



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

August, 2009 Volume 4 Issue 8

Capstone Camp II Theme: "Restoring Children; Strengthening Families"

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." Colossians 3:20,21

The restoration of a street child with his family is a process. It begins and ends with relationship building. Even after the child has been reunited with his family the work is not done. Encouragement is still needed in overcoming the many obstacles a rural family faces. For this reason, Capstone workers make about 10 follow up visits each week on restored children and their families. The objective of these follow up visits is to strengthen the family bonds, insure that the child is in school, identify areas of need, sow seeds of self sustainability and share the Gospel.

From August 10-15, another family enrichment program is planned called Capstone Camp. This second annual camp will include 21 former street boys, six of whom are currently at the CTC (Capstone Transition Center). The other 15 are currently home with their families and in school. During August, school is not in session so it is the perfect time to hold this camp. On the final day, the parents will be invited to a day-long closing day after which they will return home with their children.

The week will be filled with activities similar to a VBS. There will be Bible stories and craft activities with specific instruction to prepare the boys for baptism at the end of the week.

The boys will be divided into two teams called "Duma" (Cheetahs) and "Simba" (Lions). They will compete in various scout activities, learn about and build a high-yield garden and various sports activities. Each boy will receive a T-shirt with the Camp theme: "Restoring children! Strengthening Families!" and a picture of their team mascot.

This is the second year the Camp will be held. Last year we had only 10 boys in attendance. This year in addition to increasing the number of

boys, parents of the boys will also attend a closing day. We wanted to bring together the parents because they face similar challenges and some have made huge strides in overcoming poverty, stigma, family and spiritual issues. We not only wanted to share some things with these parents but also wanted them to interact with each other and learn and grow from their mutual sharing.

The day will be launched by Bishop Richard Amayo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. He will also talk on the topic: "Home as Church." The boys will present dramas and poems. The father of Norman will share his testimony about his family. A former street boy now employed in Kisumu will also share his perspectives on street life and where he is now. The Vihiga Children's Officer will talk on the parental responsibilities from a government perspective. Paul Gimode, Capstone manager will talk on sustainability and will highlight four areas currently demonstrated at the CTC: milking goats, high yield garden, a chicken project and moringa trees. This will help families to gain a vision of things they can implement immediately in their homes. Parents will go home with a chicken and several moringa seedlings to encourage them to begin something. The double digging project the boys will have completed during the week will also be shown to the parents. We as the directors will share the vision of Capstone, the steps of the program and emphasize the value of children.

The program will include a number of invited guests: the principals of the two schools where the boys at the CTC attend primary school, the area chief, several former street boys who will help with scouting and sports, representatives of Bethesda Children's Home in Nakuru who are also involved in the restoration of street boys in Nakuru, the District Children's Officer, the ELCK Lake Diocese Bishop. In all we expect more than 50 adults to attend the closing day. A full picture page of the Capstone Camp will highlight the newsletter next month.

Please pray for the success of Capstone Camp II. We trust that this will strengthen and help stabilize those families that are still challenged. God bless you for your continued support for this ministry!

Praises, Prayers and Recent News

1. **Pray** for the boys currently at the CTC: Thomas, James, Brian, Maxwell, Kevin, Jackton.
2. **Pray** for Capstone Camp and especially for the parent's day. Our prayer is this day will strengthen the families and build a stronger sense of parental responsibility.
3. **Pray** against the evil things that take place in the streets. We need full coverage on this!
4. **Pray** for safety endurance and perseverance for our staff. Some days they put in extremely long hours and sometimes face difficult circumstances.
5. **Praise** God for our two very healthy goats: Massengil and Ehlert. They are growing and are very playful!
6. **Praise** God and also pray for continued growth in our Moringa Tree project.
7. **Pray** for a suitable piece of land for Capstone to begin to develop agriculture and the future Transition Center.
8. **Praise** God for our faithful supporters in prayer, in gifts and in friendship. We are so blessed!
9. **Praise** God for a fantastic Dr.'s report for Norman this month and for his growth spurt. He is also doing well in school and adjusting very well to life at home with his dad. We'll see him at the camp!
10. **Praise** God for our US board and our Kenyan board who guide us in various ways and always encourage us!

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Dan's Diary & Patty's Post It

Part of Capstone Camp will include the recitation of the following poem written by **Isaiah Apiyo**, the most recent addition to the Capstone staff.

Where Do I Belong?

Who is that stinking?

Where is that dirt?

Put away your gunia.

My choice: not chokora

Where do I belong?

I speak for the street

Call me any name

Chokora, thief, ninja – and pollution

Do I enjoy lice and cold and hunger?

A minute please!

We smile for a mile, this stone

God loves you!

Open your ears and hear

Open your eyes and see

Born healthy will all

Mother, Father are not there

Why am I a burden to others?

Where do I belong?

Rejected in riches

Rejected amidst many

Snaking life like a metal of Jorochere

Do I say "disability?" "NO!"

Where do I belong?

I speak for the civilized

"Who cares about you?"

All for self, God for all

Rejected child I am

Where do I belong?

God, when did I see you on the street?

When did I see you dirty and stinking?

Who cares?

Where do I belong?

I can read and write

Dine with kings and kingdoms

Out of darkness I am

Capstone I am, I belong home!

That is where I belong!

A few explanations of some words in the poem:

Gunia = the gunny sack boys carry to gather things.

Chokora = this is a derogatory word used for street children meaning one who goes through the garbage.

Jorochere = refers to the white people.

Snaking life like a metal refers to the railroad tracks brought into Kenya by the colonialists.

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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.