



# 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 Quiet Witness"**

*"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody" I Thess. 4:11,12*

A TV advertisement in the '80's stated "If you wanted to get someone's attention....whisper." Much truth in that simple advice! It is not always the one who shouts the loudest that gets heard. Rather, the one who lives life simply, with dignity and conviction stands out in the crowd.

Living as missionaries in Kenya and directing Capstone Ministries, it can be quite easy to get so consumed in the work that the advice of Paul to the congregation in Thessalonica goes unheeded.

The congregation in Thessalonica could be described as a ship in the midst of a storm. Persecution of the church was rampant. When Paul visited them he was beaten and imprisoned. When he left and visited adjacent Berea, people from Thessalonica followed him and attacked him there too. Later Paul even sent Timothy to check on how the believers were faring in the midst of all this chaos. He then writes them a letter to encourage them. It is a letter we would do well to read and heed.

Living quietly as a "mzungu" (white) in Kenya is nigh unto impossible. You are noticed everywhere: in church, on the road, walking in the market. However we have learned that quietness is more about attitude than action. Respecting those around you, fitting in and adjusting instead of intruding with American boisterous know-it-all talk, being open to other's observations and wisdom and just plain listening before you talk, sharing with humility what God does through you, staying positive no matter what the circumstance.

Living under pressure and leaving a testimony that glorifies God not self was a challenge in Thessalonica and it is in Kenya too.

Our daily life has a number of activities that go beyond the work of Capstone. They are part of our lifestyle. We hope they accomplish what Paul is advising in the verses above: work with your hands,

win the respect of outsiders, and become independent--not a burden on others.

Three activities come to mind and we thought this month we would share them with you.

First is Rotary. Patty and I are both Rotarians and are members of the club near our CTC in Mbale. We also serve on the district level. This year Dan was the GSE (Group Study Exchange) Coordinator in the area. We just finished hosting a team of six from the San Diego area. All from the medical field, we showed them projects where Rotary has been involved in helping hospitals and HIV-support groups. They even visited a rural Lutheran church as well.

Second is Matongo Lutheran Theological College. Dan is finishing his second term of teaching Homiletics (Preaching) there. Communicating effectively is the heart and soul of the church and preaching is the core of communication. It is truly a blessing to influence the pastors of tomorrow in the ELCK.



**Homiletics Class at MLTC**

And finally there is farming. Capstone has always wanted to work toward donor independence and we have begun to develop our local income generating activities in two areas: moringa trees and dairy goat production. Currently we have more than 1000 trees on our compound and have just planted more than 2000 on two separate plots. The goal is to have 15,000 trees by year's end. Feel free to check out our website for more on these two areas of development. Eventually we plan to add fish farming, green housing, bee keeping, fruit trees, poultry-raising and the bio-diesel tree called jatropha.

We pray that these activities give attention to the Lord who has called us and wins Him respect.

## Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Praise God! Pray for the 5 new boys at the Transition Center: Steven, Jackton, Kevin, Dixon and Kennedy**
2. **Praise God for the long rains that have come to Kenya.**
3. **Attention! You can now make your donation via Paypal.**
4. **Pray** for the development of our moringa farm. We recently received a small grant from the Rotary Club of Semiahmoo to expand our moringa farm. We have just purchased 9 kg or about 20 pounds of seed.
6. Pray for our dairy goat development. Breeding them is our current challenge. We hope one is pregnant now.
7. The Sending Place has begun 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).
8. Pray for us as we make our plans for our fall trip to the states. Rough outline: Late August: S. Wisconsin, September in New England, October/Nov. in California. You are welcome to write to us and reserve a Sunday for your church or club.



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## Patty's Post It

Around the first of the year Dan and I and the Capstone staff were feeling discouraged. A couple of our kids that we thought were very stable at home ran back to the street. It was not a shock; we know this is an ongoing challenge in our work. We rely on constant prayers to ward off the evil that draws these kids back to the street, as well as prayers to sustain us and keep us going during such times.

Last week while hosting the Rotary Group Study Exchange Team we had both challenges and rewards. It started out with the death of one of the children's father. The man died on Saturday, Pastor Isaiah and George made a visit to the home on Monday. The man had been lying in the house since his death. The wife was unable to make a move toward his burial. Capstone jumped into action to assist the family by purchasing a coffin. The wife gave a testimony at the burial, "If Capstone had not assisted my husband would have been wrapped in a mat and put in the ground like that" This is a dilemma we in the US could never imagine facing. The capstone boy is doing well in school and appreciated Capstone standing long side him in a difficult time.

The Rotary GSE team had the opportunity to meet the street boys at our outreach program. All being in the medical field, I thought it would be interesting for them to hear the various kinds of medical challenges the boys face in the street. The boys made a list of problems, some obvious and some shocking. From there we made lists of the challenges they face at home; then in comparison, a list of what is good about home. Surprisingly the list of good things at home was greater than the challenges. Then Dan told the story of the prodigal son—with a few of his own dramatic modifications. It seemed these illustrations sparked some serious thinking within some boys. Four boys made the decision to go home. Two very young ones were taken to the transition center until home visits could be made; two were taken home immediately. The earlier disappointments were offset with great rewards. When God allows us to face challenges he will lift us up as if to say, "don't give up, you are doing my work, I'm in control."

**Donations are tax deductible.**

**Make checks payable to: Key Ministries, Kenya Mission**

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