



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

January, 2009 Volume 4 Issue 1

Capstone 2008 in Picture Review



Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Pray for the new boys soon to enter the Transition Center. We are in the process of reintegrating the 9 who have been with us over the past few months. They will be enrolled in schools near their home in Jan.
2. Pray for us as we begin our search for a national pastor to provide spiritual enrichment both to the boys at the transition center and the families.
3. Pray for the current fuel shortage in the country. While some say it is simply a fight between Kenya Pipeline and Oil Companies over taxation, it has recently crippled transportation in Western Kenya.
4. January is a busy month as our boys at the Center are enrolled in school and our many boys in secondary school whom we sponsor personally and on behalf of others begin a new school year.
5. One of the difficult rehabilitation challenges is the addiction of street boys to glue. The substance provides a brief high and can be both physically and psychologically addictive. It is a major obstacle for many of the boys to overcome long term. Pray for deliverance.
6. Pray for Paul Gimode who has recently consented to remain on as interim manager as we continue our search for the right candidate for this crucial position.
7. Pray for our house girl Faith who is expecting her second child. Faith has been with us since 2002 and is due in Feb.
8. Coming soon: Word on our application for the S.H.A.R.E.S. program through the SaveMart supermarket chain in California. If approved, friends in California, when shopping at SaveMart, will be able to donate up to 3% of their shopping bill with a simple swipe of a card. More to come next month. Pray we are approved.

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2008 Year in Review

Here is a brief description of the pictures and events on page 1.

1. Capstone Relief. Jan. 2008 brought by violence after a disputed election at the end of December 2007. Poor families in the slums and rural areas were affected most. Capstone reached out to rural congregations with food assistance.
2. World Wide Day of Prayer. Hundreds of children attended the Unicef and Capstone sponsored event at the Lutheran church in Kisumu. A timely event shortly after the post election violence specifically reached out to children who had been touched by the violence.
3. Capstone Camp. A scout and spiritual enrichment program held in August for our boys formerly from the street. This will be an annual event that will attempt to instill hope, stabilize families of boys already reconnected with home and build the character of boys at the Transition Center.
4. Opening of Capstone Youth Centers. Two youth centers opened in 2008. One in Kisumu and one in Luanda. Each reach out to more than 20 street boys each week and minister to kids where they are and begin to plant the seeds of future hope.
5. Norman's open heart surgery. In September Norman received life saving surgery at Mater Hospital in Nairobi. Dr. Munene, the top cardiologist in Kenya was his surgeon. Rotarians in the USA and Nairobi partnered to provide assistance to save the life of this boy.
6. Grant from Rotary. Capstone received a matching grant through the Evergreen Rotary club from Evergreen, CO. Here several of the transportation items are pictured.
7. Visiting team from California. The first mission team arrived in June from the central valley of California. The team from various Lutheran churches was led by Pastor Dan Deuel and was trained by The Sending Place.
8. Christmas Party. The year concluded with a Christmas party. The boys enjoyed a special meal, some small gifts, the showing of Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe and even played a game of water balloon toss.

What started out as a challenging year with security and the future of the country in doubt gave way to opportunities aplenty to make a difference in the lives of the street children of Kenya. At the close of the year 47 boys are in the Capstone program not counting the more than 40 boys at the two Youth Centers or the 17 being assisted with empowerment and schooling on an informal basis. To God be the glory!

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.