



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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A CAPSTONE CHRISTMAS

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...and He shall be called Wonderful Counselor." Isaiah 9:6

Have you tired of gift giving at Christmas? I am not trying to be a Grinch but do you wish there was a way to really reflect the love of Jesus in gift giving? Wish there was a way to really give a gift that will make a substantial difference in someone's life? Why not make this the year that you take an innovative approach to Christmas and give a gift to make a real change in the life of a child in Africa.

Capstone Ministries is encouraging you to make a kind of covenant this year at Christmas. Agree with a spouse, friend, or your children to mutually bless someone else on the other side of the world in their name.

Here are just a few of the needs where you can be a blessing:

James is a young boy of 10 who has suffered from autism all his life. His parents have never sought treatment. He has been hidden away out of shame. We discovered James' situation because one of the boys (Mark) we had taken home had been restored to his aunt and uncle's home. On a follow up visit one of our welfare officers discovered James. The parents agreed, after some counseling, to bring the boy for assessment and referral. It was discovered that James and his younger four year old sister suffer from epilepsy as well. The two will need daily medication. The cost is \$20/month for each. James has been referred to the Lutheran Special School just next to the Kisumu Cathedral. The subsidized cost for a year is \$140. We always encourage parents to take responsibility for their children and we will in this case too but at this stage, the parents are not capable of paying for these medical and educational needs and their children will suffer the immediate effects. It is our plan to work to empower them so they can pick up ongoing support of their own children. But this will take some time.

The town of Luanda is about 20 miles north of Kisumu. Most street boys in Kisumu have come

this area. We have been conducting an outreach in this area for more than a year and want to expand it. Weekly 15-25 boys gather in a field with four of our staff to have a meal, hear the Word, be encouraged, counsel and hopefully talk about the goal of going home. We want to rent a permanent structure to create privacy for those being counseled and to be a known entity in the area. The cost to rent a one room facility is \$35 a month.

These are just a few of the needs we have faced in the last week. I could write about 100 others. The former street boy who is looking for training as a mechanic. Capstone's need for a second motorcycle to make follow up calls easier.

And here is our dream: Purchase of 5 acres of land for a permanent Transition Center and Income Generating Projects. The site has been identified and we are praying!

As I reflect on the "Wonderful" Christmas gift given to us in the person of Jesus written about by Isaiah the prophet, it strikes me that often our gift giving lacks impact. Another video game, a new suit, the latest gift all must have! Why not give your gift giving some impact this year. Change the life of a child. Have a Capstone Christmas!!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Praise God!** All 8 boys who spent time at the Transition Center have gone home and have been successfully reunited with their families.
2. **Pray** for God's people in Kenya who are praying for rain.
3. **Attention! You can now make your donation via Paypal.**
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 You can learn more about the Sending Place at their website: 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

us in the person of his Son? Write to us at Capstoneministries@gmail.com and we will send you all the information including a video message from Kenya.

Don't Miss Out!

Signup for Capstone Ministries' monthly e-newsletter! Spread the word! Simply send e-mail to:

Newsletter-Subscribe@CapstoneMinistries.org

Visit our NEW Web site at

www.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

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Patty's Post It

Attachment: In late November, Dan and I along with two of our staff went to Nairobi to the annual Hope for the Child Conference. This conference focuses specifically on orphans and street children. We learned about the value of attachment in the development of a child and what can happen when that vital attachment is broken or disrupted. The topic of attachment has led me to think about attachment in the life of all of us, not just children. How important it is to our security and wellbeing. I've also realized how important attachment is to God, so much so that he gave his only Son in order to reconcile our relationship with him that was broken by sin. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. This is the vision and work of Capstone.

Going Home: We had 8 boys staying at our Transition Center. When school closed for the holiday and the end of the school year in Kenya we wanted to celebrate the boy's success. All of the boys (with the possible exception of one) will transition home permanently. Seven of the boys had a parent or guardian come to pick them up at the center. What an exciting day. We celebrated with songs, prayers and encouragement. More on the Capstone blog...access through the website www.capstoneministries.org

Bragging Rights: I'm so proud of our boys who were at the Transition Center. James placed number 4 in his class and Maxwell placed number 3. This is a huge accomplishment especially for a child that has missed school while spending time in the street.

New Intakes: The Capstone Transition Center -CTC is now ready to take in new boys from the street. The maximum we can take at one time is ten. We keep the number at the CTC low because we reserve this place for the most difficult cases. We want to maintain close supervision and intense counseling with the boys. Some cases are considered to be difficult either because the child has a lot of issues and/or the family situation will not allow the child to be at home....yet. We also reserve one or two beds for emergency rescue situations. The group of boys who just went home developed so well in their characters, in their focus and determination in school and the parents progressed equally well. Parents began to ring the center to talk to their child, they wanted to reestablish their attachment. One father brought maize on the cob so his son and his friends at the center could enjoy the recent harvest.

Moringa Leaf Powder Project: I can't say enough about how excited we are with the advancement of this project. Capstone Ministries does not want to be 100% donor dependant. We have discovered a huge market for Moringa Leaf Powder. We use the moringa leaf powder at the CTC as a multi vitamin food supplement for the boys. For more, go to Income Generating projects on our website and view the moringa video!

Dan and I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. Let it be a season of reattachment and reconciliation for this was God's desire when he sent his son to live among us. We thank you all for standing with us in prayer and financial support throughout this year and through very difficult times.

Bwana akubarikie, na kukulinda! (May the Lord bless you and keep you)

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.