



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

February , 2009 Volume 4 Issue 2

Be strong and Courageous

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

Leadership in ministry can be a heavy burden. Particularly when you are working with effecting change in a person, the obstacles can come from all sides. There are challenges in circumstances, in the person you are working with, from colleagues and from the intangible but real spiritual forces that oppose the good you are trying to do.

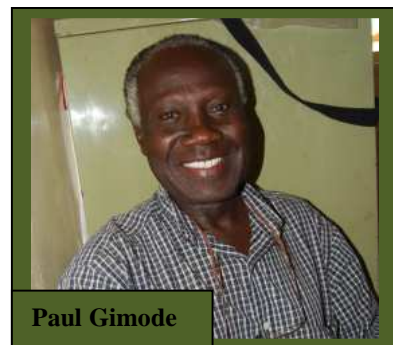
Joshua was well prepared to lead the more than 2 million of God's people across the Jordan into the promised land. 40 years under the tutelage of Moses, demonstrated faith as one of only two who had spied out the land 39 years earlier and said, "We can do it!" Now Moses is gone and Jericho awaits him. Yet three times the Lord encourages him with the words: "Be strong and courageous." Obviously God saw a need for these steady words!

Working with street children is no less daunting than facing Jebusites, Hittites, Canaanites and Perizzites. Joshua 9:2 says, "***They came together to make war against Joshua and Israel.***" Our staff face daily obstacles that often seem unified against the reintegration of a street boy with his family. Cultural forces, poverty, selfishness, dependency and hopelessness work like the "ites" of the promised land. Yet we take hope in the promise of God that remains to this day, "***Your God will be with you wherever you go.***"

Six of the eight boys who were at the center in December have been reunited with their families. Yet each faced an individual obstacle that had to be overcome. One had an alcoholic mother, another a harsh uncle, still another jealousy among the family. One boy ran back to the street for a time. Ongoing follow up and counseling is essential during this early time of restoration. Problems are identified

and sorted out. Faith and courage are necessary.

Capstone staff is lead by our own Joshua: Paul Gimode. Well versed in community development and experienced in personnel management, Paul is our manager on site in Mbale.

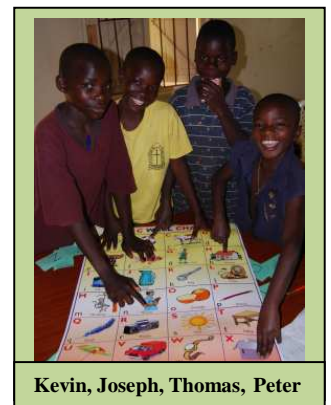


Paul Gimode

Paul is a fellow Rotarian in RC Vihiga, a Christian and an experienced manager of people. His help has been invaluable in addressing many challenges in the ministry.

Capstone Ministries is a ministry that is in constant flux. Since the vision is to restore children with their families, they to not remain at the Transition Center for long. In fact since our visiting mission team from California was here in June, all the boys have gone home and four new boys have arrived. Two in late 2008 and two in January.

Each has their own problems and collectively they are struggling with the fact that teachers have gone on strike all over the country and no schools are open now. So our staff are working to keep them busy during the day.



Kevin, Joseph, Thomas, Peter

Pray that our "Joshua" leads these four boys and those that follow into a fruitful promised land.

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Kevin, Joseph, Thomas, and Peter (our youngest to date at age 9). Soon another two will arrive.
2. Praise God as we begin our income generating activity for Capstone. We are beginning with the growing of Moringa. It is used as an immune booster and vitamin supplement by locals who are recovering from malaria or typhoid or ongoing immune deficiencies. We have made contact with a local retailer who will purchase all the moringa we can provide for him.
3. Pray for the students of Kenya who have all been sent home as a result of the country wide teacher strike. Pray the government and the teachers settle the issues quickly that the children may return to school. This provides an additional burden on our children who have been reintegrated with their family as idleness quickly provides a temptation to backslide.
4. **Praise** God for Bennard who is in automobile mechanic training and has just been promoted in his second year to a higher class.
5. **Praise** God as we continue to meet with more than 15 each week at the Youth Center in Kisumu and the same number in Luanda.
6. Pray as we look for a dedicated national pastor to enhance the spiritual program of Capstone Ministries.

S.H.A.R.E.S. Program approved!

SHARES is a program initiated by SaveMart Supermarkets in N. California. Capstone has been approved for this program and you may request your card through the attached receipt, the email printed on the left or calling the telephone number in Patterson. You will receive a card and instructions by return mail. The program allows you to do your regular grocery shopping at SaveMart and upon check out, have your card swiped by the cashier. SaveMart will then donate 3% to Capstone. Feel free to ask for additional cards for friends and family or members of your church.

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Patty's Post It

We have a lot to look forward to in 2009. I'm especially excited about our plans for two income generating projects. Last week we enjoyed a presentation by Mr Adala from the Dairy Goat Association of Kenya. Mr. Adala will be training the Capstone staff in goat keeping. We will build a goat house at our Transition Center in Mbale and another one at our home in Kisumu. Each house will start with one male and two female German Alpine, high breed goats. Mr. Adala informed us of the growing demand for goat milk. This project will have two benefits for Capstone; 1. We will raise income from the sale of the milk and breeding of goats and 2. We can use the goats to help families to start their own income generating project. This project has been funded by a generous individual from a Lutheran Church in California. Stay tuned for further updates!

Another exciting income generating project is the sale of Moringa leaf powder. No, it's not the topping on a pie and it's not a dance. Moringa is a local tree that is also referred to as Nature's Medicine cabinet. The leaves, pods and flowers from the Moringa tree have seven times the vitamin C found in oranges, four times the vitamin A of carrots, three times the iron of spinach, four times as much calcium as milk and three times the potassium of bananas. The boys at our center eat Moringa leaf powder with their vegetables every day and sometimes drink it as tea. Dan and I enjoy Moringa iced tea mixed with pomegranate juice and sometimes we add lemon grass for an extra kick...it's wonderful. We've found a gentleman who packages the powder and has created a strong market for selling including a local hospital who's doctor's prescribe it for patients. This gentleman says he will buy from us as much as we can produce. Alex, the father of our heart patient, Norman already has 10 trees and is starting his own project to sell the leaf powder. Dan and I have 195 trees on our home compound and around 100 trees have been planted at the Transition Center.

Update on Norman: We have Norman with us right now while schools are on strike. He is undergoing intense private teaching. We are focusing on getting him caught up in reading and writing and giving him some confidence in learning. He is doing very well in math but his basic reading and writing skills are very much behind. Health-wise Norman is feeling fantastic. His smile is bright, his eyes twinkle and he has an infectious laugh that warms my heart!

Please continue to remember Norman and his family in your prayers. Through recent counseling we have made further discoveries about his difficult life of poverty. Capstone is working to help his family reach a level of putting food on the table everyday and even beyond, but this will take time. Alex is willing and eager to improve his life for the benefit of his family and for this we give thanks to God!

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.