



# 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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### **"Children's Day"**

*"For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 18:10*

When the 10-year-olds in Sunday School expressed their views of "What's wrong with grownups?" they came up with these 3 complaints:

1. Grownups make promises; then they forget all about them, or else they say it wasn't really a promise at all, just something like a maybe.
2. Grownups don't do the things they're always telling the children to do--like pick up their things, or be neat, or don't forget to always tell the truth.
3. Grownups make mistakes, but they won't admit them. They always pretend that they weren't mistakes at all--or that somebody else made them.

Ouch!.... In the West, we love to recognize Mother's Day and even Father's Day. Why is there no "Children's Day"? Maybe it isn't marketable for FTD or Hallmark? Or might it be that we as adults are a little too self centered?

The International Day of the African Child is recognized every year on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Churches across the continent pause on that day and remember children. Governments through Children's Departments hold events and celebrate children.

The day remembers a June 16<sup>th</sup> in 1976 when school children in Soweto, South Africa marched for better education and teaching in their own language. Hundreds of those children were shot down and killed by the then apartheid government of South Africa.

Today the day recognizes the rights of children, the special importance of every child, the needs of orphans and vulnerable children, special needs children, the physically and mentally challenged children.

Capstone Ministries, through the ELCK Kisumu Cathedral recognized this day as well. A special service was planned. The boys from our

transition center sang, recited poems and memory verses. Children from the community and the ELCK Special School for the Mentally Challenged were also invited. The Cathedral S.S. choir also sang and recited poems. Children prayed and read the Scriptures of the day. An object lesson was presented just for children.



**The ten Capstone boys in attendance**

After the worship service, all the children (more than 150) were treated to lunch and a movie by Capstone.

Lesson on "The Broken Pot" based on Psalm 51:17  
*"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit."*



On this day, children not only felt special, but loved, valued and appreciated. It was a wonderful experience for children and for the adults who attended. No Hallmark cards were exchanged; only the unconditional love of a gracious God. We look forward to next June 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark it on your calendars. We invite you to join us in celebrating Children's Day around the world.

## Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. Praise God! Pray for the 10 boys at the Transition Center: Steven, Jackton, Kevin, Dixon and Dennis, Silas, James and Ivan, and Thomas.
2. Praise God for the completion of the expanded rain water collection at our home that will reduce our use of tap water for watering the thousands of Moringa trees.
3. Thanks to Rotary District 5340 who helped us fund a second water tank at our CTC. Work is ongoing.
4. Thanks for Chuck and Ann Jedele from Kansas who just finished volunteering with Capstone and the Lutheran Special School. Chuck did a lot of work painting and building while he was here.
5. Pray for us as we plan for our annual Capstone Camp in August. 10 boys who have successfully remained at home will be invited to attend along with the 10 who are at the center.
6. 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.



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Pictures, News and more....  
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Capstone participates in Savemart/Lucky Supermarket's SHARES program in N. California. You only scan your card before purchasing your groceries and SaveMart donates 3% of your purchase. To date Savemart has given Capstone \$1,041.12...because of your shopping!! Ask for your card. Call or write.

## More Information!

Signup for Capstone Ministries' monthly e-newsletter:

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Web site address: [www.CapstoneMinistries.org](http://www.CapstoneMinistries.org)

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Email: [Capstoneministries@gmail.com](mailto:Capstoneministries@gmail.com)

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**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.**

## Prayer for Vulnerable Children

**This was the prayer from the worship service at the Kisumu Cathedral that recognized the International Day of the African Child**

Dear loving Father,

We are here before you because you are our Father. You are the Father of all, small and big; rich and poor; healthy and disabled; even those who are good and bad.

We confess as children that we are not always obedient. Sometimes we lie, cheat and steal. We bring these sins to you because only you can forgive. You are a loving Savior who accepts us and washes us clean in the blood of Jesus.

We give you thanks for all the good things from your hand: for life, for food, for home and family, for care and protection.

Father, we hold up to you those children who are vulnerable and in need of your help. For those children on the street who have run from home. We pray for protection, for safety and for someone to come to help them. Like the lost son who ran from his Father, they too need your Holy Spirit to bring them to their senses. They need hope and confidence that despite the challenges; home is still best. Be with those who reach out to these vulnerable children, Father. Strengthen them; bless them; work through them to bring your message of hope and deliverance.

Father, we pray also for children afflicted by disabilities of mind and body. Remind them and our community that disability is not inability. Give hope. Strengthen bodies and minds. Bless those in the special school here. Bless the teachers and helpers. May Jesus be seen in each special way we show love to the less fortunate among us. Remind us that we are all your children for whom your Son Jesus lived and died.

In Jesus name,  
Amen.

## 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 Sundays for our time in the Midwest remain available. Watch for the full schedule of the churches we will be visiting in the August newsletter.