



# 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**

**March, 2011 Volume 6 Issue 3**

### **“Growing in Grace”**

***“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” II Peter 3:18***

Rehabilitation of a dysfunctional family is the vision of Capstone Ministries. Sometimes the process goes smoothly; other times the opposition is fierce. One thing is for sure, Satan does not like giving up a family where he has a stronghold. The enemies of the restoration of a street boy are many: alcoholism, pride, HIV, poverty, hopelessness, and in some areas African traditional religion. The latter is simply a rehash of ancient teachings of fear, ancestor worship, witchcraft and demonology.

When Peter wrote his second letter to the churches, persecution and falsehood had invaded the church. This pastoral letter from Peter is written to encourage God’s people to stand strong in the face of this invasion of falsehood. Peter could have written this letter to the church in Kenya. Many churches in Kenya have an outward appearance of Christianity but once you are inside you discover that superstition, corruption, greed and a religion of fear dominate. These weaknesses have particularly invaded the areas of Western Kenya where we happen to be restoring children with their families.



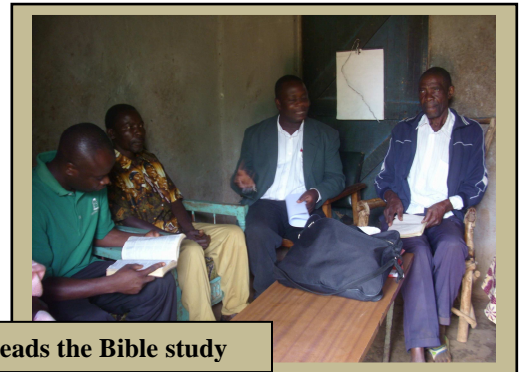
**Five parents of reconciled children represented at the first group Bible study!**

Spiritual development of families is a high priority in these areas. In Peter’s day and today, only one message combats falsehood in its many forms: The Gospel of Grace. When people know and understand that they have a loving father who loves them deeply and accepts them through their faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ; then no demon can touch them.

Capstone called intern Isidore Sure from the Matongo Lutheran Theological School to focus particularly on those families where spiritual development was critical. Isidore has been working with individual families for the past seven months and just this last month started a Bible study with five families, all of whom have had a boy run away and restored through Capstone Ministries. All live within walking distance of each other. While several knew each other, none of them knew of their common family issue.

The meeting place was a simple mud house of one of the parents. All five parents came.

Pastor Isaiah Apiyo and Newton Tera along with Isidore attended the joint Bible study that lasted approximately 3 hours. Powerful testimonies were given, God’s grace was shared by Pastor Isaiah and Intern Isidore and Newton shared the vision of Capstone.



**Isidore leads the Bible study**

Capstone contributed the tea and bread for the morning but all the parents agreed that sharing the Word of God together was the most tasty. One man even confessed how blessed he was as the host because he had not been to church in almost a year and now it was like the church had come to visit his home. At the end of the morning several parents lingered, talking over their mutual issues and challenges. Truly, a shared burden is half a burden.

**Next month:** The story of Maxwell Abwamba: the first boy from Capstone to enter High School. It is a moving story of a poor and now proud father reconciled with his son and a fulfilled dream of education.

## 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. In February we hired two new staff, a welfare officer and an operations supervisor. Thanks for your prayers. Benedict and Berline are just what we had hoped for.
3. Pray for the 7 new boys at the Transition Center: Dennis, Titus, William, Derek, Moses, Daniel and Collins.
4. February finished a very dry month in Kenya. Pray for the rains as most Kenyans depend on food they grow themselves
5. Thanksgiving for the completed employee evaluation.
6. Thanks for our approved work permit.
7. Dan cut his head accidentally and had 10 stitches. Pray for healing.
8. Patty will travel to Nairobi for her incoming President's training. She is the next President of the Rotary Club of Vihiga. Pray for safe travel.
9. Pray for Dennis, long time supporter of Capstone and dear friend. At this writing he is preparing to enter glory. Pray any apprehension or fear is tempered by his life-long faith in his Savior.



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Pictures, News and more....  
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## Patty's Post It

On the front of this newsletter Dan describes an exciting program for Capstone, the family Bible Studies. I want to share about a couple of other programs we are preparing to launch in March. One is the Transition Center Scout Program. We are blessed to be connected with the area Scout trainer Livingstone. He led the scouting element in Capstone Camp last year. When a friend of Capstone shared with us what scouting means to him personally, we came up with the idea of making scouting an ongoing part of our rehabilitation process for the boys at the Transition center. Livingstone will kick off the program on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>. The kids will be learning about scouting every Sunday after church from 2-6 PM. The lessons scheduled for this month are: Week One - The scout law and promise, Smartness (in the US we would call this cleanliness and looking good). Week Two: discipline and good order. Week three: basic drills, the scout sign and salute. The last week of the month will be a focus on the National Flag.

Scouting holds within its teaching many elements that a child from the street is lacking in his life. We've seen the impact scouting has had in just one short week of Capstone Camp. We are blessed to have Livingstone on board with Capstone.

Another really exciting program we are starting next week is expanding the moringa project. As many of you know we are growing the moringa tree, drying and packaging the leaves for sale as a nutritional supplement. We have a wonderful challenge in this project; we cannot supply enough to meet the demand.

In this program moringa trees will be grown in small groups of ladies who are HIV positive. The ladies will plant the trees, fertilize with cow dung, water and weed...Capstone will come periodically and harvest the leaves. We will start with two of these groups as a trial run. The ladies will earn money for growing the trees. Capstone is able to get more product to meet the demand and the ladies groups are able to earn additional money!! That's a win-win solution.

Stay tuned for more reports on these two exciting programs that both benefit the vulnerable children and their families in Kenya!

### Did You Know?

The average percentage of a household budget spent on food in the US is 7%, in Kenya it is an alarming 45%.

Donations are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: **Capstone Ministries**

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.