



# 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 Bread from Heaven

*"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." John 6:35,51*

Fulfillment! Satisfaction! What are the real and essential needs of people? What makes you feel fulfilled and satisfied with life? Is it enough to fill the stomachs of the poor with bread or rice? Big questions and tough questions! Big because they go to the heart of how people approach life and how they spend their time earning and spending money. Tough questions because they address our pre-occupation with the physical things of life sometimes to the neglect of the spiritual.

Jesus addressed the poor of his day with a unique challenge. He called himself **"Bread."** Just days earlier he had fed 5000 families with five loaves of bread and two fish. He met their physical needs in a dramatic miracle. And the people wanted more. More bread, more healings, more miracles, more stuff! In fact they were about to insist that Jesus give them more by taking Him by force and making him their King. Jesus response to the perceived needs of the people? **"He withdrew again to a mountain by himself."** Jn. 6:15 Jesus.... left! And when he came back he came with a message: **"I am the bread of life."** He told them, **"Do not work for food that spoils but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."** Vs. 27

Jesus said these words to the physically poor and needy of his day, not the rich and satisfied. Jesus was not advocating some kind of Marxist "spread the wealth" doctrine but rather his Father's "new wealth" mentality. Wealth found in Jesus. Food found in Jesus. Satisfaction and joy in trusting in something else other than me and mine!

My, does our world need to hear that message! The world has become obese on self satisfaction and the material. But the same world is starving! In search of meaning, purpose, fulfillment, and satisfaction. To all Jesus says, "Come to me, you

will never go hungry!"

That same message is Jesus' message for the poor of Africa. Street children! HIV positive widows! Those living in the slums! Come! Jesus will feed you! He is the bread you need!

Repeatedly we have seen street children reunited with a family member! Over and over again, a poor grandmother already caring for five or six children takes in another. How does she do it? Why does she do it? JESUS! She trusts him. She knows the one who creates also sustains!

This is not to say that physical empowerment is not important and part of our program of helping families to cope and free themselves from poverty! What I am saying is that we know that without the bread of hope in the heart, bread in the stomach does not address real poverty! In fact the true poor are those without Jesus.

We want to do an even better job of restoring families and bringing hope and reconciliation to the families of former street children. That is why we are adding a critical staff member to our Capstone family this month: our first indigenous pastor whose primary responsibility will be to enhance the spiritual aspects of Capstone! Isaiah Apiyo will graduate in May from Matongo Lutheran Theological College. His primary responsibility will be to bring the bread of life to our street program, the boys in transition at our CTC and the families where the boys will be reintegrated. He will never feed 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish but he knows the one who has!! Pray for him!



Isaiah (left) with Pastor Dan Deuel of Stockton, CA.

## Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Kevin, Thomas, Frederick, Javan, Eugene, Brian, James and Wilson. Eugene at this writing is headed for his boarding special school. Several of the other boys will be reintegrated during the coming month.
2. **Pray** for Norman as he has returned to his rural home with his Father. Alex has taken some big steps forward in caring for the ongoing physical needs of his family. Sometimes the biggest obstacle is between the ears. Often the poverty mentality, that we have written often about, tends to paralyze people as they wait for “help from outside.” But Alex has planted his farm and has begun digging a well on his property. Water security is a big plus for an individual farm. It establishes a regular clean water source and can provide irrigation as well.
3. **Pray** for Dan as he has returned to Kenya safely. Dan’s mom is doing well and even improving with a medication adjustment that was effecting her breathing.
4. Pray for Dan’s brother-in-law Barry who is undergoing tests. Pray for patience, endurance and faith for Barry.
5. **Praise** God for our interim manager, Paul Gimode from Mbale. Paul agreed to take the post to help us organize ourselves better and make us more effective particularly at the CTC. Paul continues to work in this position and will also be traveling to Maryland in mid-April for a family wedding.
6. **Pray** for our donors who continue to support us in Kenya unselfishly. These are the times that test faith and it is proving genuine among those who think first of the Lord’s work even before their own personal financial security. God does promise that when we seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, all the things we need for life will be added as well.
7. Pray for Patty as she travels to the US on May 20<sup>th</sup> for her daughter’s wedding. Patty returns on July 1.

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## Patty’s Post It

Last week I stayed at a guest house in Nairobi belonging to a friend, Vickie Winkler. Vickie is originally from Northern California and has several mission projects in Kenya under the name HEART. Her guest house is specifically for missionaries as they pass through on short term mission trips. While there, I had the pleasure of meeting three people also from Northern Calif. and joining them for the day to visit a HEART project in Kibera slums. The WEEP project trains HIV positive ladies to sew while assisting them to maintain a proper diet and eventually becoming independent. Without the proper food the ARV – AIDS medication cannot be taken. These ladies are making school uniforms and bed nets for orphans in another HEART project. I was very inspired and touched by the faith and testimonies of these ladies. It was painful to hear the stories of rejection by family and persecution by neighbors because of their “positive status”. One lady said that now she feels like a real woman like any other woman. She is independent and healthy; she is no longer dying from the disease.

Another project that Vickie and HEART are involved in along with Rotary Clubs in our district is called “Freedom for Girls” Did you know that many young girls fall behind and drop out of school simply because of their monthly cycle? As an American we take these things so much for granted it’s hard to comprehend what it might be like every month without the convenience of sanitary towels. Most girls remain inside the house during this time and soon fall behind in school. Procter and Gamble is also joining this program. A small booklet will teach female teachers how to give health and hygiene lessons to the girls. The lesson will also approach the topic of avoiding HIV AIDS and supply the girls with the necessary towels so that they can remain in school. As a Rotarian, I’m looking forward to participating in this program in the Kisumu area. I wanted to share a little about HEART with you because Vickie is always so generous to share Capstone with people and isn’t that the way a missionary’s heart should be? We have all been called to serve and all are working in God’s kingdom so why shouldn’t we share information about each other’s work. If you’d like to know more about Vickie’s work in Kenya visit her website at [www.africaheart.com](http://www.africaheart.com) and if you’re visiting Kenya you’ll love the HEART Lodge as a beautiful place to stay in Nairobi.

**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.**