life of Jesus we see more than one way of building relationships. We see a patient, kind and loving heart of compassion in the person of Jesus. We feel that compassionate tug on our hearts every year especially at Christmas as we celebrate the greatest gift of the birth of God's son. Each year at Christmas we consider the poorest of the poor among our reunited Capstone Kids. This year life is especially difficult with the very rapidly increasing cost of basic food products. If you would like to assist Capstone in giving a gift basket of food at Christmas you can do so with a \$15.00 donation. A family will receive 2 kg. of maize flour, 2 kg of rice, 2 kg of sugar, ½ ltr cooking oil, tea leaves, washing soap. That may not sound like a lot but it will make for a wonderful Christmas for a family in Kenya. Just note "**Christmas in Kenya**" on your check. You are welcome to sponsor as many families as you wish.

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.