



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, 2013 Volume 8 Issue 4

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

252

3 went home 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

Easter: A time to worship!

“And all the families of the nations will bow down before him...future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—for he has done it.” Psalm 22:27, 30, 31

We usually do not think of the Psalms as prophetic but Psalm 22 has some very descriptive verses of the crucifixion of Jesus. The mocking of the crowd, Jesus’ physical condition, even a mention of the soldiers casting lots for his clothing. What are often overlooked are these final words of the psalm above. Families will bow down in worship. People not yet born in David’s time or even when Jesus walked the earth would hear and believe in the shed blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. That is you and me, my friend. That is families in Europe, America, Asia and Africa; all worshipping the same Jesus.

The great joy of mission work is seeing how the Gospel is received and treasured by all kinds of people. Rich, poor, old, young, white, black and yellow. It matters not who you are or where you come from; Jesus endured the most horrific physical and spiritual torture on your behalf; all so that you could know righteousness, His righteousness.

This morning as we celebrated Easter here in Kisumu, the mood was subdued. Last night was filled with shouting and gunfire until past 2 AM. The Supreme Court of Kenya had ruled at 5:00 PM, Saturday afternoon that Uhuru Kenyatta’s election as President would be upheld. Many in Kisumu took to the streets to demonstrate their displeasure with the ruling. At least 2 people lost their lives in the chaos. It struck me this morning that the mood of the first Easter was very similar. There were no white calla lilies adorning altars and tables on the first Easter. No Easter dresses or bonnets. There was only great sadness at the injustice of Pilate’s ruling, the plot to kill the innocent Jesus by the High Priest Caiaphas, even the betrayal of one of Jesus’ own disciples. All this was swirling in the heads of Jesus’ followers as they awoke to the “nonsensical” rumor coming from the women who had returned from the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea where Jesus’ body had been laid 36 hours earlier.

Jesus is alive! We saw angels who told us “He is not dead but alive.” Imagine the shock! The emotional surprise! The disbelief! Alive? Alive! This is the message of righteousness missionaries carry around the world. David proclaimed it in foresight. We preach it in hindsight. The women heard it in real time: HE HAS DONE IT!

.....Patty's Post-It..... **Names in Kenya**

Recently I received a message from a donor asking if the names of the boys were generated by Capstone or were given by their parents. It was a very good question and gave me the idea to share a little about the African tribe we most commonly work with in the Kisumu area. Here are a few facts. One of the most common tribes around the Lake area of Kisumu is the Kenyan Luo tribe. This is a subgroup of the larger Luo community spanning across Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Congo and Ethiopia. There are 42 ethnic groups in Kenya, each having its own unique value, skills, language and cultural practices. The Luo tribe is the third largest community in Kenya. Early history suggests that the Luo travelled along the River Nile from Sudan.

Most of the Luo community are Christians and give their children Biblical first names. It is common to name a child after an admired public personality or a visiting mzungu (white person) For example so far there are 4 boys named Dan and 2 girls named Patty in our area. One very handsome 8 year old is actually named Dan Schmelzer. There is also the set of boy/girl twins.... you guessed it; named Dan and Patty. Another Patty is a very special little lady who was born to our house girl, Faith. I actually had the honor of attending her birth. Of course there are a number girls with names like Hillary, or Condoleezza who were born around the time of the visits made to Kenya by these popular ladies. You can only imagine how many Baraks we have in the Kisumu area especially since Mr. Obama comes from the Luo tribe

Here is some interesting information about the surnames of the Luo people. A child is often given a surname that corresponds with the time of birth, event or season. Here is a short list of the most common names and their meanings:

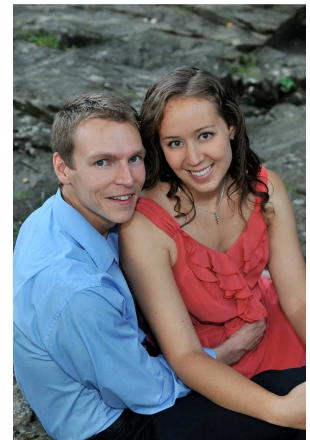
Odhiambo ---- born in the afternoon (usually around dusk from 3-6pm)
Odwuor ----- born after dusk (7 -10pm)
Ochola ----- born after the father's death
Odero ---- Born during a period of abundance
Ochieng ---- Born with the sun shining
Okeyo ---- born at harvest time
Omondi ---- born around dawn (4-6am)
Onyango ---- born in the early morning (before noon 10am – 12 noon)
Otieno ---- born at night (7-11pm)

This list goes on and on. Note: if the baby is a girl, usually the first letter changes to an A; Odiahmbo becomes Adhiambo. You'll notice many (but not all) of the male Luo names begin with the letter O.

Blessed Easter as we begin a new year in the hope of the risen Savior! He has risen indeed!!

Pastor Joel and Jennifer Cundiff to join Capstone

Sometime just after Aug 1, Pastor Joel Cundiff and his wife Jennifer, will be flying to Kisumu from Danbury, CT to join Dan and Patty and Capstone Ministries. Pastor Joel is associate pastor at Immanuel Lutheran. Immanuel has supported Capstone for a number of years and now--not unlike the congregation in Ephesus--they will be sending these two missionaries to join Dan and Patty while they are in the US on a fund raising tour. Previously Dan had to travel alone and leave Patty behind in Kenya for a few months at a time. Now they will both be able to travel together for much of the 3 months they are in the US. Joel and Jen will receive some orientation with Dan and Patty for a few weeks before they fill in for four months. Like all missionaries, Joel and Jen will be raising funds for the time they will be serving Capstone in Kenya. If you would like to support them, send a check to Immanuel Lutheran. Send to Joel and Jen Cundiff, 10 Sharon Ct, Bethel, CT 06801
Attn. Joel and Jennifer's mission support.



Lutheran Heritage Foundation Features Capstone in their March Newsletter

Recently we heard from Jen Bagnall who writes the monthly newsletter for Lutheran Heritage Foundation. LHF recently sent us 100 Lutheran Catechisms for use in our "4S Sponsorship Program". The article begins like this:

The 11-year-old boy scans the unfamiliar Kisumu street, a little unsure of himself for the first time since the heated argument with his father this morning. In a small space between two shops, he spots a couple of boys his size. Feeling more confident, he walks over to say hello. But something is wrong. The other boys' speech is slurred, and their eyes can't seem to focus on his face. Uneasy once again, the boy turns and continues his aimless walk down the street, searching for a place to rest.

Cont. on p. 3

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 \$3,752.90 from this program. Do you live in Northern California? Do you shop at SaveMart? Why not help Capstone while you shop! Ask for your card on the form on p. 4 of this newsletter!

“4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”

Street children stay at home when two important things happen: 1. The family matures spiritually, 2. The boy goes to school. With this in mind Capstone is launching a new project in which you can participate by sponsoring these two important areas of development. Called “4S – School Sponsorship and Spiritual Support Project”, this project provides a way for you to be involved in these two critical areas of a boy’s stability at home.

In 4S, a sponsor supports one child with a \$25 gift every month. This relatively small commitment provides:

- A school uniform for one child
- A Lutheran Catechism in Kiswahili
- A Bible in the tribal language of the child
- Ongoing spiritual and emotional support through Capstone staff visits to the family.

In return, you will receive

- A one page description of your sponsored child.
- A recent photo suitable for framing.
- Updates as available

You can make your contribution monthly, quarterly or annually. You can donate by VISA or MC from the Capstone website.

You can make a difference in the life of a child. Write to Capstoneministries@gmail.com Lutheran Church of the Cross of Evergreen, CO displayed this framed poster in their church foyer.



In Kisumu and other cities of Kenya, these kinds of scenes happen every day. It’s estimated that upward of 100,000 young boys live on the streets, a thousand of them in Kisumu.

The boys survive by begging and stealing. They sleep on sidewalks in town, in small abandoned shops, and on occasion, in the underground sewers.

Most, says Rev. Dan Schmelzer, become addicted to sniffing cobbler’s glue they buy for a few shillings (two cents), resulting in physical symptoms such as slurred speech, unsteady gait, clumsiness and lethargy. Long term, the chemicals destroy the boys’ lungs and impair their cognitive development.

While other social programs provide places for the boys to sleep and meals for their bellies, Rev. Schmelzer and his wife, Patty, have seen the boys’ greater need to be part of a family. They see the boys’ need for Jesus.

Finding a better way

Rev. Schmelzer (a volunteer pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya) and his wife moved to Kenya 11 years ago to be administrators of a home for street children. As they gained experience, the Schmelzers discovered that many of the street children had families who wanted them.

“Strong family bonds are a strength in Kenya – one reason we believe a home, even a poor and struggling home, is better than a well-maintained institution,” Rev. Schmelzer explained. “We also believe that our role as a mission agency is to encourage and minister to this divine structure of family with the means of grace.”

To put their new outlook into practice, the Schmelzers ventured out on their own and founded Capstone Ministries in 2005. “The name was derived from Psalm 118:22 – *‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.’* We felt this verse captured our vision for street children: restored to community, reconciled with family and redeemed by God,” said Rev. Schmelzer.

Download the attached file to read the entire article

Project Support

Interested in supporting a specific project at Capstone? Here are just a few of projects still in need of supporters:

- Primary School & Spiritual Support Project: \$25/month
- World Weekend of Prayer for Vulnerable Kids: \$250
- Joint Bible study gathering of the 8 Bible study groups of Capstone Ministries: \$500
- Health Insurance Cover for staff (annual) \$750

Prayers, Praises

1. We welcomed Erin Sumner to Capstone in Kenya as a volunteer. Erin is a psychologist and therapist in Southern California. She will be doing some staff training in counseling during April.
2. Pray for all the Ambassadors of Capstone who spread the word in their churches.
3. Pray for peace in Kenya. The supreme court of Kenya recently confirmed the election.
4. In early August Capstone applied for RSO status with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We have completed all necessary documentation. Pray it is well received and approved. We should hear any time now.
5. Praise for Joel and Jennifer Cundiff
6. Dan has been limping around Kisumu for about 3 weeks. He is receiving PT for a recent knee injury
7. Praise for our mothers, Josey and Chrysta, who are both strong and active in their 80's.
8. Pray for our board. We will be meeting via conference call for our quarterly meeting on April 25
9. Pray for the new program that gives supporters the opportunity to sponsor a boy who has been reconciled with his family. This new program, called School Sponsorship & Spiritual Support (SSSS) provides a school uniform, a Bible and Luther's Catechism and to pray regularly for the specific needs of boy in Capstone's Program.
10. Patty will fly to California in May just after the World Weekend of Prayer. She will be visiting family. She will return in early June.
11. We will be redesigning the newsletter in the coming months. Watch for changes
12. Praise God we received the "S Mark" from KEBS (Kenya Bureau of Standards) for moringa. We recently traveled to Nairobi looking for new packaging and Labeling.



March 30: Kenyan Supreme Court confirms election

Kisumu streets were filled with demonstrators on Easter Eve after the newly appointed Supreme Court upheld the March 4 election of Uhuru Kenyatta, son of the 1st President of Kenya. Uhuru won the presidency with a slim 50.4% of the votes according to the IEBC. Thankfully the city has quieted in the days since Easter Eve. We pray that peace for continued peace in Kenya.

World Weekend of Prayer


This year the "Weekend of Prayer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children" will be observed on the weekend of May 4, 5. We decided to hold it a month earlier so that churches, schools and Sunday Schools in the US can observe this weekend jointly with us in Kenya before the school year ends in the USA. We encourage schools to observe this weekend with us and to write to us for some ideas. We will be producing a video of our prayer weekend. We will share it with those who participate with us when we visit the states in the fall.

Photo of the Month

Baboon in a pond in Kakamega Rain Forest



Donation: For Capstone & Dan and Patty Support

Name _____ 

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Need a S.H.A.R.E.S Card for use at SaveMart? _____

Designation if other than operational budget: _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.


All donations are tax deductible.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to:

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

Donation: "4S Primary School Sponsorship"

Name _____ 

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount _____

Student name(s) _____

Make checks payable to Capstone Ministries.

All donations are tax deductible.

CapstoneMinistries@gmail.com

Send to:

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