



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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"CHANGE, AN ACT OF GOD!"

"When he came to his senses..." Luke 15:17

How do people change? Is it as simple as a rational decision made in one's best interest after weighing all the options? What went through the lost son's mind after squandering his father's wealth and ending up in a spiritual and physical pig's sty?

Those are tough questions for they are attempts to know the internal workings of the heart of a person. It is not always as simple as a rational decision. We work with children every day who make self destructive decisions. Some change, others do not.

In most instances we have found that change appears to be easier or more frequent for those children who have not been hardened by the street. The less time they spend on the street, the less exposure to abuse, street mentality, begging and stealing, the easier it appears for them to change and decide to face the issues at home.

Other key ingredients in the process are physical separation and positive influence. Our transition center is removed from Kisumu town, located in a rural setting not unlike the home the boys will return to. During the rehabilitation process, we minimize the exposure of the boys to negative influences. Even new boys who enter the CTC are monitored closely for any negative influence they may have on the boys who have made some progress toward change.

Kennedy at a special VBS day at the transition center hosted by a team from California.



Enter Kennedy Korima! A boy who had been on the streets of Kisumu for more than 4 years. Now

12, Kennedy hailed from Northern Kenya, the Turkana tribe. Kennedy have been coming to our Youth Center in Kisumu for a number of years but never wanted to go home. He was far from what one might call a positive influence on the other boys. Then a new program initiated by the District Children's Officer assigned Kennedy to us through the court. We were told to rehabilitate him and take him home.

We feared taking him to our Transition Center. The six boys who were there had made so much progress; some were ready to go home in a matter of a few weeks. I can remember saying, "If Kennedy goes there, he won't last a week and he'll run and take a number of the other boys with him." But that didn't happen. Kennedy changed. Over the next few weeks we noticed a dramatic difference. Kennedy was polite, helpful, positive and started talking about home.



Kennedy with a bright smile shows his energetic personality with other boys

.We arranged a coordinated effort with the District Children's Officer in Lodwar. One of our welfare officers (David) would meet him in Kitale and take Kennedy from there to his home just outside Lodwar.

He called the next day to tell us that when he arrived at Kennedy's home with the boy, the parents were shocked and amazed. People started dancing and shouting with joy. Community members came and celebrated. Even the chief came when he heard all the commotion and rejoiced with the family that *"this son who was dead, is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate."* Luke 15:24

Kennedy is certainly the exception, not the rule. But he has taught us not to limit what God can do in the heart of a child...or in anyone else.

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Praise God! Pray for the 6 boys at the Transition Center: Steven, Jackton, Kevin, Dixon and Dennis, Philemon. Ivan and Kennedy have gone home.
2. Praise God for the long rains that have come to Kenya.
- 3.
4. Praise for the team of four from California who conducted a VBS at our CTC with our 6 boys and some of the neighborhood children. They also conducted a marriage seminar for our staff and did a daylong VBS for a local Lutheran church.
6. Pray for the developments of our moringa project. We are constructing a drying house to dry 4 times the leaves as we have been doing. We will also set up a processing center in a 20 ft. shipping container. Thanks to Rotary Club of Semiahmoo, BC, Canada
7. 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. Several churches have already contacted us and reserved a weekend. Praise God.



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Dan's Doodlings

Patty was pre-occupied with other matters this month so I promised her I would write something for her post-it. It won't be as entertaining as hers but here goes!

We enjoyed hosting our third annual team visit during April. They came from two churches in N. California. We only host teams who have been trained by The Sending Place because we appreciate the attention to cultural differences and understanding of missiology by founder Pastor Darrell Deuel. His daughter Jamie led this team of four.

The team enjoyed seeing the entire vision of Capstone as they visited our Youth Center in Kisumu and interacted and taught a Bible lesson to the street kids who come once a week. Then they put on a day long VBS for the seven boys at our Transition Center. They interacted with Kennedy just days before he went home to Lodwar. About 40 boys from the community also attended. We really feel it is important to reach out to the community around us and minister to them as well.

The team also attended our weekly staff meeting and heard the reports and updates on the progress made in the previous week. This is where we discuss individual cases and resolve issues that have arisen from the previous week.

On the weekend the team visited a local rural Lutheran congregation called Rarieda Lutheran Church. Here they also did a day long Sat. VBS for the church kids and another set of vulnerable children being helped by the principal of the Lutheran Theological College, Dr. Joseph Ochola. In number they totaled about 200. On Sunday various choirs came and sang for the church service, including our 7 boys from the CTC. It was a typical 3 hour service but enjoyed thoroughly by all.

We thank God for the vision of The Sending Place in training teams that are sensitive to our direction. If you are interested in joining a team, contact Jamie or The Sending Place: jmeisz@hotmail.com, thesendingplace@hotmail.com

VISIT TO THE USA THIS FALL

Patty and I will be visiting the states and Canada this fall beginning in mid-August. We will be in the Midwest (Wisconsin and Minnesota) until around Sept. 7, then in New England until around Oct. 5, then in California and Canada until early December. If you would like us to visit your church, please contact us soon. Only a few open Sundays remain available. Patty and I are also Rotarians and would gladly visit your Rotary club when we are in the area.

Donations are tax deductible.

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

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