



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

August, 2011 Volume 6 Issue 8

“Meet the Staff of Capstone”

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?” Luke 15:4

It is a parent’s worst nightmare: Child abduction. In 1996 Amber Hagerman was abducted from a Winn-Dixie parking lot in Arlington, TX. It happened on a busy street in broad daylight. It took only 8 minutes from the time Amber rode around the block to the time a witness of the abduction dialed 911. 8 minutes! She was gone! Taken! Lost! Four days later, Amber’s naked, dead body was found in a creek bed in N. Arlington. Since that day, stranger abductions are now fought with a nation-wide program called “Amber Alert.”

Jesus tells a story about lost things in Luke 15. A lost sheep! A lost coin! A lost son! They are parables that tell a kind of spiritual Amber-Alert story. Told to a community of Pharisees who cared little about the lost in their community, Jesus focuses on the importance of Seeking, Valuing and Restoring.

Capstone Ministries follows Jesus’ encouragement in these parables and seeks out the children who have wandered away from home. In the pictures below, we would like to introduce you to the national staff who do the actual seeking, valuing and restoring work. As of today, 196 boys have been found and restored with their family through the work of these staff members.



Back row L- R: Ezekiel, Dan, Benedict
Front Row L-R: Helen, George, Isaiah, Berline. Missing: Evans, Zadok and night guard at CTC: Kenneth.

Here is a bit information on each of the staff.

Ezekiel Ojwang – Ezekiel is in charge of the Capstone Transition Center.

George Owiti – George organizes the street ministry and the follow-up visitation done each week.

Benedict Orende – Benedict is our most recent staff. He is a welfare office and helps with the outreach, follow up visitation and spends one weekend a month at the CTC.

Helen Osita – Helen is the cook at the CTC.

Dan Schmelzer – Dan provides pastoral care.

Isaiah Apiyo – Pastor Isaiah is an ordained Pastor in the ELCK and supervises spiritual development and counseling.

Berline Amollo – Berline recently joined us as the operations supervisor.

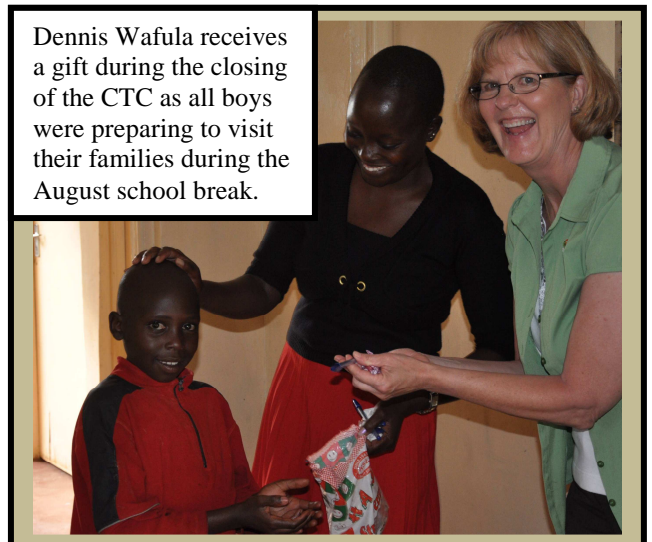
Not in the picture are

Evans Gumayia – Evans helps as a house-parent at the CTC and also oversees agriculture and the goats at the CTC.

Zadok – Zadok is our Vicar assistant from Matongo Lutheran Theological College. He works with us 3 days a week on a shared basis with his home congregation in Maseno.

Bless you for your support of Capstone Ministries. Your generosity restores and strengthens the family in Western Kenya.

Dennis Wafula receives a gift during the closing of the CTC as all boys were preparing to visit their families during the August school break.



Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Pray for the 7 boys at the Transition Center: Dennis, Titus, Moses, Daniel, Kevin, Sylvester and Ronnie as they prepare to visit their parents and guardians during the August school break.
2. We have applied for a grant through LWML Kansas District. It will provide much needed office equipment for our new office in Nyalenda. It is walking distance from our house and helps us with daily operations and record keeping. We are still awaiting news on this application.
3. We have applied with the US government for 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization. Pray that this application is approved. This is one of the steps needed to move forward with our application for RSO status with the LC-MS. We have been covered as a non-profit up to this point through Key Ministries. The board felt it important that Capstone have it's own non-profit status also.
4. We praise God that our moringa income generating project is expanding. We are now partnering with about 10 farmers and groups who grow moringa for us.
5. Through the donation of Bethany Lutheran in East Hartford, CT we have also started a chicken project as income generating. More on this in future newsletters.



Check out the Capstone Page on Facebook.

Pictures, News and more....

Just search for Capstone Ministries.

Become a fan!



Capstone participates in Savemart/Lucky Supermarket's SHARES program in N. California. You only scan your card before purchasing your groceries and SaveMart donates 3% of your purchase. To date Savemart has given Capstone \$1,310,7612...because of your shopping!! Ask for your card.

More Information!

Signup for Capstone Ministries' monthly e-newsletter:

Newsletter-Subscribe@CapstoneMinistries.org

Web site address: www.CapstoneMinistries.org

Email: Capstoneministries@gmail.com

Contact Information and to donate:

Capstone Ministries

650 West Las Palmas Avenue

Patterson, CA 95363

E-mail: Capstoneministries@gmail.com

Dan and Patty Schmelzer

P.O. Box 3962

Kisumu, Kenya 40100

Patty's Post – It

This little corner of the newsletter was set aside just for me so that I could share short stories about a woman's view of living in Kenya. Sometimes I've run out of stories and things to share that I think might be of interest to you, our reading audience. I've tried to put myself in your shoes and wonder what kinds of questions you might have about our home life in Kenya. So let me share something about home.

We live in a very modest three bedroom one bath home. Our floors are cement as opposed to a hard packed mud floor you would find in many homes in the villages. The cement is painted red. I know it sounds less than appealing but I've grown use to it and we have area carpets to cover it. We have an indoor flush toilet and piped water from the city. The city water often stops flowing so we are lucky to have two large water storage tanks that serve the bathroom. That means we always have running water in the bathroom. If the city water is off we carry water from the bathroom to the kitchen. All of our drinking water and including tooth brushing water is filtered.

The kitchen is well equipped with a refrigerator, a gas stove and electric oven, a microwave and most importantly a coffee pot!! I don't have a dishwasher or a clothes washer and dryer, but I have Faith. Yes, all things are possible with Faith. I've often wondered what I would do without my Faith! You guessed it; Faith is our fulltime house girl, she comes five days a week. Faith washes clothes by hand and God dries them with the sun. She cleans the house, and cleans the house and cleans the house, it's not that we are all that dirty, but in Kisumu there is a lot of dust. When the dust is low it's because we are having rain and when we have rain we have mud; well, you get the picture. Faith also works with the moringa project doing the grinding and packaging.

We have two dogs, Lorna and Gilmore. Lorna was a young pup when we first arrived in Kenya in 2002, we inherited her with the house we were living in at that time. She's now an old member of the family. Many years ago, before going for "family planning" Lorna escaped from the yard. That adventure resulted in nine puppies. We kept one of the nine, that's Gilmore. Both dogs are very good watch dogs who usually bark at the appropriate time. Gilmore dearly loves the cat. Kiboko is often referred to as the "Queen"; she rules over the kingdom!! She has Dan completely wrapped around her paw. Have you ever seen a big guy hold a fluffy kitty like a baby, saying: "Who's your daddy?" Meditate on that visual!

That's a short snapshot of "home" in Kenya! I hope one day you can come for a visit. "Karibu nyumbani yetu". (Welcome to our home!)

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.