



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

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JARS OF CLAY

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." II Corinthians 4:7-10

It was customary in the first century to hide things of value in ordinary vessels like clay jars. The ordinary nature of the clay jar would not attract unwanted attention to the treasure within.

This word picture is the theme of Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. "Man is insufficient; God is totally sufficient!" Despite opposition and frailty, Paul has confidence because he knows what is within him: a living and powerful Jesus!"

There is nothing glamorous about street work. Our welfare officers are often looked at with disdain by the public. Even the street kids themselves are dirty and stinking. Often their attitude is not much better. They are used to making their own decisions in life. Being effective means having a mercy and wisdom beyond human understanding. Nothing humbles you like a conversation with one of our boys at our weekly Youth Center gathering. These are boys who live full time on the street. They come, dirty, hungry, sometimes angry, and with an agenda hardened by street life.

But within the humble clay jar of our four staff members who meet these boys at our two Youth Centers in Kisumu and Luanda, there lies a treasure!

Capstone is blessed with four men who spend countless hours ministering to the children on the street in the city of Kisumu and the smaller town of Luanda. Some days begin before 8am and don't end until after 6pm. Our workers are always ready for the unexpected.

Taking a child home for the first time can be full of surprises. David, who coordinates home visits

Took home a boy who did not seem to remember where his home was. Finally the boy pointed to a house. "This is my home," he said as he entered into the kitchen where there were many people. David followed expecting some kind of reception from the family. What he found was people who didn't seem to know the boy; they were making changa. (illegal alcohol) They welcomed David and the boy, thinking they were customers. When David began to ask questions in relation to the boy, the people became angry and wanted to beat the boy for "cheating" David and bringing him there. David had to do some fast talking to defend the boy as they escaped quickly from the home. The true story finally came out; the boy's mother was actually working in Kisumu. Sometimes we don't understand what is in the mind of a boy. Perhaps he just wanted to go for a ride in the country. This is an example of what Paul called: *"perplexed, but not in despair...struck down, but not destroyed."*



Staff Photo Back Row: Patty, Ezekiel, Kenneth. Front: Isaiah, David, Evans, Helen, Newton, George. Missing: Paul and Dan

If it were not for the dedication of our welfare officers, Capstone would not exist. They are on the front line constantly. They always *carry around in their body the death of Jesus*. That is: they willingly endure the perplexing and pressing burdens of street ministry. All so that the life of Jesus might shine through them and make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable boys.

We love to tell the success stories of Capstone. You will hear some in the next newsletter. It is also important for you to know that there are also hardships in this work. But hidden within the fragility of those who do the work of Capstone Ministries is a treasure beyond compare. That same treasure is within you too.

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Thomas, James, Brian, Maxwell, Kevin, Jackton and our newest Eliud.
2. **Pray** for God's people in Kenya who are still suffering from the drought that has devastated crops and send basic food supplies soaring in price again.
3. **Pray** for those praying over coming to Kenya on the 2010 April Mission team through the Sending Place.
4. **Pray** for our two new staff members: George and Evans.
5. **Praise** God for our two very healthy goats: Massengil and Ehlert. They are growing and are very playful! We have added a male goat and the breeding has begun. We have yet to decide on the name of the male goat.
6. **Praise** God and also pray for continued growth in our Moringa Tree project.
7. **Pray** for a suitable piece of land for Capstone to begin to develop agriculture and the future Transition Center.
8. **Praise** God for our faithful supporters in prayer, in gifts and in friendship. We are so blessed!
9. **Praise** God for our US board and our Kenyan board who guide us in various ways and always encourage us!
10. We are pushing our registration with the government at the highest levels and hope to have it in hand within the next few weeks. Pray nothing stalls it. With our registration in place we can own land. We have our eye on several sites which will help us develop our Transition Center and our agricultural projects. You will begin to hear more about this in the coming months.

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Visit our NEW Web site at

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Watch for updates and pictures of the Camp on our website and also check out the new blog at www.capstoneministries.org/blog

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Patty's Post It

This month Dan wrote about our dedicated and hard working staff at Capstone. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce two new members of the Capstone family.

Evans is a young man of 23 years. He is married with two children. Evans comes from the village where the Transition Center is located. He is involved in his church as a youth choir leader and is often a volunteer who teaches young boys hygiene after they have undergone traditional circumcision. Evans was hired as a part-time employee spending three days and nights per week as a house parent with the boys at the Transition Center.

George is a 39, married with four children of his own and also caring for his deceased brother's six children. Yes, you added that number correctly; George and his wife are caring for ten children. George is a member of one of our ELCK (Lutheran) congregations. He has a wealth of experience with children along with supervisory experience. He serves on the education board for the ELCK School for the Mentally Handicapped. George was hired as a Welfare Officer with his focus being the children in the street and family follow-up visits. We are blessed to have these servants who are called to work with street children in Capstone Ministries!

On the home front I have been busy for the past several weeks doing some painting in our house. The Capstone office was busting at the seams so I made an executive decision to trade rooms and move the office into the guest room. It makes perfect sense to me that a room taking a new role also needs a new coat of paint. While we are on the topic of painting, the idea caught on when the staff requested we paint the metal siding at our Youth Outreach Center at the church. We all pitched in together and the CYC, as we affectionately call it, is also looking bright and clean with a fresh coat of paint.

After a long draught we received a soaker a few weeks ago. High winds and flooding knocked down walls and trees. We lost our oldest and largest papaya tree in our yard. Water rushed into the compound from the street creating an extension of Lake Victoria. We are being told that was only a taste of what is to come. The weather service is warning of El Nino rains starting in October.

Ever considered going on a short term mission trip?

If you've thought about it, the perfect opportunity is coming up. The Sending Place will soon begin training for the next team to come to Kenya for ministry with Capstone. The trip is planned for April 2010. The team is planning a marriage seminar for couples and Vacation Bible School for the Capstone kids among other exciting experiences and opportunities for ministry. If you would like to know more please write to us or to Jamie Eisenbiesz at jmeisz@hotmail.com You can learn more about the Sending Place at their website: www.thesendingplace.com.

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.