



# Capstone Ministries



***Restoring Children! Strengthening Families!***

***"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" Psalm 118:22***

**A prayer letter from Dan and Patty Schmelzer, Kisumu, Kenya**

**April, 2014 Volume 9 Issue 4**

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The number of  
street boys  
reconciled with  
family by Capstone  
Ministries to date:

# 286

3 boys rescued in March



Check out Capstone  
on Facebook.



Important changes are ahead for Thrivent's Choice Dollars program. Learn more about steps you need to take to ensure you can take full advantage of this program and continue your support of Capstone Ministries through this program. Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice)

## **"It is alive!"**

***"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Heb. 4:12***

Although we are in the season of Lent, I want us to reflect on something mentioned from Easter morning in the Gospel of Luke. On the morning of Jesus resurrection we are told that Jesus appeared to two disciples as they were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Jesus hides his identity from them until he breaks bread with them at their destination. Suddenly they become aware that this is Jesus with them and just as suddenly he disappears. Then the comment is made by one of them, ***"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*** Luke 24:32

Jesus had been discussing specific Gospel with these two disciples. He had been explaining how he himself had to suffer the many things that had confused these two followers. The result of this teaching by Jesus brought a memorable sensation within them. They felt something and they were never the same because of it.

The power behind that sensation within the hearts of the disciples is spoken of in Hebrews. The author—most likely Paul or Apollos—describes the WORD as living and active. Those are powerful words: living and active. The Bible is not just another great literary work like Shakespeare. The truths contained in the words of the Bible have life in them ("living") and they bring change ("active"). (cont. on p. 2)



**Two Kisumu Bible study group members read the Word at a recent gathering.**



## KFUO with Pres. Tim Yeadon

Listen to the interview with President Tim Yeadon on this St. Louis based program. His interview begins at Minute 35 and he mentions the new partnership with Capstone Ministries around Minute 51. Here is the link from the March 25<sup>th</sup> Program:

<http://www.kfuoaam.org/2014/03/25/reformati-on-rush-hour-15/>

## Travel Schedule in the USA

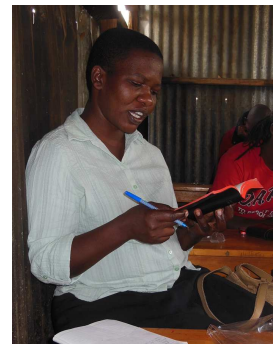
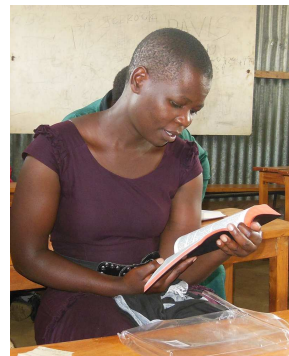
Dan will be in the US visiting churches and attending various gatherings during April and May. Here are the dates confirmed thus far.

April 6 – Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, SC  
 April 16 – Trinity Lutheran School Chapel Service  
 April 20 – Easter services at Holy Cross Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
 April 27 – Trinity Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio  
 April 29<sup>th</sup> – St. James Lutheran, W. St. Paul, MN  
 (Travel to Boston on May 1)  
 May 3 – Rotary District Convention on Cape Cod  
 May 4 – Lutheran Church of the Cross – Hanover, MA  
 Christ Lutheran Church, Scituate, MA  
 May 5-7 NED Pastor's Conference, Stowe, Vermont  
 May 7 – Trinity Lutheran Church, Keene, NH  
 May 8 – Trinity Lutheran Church School Chapel  
 May 9 – Immanuel Lutheran School, Danbury, CT  
 May 10,11 – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Danbury, CT  
 May 17,18 Bethany Lutheran Church, West Hartford, CT  
 May 19 – Cohasset Rotary Club  
 May 21 Scituate Rotary Club  
 May 25- June 1 Boston area churches

The implication of that truth has sent missionaries around the world since the Ascension of Jesus until this very day, carrying the same living and active Word of God that Jesus shared with the Emmaus disciples.

Do you want to see change in yourself, your world, your church, your family? The Word of God can and does bring that change.

At Capstone Ministries, we not only believe those words of Hebrews 4:12, it is an intricate part of our strategic plan of ministry. Poverty, parental irresponsibility, alcoholism, promiscuity, all lead to the social problem of street children. Those sins all result from a lack of exposure to the "living and active" Word of God.



All too often we forget that in mission ministry. The Word changes people. Hand-outs do not. In fact, a hand out will distract the recipient from the Creator to the creation. We've seen it happen to well-intentioned people and programs. ***"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."*** Psalm 127:1

Capstone's two trained pastors on staff recently founded the 12<sup>th</sup> Bible study group comprised of parents and guardians of former street boys. This aspect of the ministry began less than four years ago and no single aspect of our work has had a greater impact on the development and stability of these families than the Bible study group program. We should not be surprised. Are you looking for that spiritual heartburn? Open your Bible.



**Kisumu Bible study group members present on 13<sup>th</sup> March**

## SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. benefits Capstone

SaveMart Supermarket in Northern California has a program that benefits various non-profits organizations. When you shop at SaveMart, you only need to present your card before purchase and 3% of the value of your purchase is kept in the account you have designated, in this case Capstone Ministries. Capstone receives a check quarterly from all those who have participated by taking the extra 5 seconds to hand the cashier your S.H.A.R.E.S. card. To date



Capstone has received \$3,969.89 from this program. Ask for your card on the form on p. 4 of this newsletter!

## **Patty's Post-It** *“Suds and Faith”*

I've not owned a clothes washer for more than 11 years. At least three times a week, Faith, our house girl washes our clothes, sheets, towels etc. in buckets, by hand and hangs them on the line to dry. As you can imagine our clothes become threadbare, faded, and out of shape pretty quickly. Well, things are looking up for us and also for Faith. We decided to invest in a clothes washer. And I do mean “invest”! Appliances are expensive in Kenya. The cost has always been a major factor in not getting a machine but we also didn't have a place to put one.

**Patty with her new washing machine! Thank God for small pleasures... even laundry!**



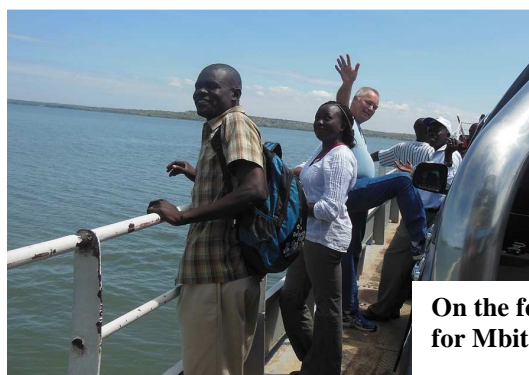
When our dear groundsman Mihesu passed away a few years ago we decided to use his living quarters as a storage area. As Faith becomes more and more busy with the moringa packaging and has less and less time for the household duties, it finally dawned on me, we could use the kitchen in the storage area for a laundry facility. So, after some painting and rewiring for electrical and plumbing, I'm getting my new washer!! This may seem like a simple pleasure or even a necessity for most in the states, but in Kenya it's an extravagant luxury. I'm feelin' pretty spoiled!

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Capstone Retreat**

Capstone staff went on a much deserved 3 day spiritual retreat on March 18-20<sup>th</sup> in Mbita, Kenya. For many years we have known Don and Nancy Richards who founded SEEK (Suba Environmental Education of Kenya) along the shores of Lake Victoria. One of their income generating projects are cottages on the shores of the lake which they rent out to other organizations for meetings, conferences and retreats. When we visited in December, we decided that we needed to bring the staff there on a break.

The retreat began with a one hour ferry ride from Luanda-Kotieno to Mbita and the days were filled with plenty of relaxation with some reflective Bible reading and joint study on faith filled characters of Scripture.

The staff enjoyed the chance to relax, rest, and rejuvenate. We want to thank the donor who made this retreat possible. Below are some of the pictures of the 3 relaxing days. BTW, looking for a place to kick back for a few days? Bring your Bible and spend a few at SEEK. You'll even be serenaded by hippos at night.



**On the ferry headed for Mbita**



## Prayers, Praises

1. Praise for the new proposal of partnership from the New England District of LC-MS and President Timothy Yeadon.
2. Please pray for Capstone staff Benedict Orende. Benedict's wife Leah passed into glory this past week. Pray for Isaiah Apiyo, pastor on staff at Capstone, who continues his Bachelor of Theology studies at Nema Theological College in Matongo.
3. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
4. In Jan. we traveled to Nairobi and found that our work permits had been renewed for another three years. With all the current controversy surrounding the Immigration Department, we are most grateful. We have finished the process and the permit was stamped in our passports. The Kenyan government in its infinite wisdom gave Dan a 2 year work permit and Patty 3 years. Hmmm?
5. In early August, 2012 Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have completed all necessary documentation. Recently the board of Capstone met to add a few requested amendments to the By-Laws of the Capstone constitution. We trust we will have an announcement in next month's newsletter
6. Pray for Dan as he travels to the US on April 1. Pray for Patty and her security in Kenya.
6. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
8. If you are reading this then you clicked on the link in the email you received taking you to our website for this month's newsletter. This format for the newsletter allows me to send out the newsletter with one email instead of many individual groups. We would love to hear how you like it.
9. We offer the following names for intercession, trusting the Lord knows their circumstance: Jennifer, Pat, Barry, Eunice, Gabriel, Christian, Troy, Phil, Liz, Mary Anne, Mike, Jim, Joel, Jen, Jan, Susan, Landon, Ernie, Lori, John, Tim, Delano, Linda, Patricia, Steve, Ryan, Peggy

Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Designation? \_\_\_\_\_

Need a S.H.A.R.E.S Card ? \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

[CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

Send to:

Capstone Ministries, P.O. Box 2080,  
Oakdale. CA 95361

## Another Endorsement by NED

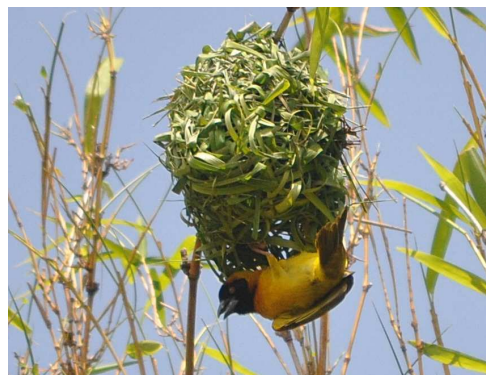
Recently the New England District Mission Committee of LC-MS endorsed Capstone Ministries as a mission they wanted to support. In addition, at the most recent directors meeting of the NED, the district also expressed a desire to partner with Capstone. Pres. Timothy Yeadon wrote and said, "This email is to formally ask Capstone Ministries to consider in the Lord a new partnership with the New England District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Last night the Board of Directors of the District unanimously adopted a resolution of the District's Mission Committee to endorse a partnership in the Gospel with Capstone Ministries. As such, we would ask our friends in Capstone for the honor of linking with you as we serve the Lord by spreading His Gospel message." Dan will be visiting the NED for the month of May.

## "4S" Sponsorship

March marks the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the launch of our "4S" sponsorship program. If you support this project annually, please remember your gift.

### Photo of the Month

The "masked weaver bird" makes his nest from strips of bamboo leaves. We have dozens in the tree next door.



Donation: "4S Primary School Sponsorship"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you do not need a hard copy of the newsletter and prefer to read it online \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

[CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com)

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