



# 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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### The Lord's arm is never too short

*"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear." Isaiah 59:1*

For a child on the street, the thought of God is drowned in a sea of daily challenges. Hunger, beatings from older boys and police, cold cement for a bed and lack of parental love and care are just a handful of the challenges of the street kids of Kisumu. Inside the mind of a street child, the love of God in Jesus is a far off idea, often perceived as something for others but not them. It is not too difficult to imagine the train of thought. If God loved me, then why.....?

Isaiah picks up this topic in the latter chapters of his prophetic book. But the troubles of Israel are not poverty and external forces beyond their control. Their problems are self inflicted in the midst of prosperity. Yet for the child on the street in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; for the prosperous yet spiritually poor child of God, the principle stated above is still true. God's arm is not too short to save.

Perception is seldom 20/20. Especially in relation to one's own circumstance. In fact, the deeper my problems are, the more difficult it can be to see a solution, even if it is right in front of me. Street kids experience things about which one can only whisper. The trauma—some of it self-inflicted--affects them: body, mind and soul. The depravity makes them short sighted. The needs of today are the only thoughts. Food, money, drugs!

Isaiah deftly describes this kind of blindness in Chapter 59. Listen as he describes the challenge to reach those intent on running from God. *"They hatch the eggs of vipers...acts of violence are in their hands...their feet rush to sin...the way of peace they do not know...all is darkness...like men without eyes...deliverance is far away."* Not a pretty picture.

Yet Isaiah boldly opens this chapter with words of hope: *"the arm of the Lord is not too short to save."* There is help for the one groping along a wall like a blind man. It is found in the one who calls himself the Light shining in a dark place.

He illuminates. He gives sight. He changes perception. He gives hope.

At our Capstone Transition Center, we have 8 boys who have been in transition to their home for about six months. By this day in January, they will be going to school from their homes. Some with a grandmother, some with an uncle, some with a single Mom. All in difficult circumstances by western lifestyle standards. Yet they are anxious to go home. The difference? LOVE! Daily they have been reminded that God loves them. That far off idea has settled in their hearts. God literally has reached down from the heavens and planted his message of grace within them.

Kevin, Thomas, Brian, Francis, James, Maxwell, Jackton and Eliud! Eight boys once on the streets of Kisumu and Luanda. Obstacles within and without! But God has overcome them. Each boy's home has been visited. Parents/guardians have been counseled repeatedly. Local schools have been chosen. And soon, the divine purpose God had in giving each boy to his family will find realization. We always knew God's arm was never too short. Now these eight know and believe it too!



Brian, Jackton and Kevin listen to Pastor Isaiah

You are most likely going through challenges of your own. Too much month left at the end of the money? Business and sales down? Job on the line? Struggling to stay in your home? Wondering how you will manage to support Capstone and keep your head above water too? Take a lesson from these eight boys. They once had less than nothing. Now, by God's grace and your generosity, they know love, they have family. God's arm is truly long enough to save!

## Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Thomas, James, Brian, Maxwell, Kevin, Jackton, Eliud, and Francis
2. **Pray** for God's people in Kenya who are praying for rain.
3. **Attention! You can now make your donation via Paypal. See directions below.**
4. **Pray** for our two new staff members: George and Evans.
5. **Praise** God for the growth of Moringa as an income generating project for Capstone.
6. **Praise God** that both of our female goats are expecting twins in January.
7. 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. If you would like to know more please write to us or to Jamie Eisenbiesz at [jmeisz@hotmail.com](mailto:jmeisz@hotmail.com). You can learn more about *The Sending Place* at their website: [www.thesendingplace.com](http://www.thesendingplace.com).

## A CAPSTONE CHRISTMAS

Would you like your church, Sunday School, Women's group to focus on Missions during the season when God reached out to



u person of his Son? Write to us at [Capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:Capstoneministries@gmail.com) and we will send you all the information including a video message from Kenya.

## Don't Miss Out!

- Signup for our free monthly e-newsletter! Sign up today and share with friends! [Newsletter-Subscribe@CapstoneMinistries.org](mailto:Newsletter-Subscribe@CapstoneMinistries.org)
- Watch for updates and pictures of the Camp on our website and also check out the new blog at [www.capstoneministries.org/blog](http://www.capstoneministries.org/blog)
- Save a stamp! Donate on-line using safe and secure Paypal. Simply visit our Web site, click on "donate" and send.

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Donations are tax deductible. Make checks payable to: **Key Ministries, Kenya Mission** or visit our Web to donate on-line! 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.

Visit our Web site: [www.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://www.CapstoneMinistries.org)

## Patty's Post It

At a recent Capstone Staff training day, a phrase used that day stuck with me: "Think outside the box". Working in a country where the needs are always before us and are overwhelming especially where children are concerned, we are sometimes forced to think outside the box of the Capstone vision.

Mark has been in various stages of the Capstone program since 2007. He is a total orphan. Mark is a bright boy who does well in school and is well liked by the teachers. We have recently placed him with an Aunt and Uncle but there are challenges in the home. Besides economic struggles, the family has an 8 year old child who is deaf and mute and possibly has other mental challenges. Without financial resources the family is unable to get proper help for James, as a result he is kept hidden away. He has never been taught as much as how to use the toilet. However, I give some credit to the family, they at least tried, at one time to put the boy in a special school, but the fees were far beyond their financial reach.

Every day's focus for the rural poor is working just to get enough food for that day. Often a handicapped child is just kept somewhere out of sight. How can we at Capstone see such a situation and not do something to help? This week the child will be brought to Kisumu and evaluated for placement into a special school where he can be taught to communicate and care for himself in the basic human needs. This is ministry outside the box.

Another case is Benson, an orphan of 16 years. Benson is outside our target age group and is not a street boy although he is often in the streets of Luanda in order to search for food. There is not a single relative in the family home, Benson is completely alone. A Capstone welfare officer went home with Benson to verify his story and was moved by what he found there. One section of the small mud house is collapsing; Benson sleeps on the mud floor and has not been able to attend school because his uniform is so tattered. Again, Capstone cannot be aware of such a case and walk away from it. We supplied a mattress and blanket for sleeping. Newton, our welfare officer purchased the materials to restore the portion of the house that is falling down. The neighbors have agreed to rally around the boy and help with the labor. We will purchase a school uniform and get Benson back into school. This is ministry outside the Capstone box.

The two stories you just read about are not in the scope of Capstone's budget. We try as much as possible to stay within our stated vision of Capstone Ministries but there are times we venture beyond. In the case of the handicapped boy Dan and I will pay for the first year of James' care. We recognize the difficult financial times in the states and worldwide. We have been spending literally hours and hours searching through the Internet for grant money, it's a long a tedious process. If any of you have a connection with a funding organization or have the skills and desire to assist Capstone in doing grant searches or grant writing we would appreciate your help. We also ask each of you to share the work of Capstone in an effort to expand our donor base.